SAVA PRESS

On the cover: 1 Božidar Kostić,
2 Aleksandar Berić, 3 Miloš Žunjić,
4 Arso Jovanović, 5 Radomir Ivanović,
6 Radoje Vukčević, 7 Dušan Radović,
8 Božidar Žugić and 9 the 102nd Fighter
Squadron

IVAN MATOVIĆ

FAITHFUL TO THE FATHERLAND AND THE CALLING

Active Officers of the Yugoslav Army on the Anti-Fascist Fronts

Publisher's Note

The following book, *Faithful to the Fatherland and the Calling,* was translated into English by Sava Press from the Serbo-Croatian original *Verni otadžbini i pozivu,* published by the "Vojska" News and Publishing Centre, Belgrade 2004.

Publisher: Ivan Rimac

ISBN: 978-1-997536-45-1

Translator's Note

In Serbo-Croatian, the pre-war Royal Yugoslav Army is referred to as the *Jugoslovenska vojska* (JV), while the post-war Yugoslav Army (after 1951, the Yugoslav People's Army) is referred to as the *Jugoslovenska armija* (JA). Since both *vojska* and *armija* are rendered as "army" in English, both names would ordinarily be translated as "Yugoslav Army." To preserve the distinction between the two, the pre-war Royal Yugoslav Army is referred to throughout this text simply as the "Yugoslav Army," while the post-war Yugoslav Army is distinguished as the "Yugoslav Army (JA)."

The alphabetical order of names has been retained from the original and follows the Serbo-Croatian alphabet.

SAVA PRESS
TORONTO 2026

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH EDITION 7

FOREWORD 9

Part One
NATIONAL HEROES 17

Part Two
JNA GENERALS 53

Part Three
HEROES OF THE APRIL WAR 107
- Winged Men over the Fatherland 109
- Defenders of the Land Forces 128
- Captains Go Down with Their Ships 138
- The Tragic Fate of the Army and the State 143
- 4,626 "Former Officers" in the JNA 145

Part Four
FIGHTERS ABROAD 148

Part Five
KILLED ON WARTIME DUTY 161

Part Six
SOLDIERS OF STRANGE FORTUNES 183

Part Seven
ON THE LIST OF "ETERNAL COLONELS" 194

AFTERWORD 216

ABBREVIATIONS 218

SOURCES 219

NOTE ON THE AUTHOR 223

To all officers of the Yugoslav Army who, in April 1941, resolutely opposed the aggressor and, in unequal battles in the air, on land and at sea, gave their lives in defence of the fatherland and the honour of the military calling.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH EDITION

The following book, Faithful to the Fatherland and the Calling, *is an overdue and mature contribution to the historiographical treasury of the Second World War in Yugoslavia. Transcending both fossilised communist-era and émigré narratives, Ivan Matović constructs an entirely different argument. If the former argued that the Partisan Uprising of July 1941 marked the beginning of Yugoslav anti-fascist resistance, and the latter that the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland, or Chetniks, were the anti-fascists while the Partisans were primarily concerned with communist ideology, this study, rooted in the actions of individual soldiers, offers a perspective claimable by neither historiographical school: namely, that the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia, commonly referred to as the Partisans, did not necessarily represent a revolutionary rupture with the pre-war Royal Yugoslav Army. With immense attention to detail at the individual level, Matović's research demonstrates that those labelled " former (royal) officers" played a significant role in organising, professionalising and, indeed, leading the Partisan Army during the war. After all, the chief of staff of the Partisan Army throughout all four years of the anti-fascist war, Arso Jovanović, had previously served as a captain in the Royal Army and worked for its General Staff. Later, these figures brought the same professional outlook to the construction and consolidation of the peacetime army of the "Second Yugoslavia."*

The significance of this book is manifold. It presents a collection of brief biographies of over 500 individuals whose anti-fascist struggle began as members of the Royal Yugoslav Army, documenting their ranks and wartime experiences. This alone preserves their place in the historical record as anti-fascist Allied soldiers. Their individual life paths also varied greatly. They included those proclaimed National Heroes in Tito's Yugoslavia and those who rose to the rank of general in the post-war Yugoslav People's Army, but also those who fought during the April War; waged war "behind the barbed wire" of prisoner-of-war camps; immediately went abroad and fought in the British and American armies; were captured in battle on Soviet territory and reorganised into Yugoslav formations; or experienced particular cases of "strange fortunes." Throughout the book, the reader encounters active officers who died at every stage of both war and peace. Particularly notable is the disproportionate number of former Royal Yugoslav Army officers who were accused in 1948 of siding with the Cominform Resolution during the Tito-Stalin split, many of whom had undertaken post-war studies at Soviet military academies. Indeed, ideology seems always to have loomed large over the " former officers," and, according to Matović, they were never fully trusted by the rulers of socialist Yugoslavia. This is evident in the fact that the service of royal officers was almost unanimously ignored by state circles for decades, including genuine acts of bravery in defence of Yugoslavia during the April War.

For the English-language reader, the geographical aspect of this study is of particular significance and deserves special attention. Yugoslavs fought, irrespective of their origins or life circumstances, in every theatre of war — especially in the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East, and even behind the lines in Germany. To my knowledge, this subject has hitherto never been examined through a full panorama of theatres within a single book. It reminds us of the significant degree to which the war was internationalised and broadens the

definition of the anti-fascist fighter from one confined to a narrow territory to one situated within the Allied coalition on a global scale. Was a Yugoslav anti-fascist serviceman only a Partisan, or was he also a bomber pilot taking off from Egypt, or a captured prisoner of war agitating for the National Liberation Movement at the risk of his life in German camps? Which is historically paramount: internal Yugoslav political allegiance or Allied service? Is the Yugoslav anti-fascist soldier solely a historical problem for today's faculties in Belgrade or Zagreb, or is he a historical problem for Washington and London as well? This aspect is particularly interesting and novel, and these questions lend themselves to further research.

This is not a book without shortcomings, as the author himself dutifully describes in his afterword. Faithful to the Fatherland and the Calling *is, however, a valuable contribution to the historiography of Yugoslavia during this period and, with its publication in English, will be of even greater value and more readily accessible to researchers and general readers who wish to acquaint themselves with the stories of hundreds of active officers previously omitted from the historical record. On that account alone, its publication gives a powerful voice to men forced into silence.*

Ivan Rimac
Publisher

FOREWORD

The April War of 1941 involved 12,952 active officers of the Yugoslav Army: 10,552 from the Land Forces, 1,349 from the Air Force, 742 from the Navy and 309 from the Border Troops. Of these, as I established in the course of my research, approximately 1,100 returned, principally to areas with majority Serbian populations, while 4,376 were taken into captivity — following "screening" on various grounds (national, religious, geographical, medical, etc.).

The number of active non-commissioned officers (NCOs) who participated in these dramatic events is difficult to establish, not least because all statistics group them together with ordinary soldiers. Thus, reports of domestic, Allied and enemy provenance state, for example, that "264,029 NCOs and soldiers of Serbian and Slovenian nationality were sent to prisoner-of-war camps." In searching for relevant data, however, I arrived at the estimate that, in addition to the aforementioned 1,100 active officers, perhaps only around one hundred more NCOs returned from the April War.

Approximately 10 per cent of the pre-war officer corps entered the service of collaborationist regimes — initially in the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), soon afterwards in Serbia and subsequently, during the summer months of 1941, in other Yugoslav lands. As various forms of collaboration with the occupying powers developed, this number at least tripled in those and other parts of the country. By way of illustration, during the Second World War a total of 2,662 officers and officer cadets of the Yugoslav Army were admitted into the armed forces of the NDH (31 generals, 212 colonels, 228 lieutenant-colonels, 254 majors, etc.). By several decrees issued in 1942, the royal government in London stripped 555 of them of their ranks and declared them deserters, including 13 generals and admirals. The largest number of precisely these men would subsequently be found among the 1,963 officers of the Croatian Home Guard who, between 1944 and 1946, were admitted into the post-war Yugoslav Army (JA). This category of officers would also constitute the largest group among the 245 naval and 220 air-force officers admitted into these two branches of the new state's armed forces towards the end of the war.

I should also emphasise that, alongside active officers, reserve officers and NCOs of the Yugoslav Army participated with equal patriotism, determination and courage in the April War and on all the fronts of the anti-fascist war. The fatherland likewise owes them recognition and gratitude. This study, however, apart from its discussion, to some extent, of the conduct of officers on the "front behind barbed wire," does not concern that numerous and deserving category of military personnel.

Approximately 900 active officers of the Yugoslav Army took part in the uprisings against the occupying forces in June and July, and throughout the summer and early autumn of 1941, under the banners of the two anti-fascist armies then operating in the Serbian lands. Officers and NCOs were represented in roughly equal numbers, with the greatest concentrations in Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, eastern Bosnia, the Bosnian and Knin Krajinas, Dalmatia and Slavonia, as well as Banija and Kordun. Of these, almost 350 — following the subsiding of the insurgent fighting and, in particular, the acute political polarisation that had already begun by the middle of the first autumn of the war and intensified until the

middle of the following year — remained within the National Liberation Partisan Detachments, or, from 1 November 1942, the National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia.

It was largely from among this body of active Yugoslav Army officers and NCOs who remained firmly within the ranks of the Partisan army, rather disparagingly termed " former officers," that the wartime generals and commanders of the largest formations of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia (NOVJ) were "recruited," as were National Heroes and wartime and post-war generals of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA). There were 28 wartime generals drawn from the ranks of Yugoslav Army officers who had joined the uprising (as many as 15 of them from Montenegro), all recipients of the 1941 Commemorative Medal. From this category of veterans, principally during the National Liberation War, 96 were proclaimed National Heroes, while in the ensuing decades of peace 157 would attain the rank of general ("oak leaves") and 35 would also receive the Order of the National Hero.

The number of active Yugoslav Army officers and NCOs firmly and permanently committed to the National Liberation War had doubled by the capitulation of Italy (9 September 1943), with most serving in command positions at every level. From that turning point in the Yugoslav theatre until Victory Day (9 May 1945), their numbers and prominence would increase steadily: through arrivals from occupied territory and clandestine activity, defections from collaborationist units in response to Tito's appeal of August and the King's appeal of September 1944, arrivals from formations that had fought fascism on Allied fronts, escapes from prisoner-of-war camps and returns from the "fronts behind barbed wire" of the Third Reich, followed by participation in the operations for the final liberation of the country. According to my research, by the spring of 1946 this process had brought their number to 4,626, of whom 2,016, as patriots and resolute anti-fascists, had spent most of the Second World War in prison camps. This, then, was the number of officers of the Yugoslav Army (JA) who had emerged from the ranks of the " former officers," constituting 17 per cent of the total number of Yugoslav Army (JA) personnel holding commissioned-officer posts.

At that time, in the first months of freedom, in addition to the 28 holders of the 1941 Commemorative Medal, there were nine Yugoslav Army generals who had been admitted to the National Liberation Army during the final operations, together with 12 former prisoners of war. This amounted to a total of 49 " former officers" holding the rank of general, or approximately 60 per cent of the entire Yugoslav Army (JA) general officer corps at the time.

One may question whether the figure of 96 National Heroes drawn from among former professional soldiers, out of a total of 1,322 Yugoslavs decorated with this most prestigious wartime order, was sufficiently high, particularly since, in retrospect, it is apparent that the number could quite reasonably have been twice as large, especially had candidates been selected from among the heroes of the April War. A similar question arises as to whether the figure of 157 wartime and peacetime generals who had risen from the ranks of the " former officers" is sufficiently convincing, or whether it not only could but should have been considerably higher through promotions from the group of "two hundred perpetual colonels," 48 of whom had "sewn on" the insignia of that rank during the war. One may only wonder how many brilliant military careers were halted or terminated by the retrograde influence of ideology upon personnel policy and, in particular, by the ill-fated Cominform Resolution

and the "case" of Milovan Đilas.

The question also arises as to whether the group of 4,626 active Yugoslav Army officers occupied its proper place within the overall officer corps of the highly politicised Yugoslav Army (JA) towards the end of the Second World War, when approximately 30,000 officers and NCOs held commissioned-officer posts.

These and numerous other questions raised by the present research are, with the publication of this study, left to analysts. Here, however, I wish to emphasise several indisputable truths. First and foremost, if we provisionally set aside the red star and the wartime banners bearing the hammer and sickle, these men were officers of a popular and emphatically anti-fascist army and — personally courageous, professionally competent and inspired by patriotism — participants in one of the many wars of liberation fought by the Serbian people during the turbulent past century, a century exceptionally cruel to successive generations and filled with historical trials and tests of ethical integrity. Of these men, 32, already holding officer rank, had participated in the two Balkan Wars and the First World War. Moreover, these figures have never previously been collated and made public as an act of recognition of such a numerous category of members of what has traditionally been the most highly esteemed profession among the Serbs. Whether we had been unwilling, afraid or unable to do so, whether we had passed over them in silence or deliberately concealed them, is by now almost immaterial.

One of the truths concerning the "former officers" who rose to prominence during the National Liberation War is that, as Yugoslav Army (JA) generals, they constituted the very apex of the General Staff which, in the assessment of historians, directed the strategic offensive for the final liberation of the country with considerable success, planning, directing and co-ordinating the operations of four armies across a front extending from the Drava to the Adriatic and to a depth of 500 km. Apart from the leadership of the General Staff itself, Yugoslav Army (JA) generals and colonels who had formerly been active Yugoslav Army officers were, at that time, commanders of the Air Force and Navy, the Air Division Group, the Military Academy, the Third Army and two Main Staffs, as well as six corps and 24 of the 57 infantry divisions; they also served as chiefs of staff of three armies and four corps. Most belonged to the aforementioned group of 28 generals who had been early participants in the National Liberation War and had entered the uprising already holding officer rank.

These figures undoubtedly provide compelling evidence of the role and achievements of this category of officers and NCOs in the National Liberation War. Through their knowledge of the art of war, both in theory and in practice, their courage and patriotism and their determination in the struggle against nazism and fascism as the greatest evil of their age, they developed into commanders capable of discharging responsibilities of such importance and of leading the most influential military institutions.

In any event, six decades after the events in which they participated as makers of history, it is high time to acknowledge that, on every front on which they fought against fascism, they demonstrated themselves to be worthy members of the Yugoslav Army officer corps, devoted to the fatherland and faithful to their military calling. After all, those 157 generals and 4,626 officers, all drawn from the ranks of the "former officers," made a substantial contribution, through their dedicated professional work and steadfast moral principles, to the

development of the JNA into a formidable regional armed force, particularly in its technically specialised services and branches. For two decades they had been educated in the cult of the legendary vojvode*, in the history and traditions of the national armies of Serbia and Montenegro, in knowledge of the nation's theatres of war and in the distinctive tradition of Serbian military thought.*

On the other hand, from the days of the uprising until the end of their active service, and indeed until the end of their lives, those who arrogated to themselves the right to present themselves as the sole organisers and leaders of the anti-fascist war in Yugoslavia referred to them, with considerable irony and condescension, as "former officers." During the war, as a rule, they entrusted them with staff duties, which these men in fact performed successfully, while in the years of peace they assigned them chiefly to military schools, headquarters and specialist services. They were continually marginalised and undervalued, and remained objects of suspicion. This was because, from the outset, they had been marked with the stigma of political unsuitability for command appointments in the thoroughly politicised "army of workers, peasants and honest intelligentsia." Thus, "former officers" of every rank in the JNA enjoyed equality with commanders who had emerged "from the fires of the revolution" only in rhetoric; in practice, they remained conspicuously unequal, subjected to doubt and suspicion and victimised by a system of values in which ideological loyalty ranked far above professional competence. This became particularly evident during the destructive repercussions of the Cominform Resolution (1948–1954), when hundreds of these men — wholly committed to their profession, sometimes to the utmost limits of endurance, yet often inexperienced and ill-equipped for unscrupulous political manoeuvring — were stripped of their ranks (six generals, 12 colonels, 15 lieutenant-colonels, 21 majors, etc.) and deprived of the right to wear Yugoslav and Allied decorations. Many were also denied, often permanently, their "civil and honorary rights." Regrettably, beyond the bitter and sorrowful recollections of those concerned, no written records of this survive. My efforts to trace their fates through lists of National Heroes, the composition of the general officer corps and lists of candidates for the "oak leaves" therefore proved fruitless, resulting in one of the shortcomings of the present study.

These are only some of the reasons why this category of JNA officers — separated out only conditionally — should, six decades later, be discussed independently and more comprehensively, for what is, to the best of my knowledge, the first time in a broader study of this subject in contemporary Serbian non-fiction. The importance of the topic, the fact that it has hitherto been avoided and the prospect of its first appearance before the judgement of the public oblige the present author to deny himself any licence for improvisation, the citation of inaccurate data or the leaving of thematic and chronological "blank spaces" in the manuscript. The author, therefore, has no right to do an injustice either to individuals or to groups of "former officers," still less to the truth about them, particularly since — according to the data collected — at least three-quarters of the 4,626 men "entered" in this manuscript who were born before 1920 are no longer alive. The scarcity of primary sources and any possible inadequacy on the part of the researcher in relation to the importance of the subject may provide some explanation, but cannot serve as justification for the possible shortcomings of this study.

My original intention, after prolonged work on this subject, was to produce a non-fiction

study of the active officers and NCOs of the Yugoslav Army who, for demonstrated merit in the National Liberation War in the Yugoslav theatre, were awarded the title of National Hero or attained the rank of general in the JNA. The very fact that there were 96 of the former and 157 of the latter — including 35 National Heroes — and that each possessed a rich wartime biography indicates that this alone could have constituted a coherent, distinctive and sufficiently substantial publication, as I believe the reader will appreciate from the contents and conclusions of the first two chapters of the manuscript. During the research, however, questions also arose concerning the conduct of hundreds of their colleagues in the circumstances and environments from which these figures emerged and from which the ranks of this group of officers, conditionally separated and examined in its own right, were replenished during the National Liberation War: first and foremost during the April War and subsequently in clandestine activity; in Home Guard, Chetnik, Nedićite and White Guard armed formations; in the "Yugoslav Army Outside the Fatherland"; in Allied military formations, particularly in the Mediterranean theatre; and in prisoner-of-war camps throughout Europe, above all the largest concentration at Osnabrück. These, then, were the environments from which, as the figures cited above confirm, nearly 5,000 generals and officers of the army of the "Second Yugoslavia" were "recruited," 788 of whom are identified here by name. For a substantially larger number, possible sources are indicated which future researchers, freed from the constraints of ideological uniformity and spared sectarian practices, might investigate in order to advance the recovery from oblivion of the names and deeds of thousands who, for no valid reason, were disparaged for decades, suppressed from collective memory, bypassed in historical accounts, ignored in public discourse and effectively ostracised. All were deserving heroes of an exceptionally complex period in which, during the 11 days of the April War alone, hundreds of members of the Yugoslav Army, from soldiers to generals, were killed, among them 135 aircrew and 576 other air-force personnel, while dozens more died in Allied military formations on the fronts of the anti-fascist war. The chronological and substantive scope of this study therefore extends beyond the boundaries of the National Liberation War, with particular significance accorded to the April War as the true beginning of the anti-fascist war. For that reason I have devoted an entire chapter to it.

These were professional soldiers of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia who, as early as May 1941, while wounds were still bleeding and emotions remained inflamed, were subjected — broadly and without sound argument, with only a few exceptions — to condemnation for the lost April War, for military incompetence and moral cowardice, for betraying the people and their army, for capitulationism and acquiescence in surrender and mass removal to prisoner-of-war camps. That judgement, dogmatically one-sided and unjust, particularly in relation to the sons of the Serbian people, has not, even to the present day, been fundamentally reconsidered or corrected. The principal exception was the " former officer" and JNA general Velimir Terzić, who during the April War had been a first-class captain and battalion commander. In his two-volume study Slom Kraljevine Jugoslavije 1941 [The Collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941]*, he drew attention to the chivalrous exploits of dozens of pilots, warship commanders, artillerymen, infantrymen and other officers of all ranks whose names, given the magnitude of their deeds and the strength of their resistance to armed aggression against the fatherland, not only could but should have stood alongside those of the*

solitary naval lieutenants and heroes for all time Milan Spasić and Sergej Mašera. The truth of their sacrifice for the fatherland should likewise have been preserved in history, in school readers and in collective memory.

Confirmation of the validity of such reasoning may also be found in the decree of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Dr. Vojislav Koštunica, issued in April 2002, by which, 61 years after the event, two generals and 27 active officers and NCOs of the Yugoslav Army were decorated with high honours for their conduct during the April War. The prestigious Order of the Knightly Sword, First Class, was awarded posthumously to Army General Dušan T. Simović, Chief of Staff of the Supreme Command and Prime Minister during the April War, and Air Force Brigadier General Borivoje J. Mirković, Commander of the Air Force. The same order was awarded, "for courage and determination displayed in the defence of Yugoslav airspace," to the following officers: Živica I. Mitrović, posthumously; Vojislav J. Popović, posthumously; Milorad D. Tanasić, posthumously; Miodrag A. Aleksić, posthumously; Dragutin Lj. Bojović, posthumously; Dušan R. Borčić, posthumously; Todor J. Gogić, posthumously; Milutin M. Grozdanović, posthumously; Miloš G. Žunjić, posthumously; Jovan Đ. Kapešić, posthumously; Miho F. Klavora, posthumously; Vasa J. Kolarov, posthumously; Mihajlo R. Nikolić, posthumously; Božidar S. Kostić, posthumously; Milisav P. Semiz, posthumously; Đorđe S. Stojanović, posthumously; Milan M. Marjanović, posthumously; Ferdo F. Gradišnik, posthumously; Branko G. Fanedl, posthumously; Andrija M. Pavlović, posthumously; Velimir S. Veličković, posthumously; Petar S. Todorović, posthumously; Petar S. Vukčević, posthumously; and, among those still living, Miodrag Ž. Bošković, Vukadin D. Jelić and Jovan M. Petrović. At the same time, Naval Lieutenant Aleksandar Berić was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honour "for courage displayed while commanding the monitor Drava." Together with Naval Lieutenants Milan Spasić and Sergej Mašera, who had been decorated by the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), these men were true knights of the air and sea. Yet dozens of equally deserving Yugoslav Army officers — heroes of the April War who have been left to oblivion, including, among others, members of the numerically predominant Land Forces — still remain "without a medal."

Research undertaken for the purposes of this study indicates how little we know about the exemplary service rendered to the fatherland and to their profession by Yugoslav Army air-force and naval officers serving in Allied formations, particularly across the wider Mediterranean theatre. Indeed, it may sound almost like a "discovery" that, between May 1941 and November 1943, 46 Yugoslav Army officer-pilots were killed on operational missions while serving in the Royal Air Force (RAF) and United States Air Force (USAAF) alone, and that the pilots of the First and Second Squadrons of the NOVJ, through their exploits on combat missions from 18 August 1944 until Victory Day, aroused the admiration and envy of their colleagues in the British 281st Wing and throughout the Balkan Air Force (BAF).

Equally remarkable are the findings concerning the network of contacts maintained by hundreds of active Yugoslav Army officers with the clandestine organisation of the National Liberation Movement, in the most diverse environments and under the most extraordinary circumstances. Finally, the author is almost at a loss for words when attempting to describe examples of the courageous and dignified conduct, in the face of brutal camp authorities, of

hundreds of active Yugoslav Army officers held as prisoners of war, from second lieutenants to army generals. Among them, the example of Brigadier General Mihailo Mikica Nedeljković shines with particular distinction: his resolute commitment to the anti-fascist war at Osnabrück, which he led, cost him his life in a concentration camp.

Yet for almost six decades our official historiography has begun virtually everything with the uprisings of July 1941 and ended it with Victory Day in 1945, exclusively within our own theatre of war and beneath the red flag. This study, by contrast, offers an opportunity to present to the public some examples of the courageous and patriotic conduct of hundreds of active officers serving beneath the flag of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, to redress some of the injustices done to them and to illuminate that officer corps from perspectives hitherto unknown or deliberately avoided.

I am conscious that this is an exceptionally long story and a complex subject and that, partly for this reason, it has until now remained rather disordered and, above all, incompletely told. Everything suggests that the examples already cited, as well as many others of courage, wartime resourcefulness, military chivalry and devotion to the fatherland which remain unknown even to me as the author, deserve attention, and that their protagonists deserve respect. This considerably broadens the thematic scope of the study and increases the author's responsibility before the truth, but I came to understand that this challenge ought to be accepted and that the results of the research should be presented responsibly before the impartial judgement of the public.

Finally, I was encouraged by the fact that, in November 2001, this manuscript received the prestigious Dragojlo Dudić Foundation's first prize for non-fiction, in recognition of the value of its contents and the significance of its conclusions. The jury that reached this decision comprised our distinguished historians and recognised writers Dr. Đorđe Piljević, Petar Višnjić and Jovan Radovanović. I regarded this award as a high distinction for my many years of work and research on a subject that had unjustly been postponed for decades.

At the outset, I feel obliged to draw the reader's attention to two dilemmas that troubled me throughout the writing of this publication. The first concerns the 29 highly decorated, and for the most part fallen, heroes of the April War, together with at least four times as many individuals included on the list submitted to the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for decoration (118), that is, all those officers and NCOs who distinguished themselves through acts of courage in defending the fatherland against nazi-fascist aggression. I found myself facing a considerable dilemma as to how they might most faithfully be presented to the public. Certain historians of the Second World War, particularly specialists in the Air Force and in our military art, who at my request read the text or the relevant portions of it, warned me that in portraying the heroes of the April War, and especially certain pilots, I had remained rather faithful to what for decades had been written about that period and its heroes in newspapers, serialised articles, specialist journals and collections of reminiscences, much of which had often been presented uncritically.

In other words, some of what I wrote was rather romanticised and narrated in the epic idiom of the "fiery Dinaric man," which is also consonant with our mentality. Yet there are researchers who present a somewhat different picture — more rational and precise, in some respects more prosaic and, ultimately, less favourable. This would mean, for example, "tak-

ing away" an aerial victory or two from a particular pilot, or stating that one of his comrades, driven by professional and patriotic fervour and perhaps realising that he had no chance of returning alive from combat, did not deliberately direct his aircraft, with himself inside it, into a German column but instead crashed and burned beside the road along which the Germans were advancing; or that, when confronted with his own death, he did not ram the enemy aircraft — as we had long heard, remembered, believed and retold.

While respecting archival documents, expert assessments, precise tactical criteria, human and technical limitations, the actual capabilities of the "winged men" and their remarkable machines, as well as the exceptionally stringent standards governing recognition of aerial victories, I nevertheless decided, wherever I encountered such doubts, that for a work of this kind, intended for the broadest readership, in which I provide brief biographies of approximately 560 individuals and mention as many as 853, it was more appropriate for these heroes to remain, for the most part, as we remember them from accounts recorded in newspapers and school readers and from stories handed down to us. I did not consider myself entitled, 60 years later, to retouch details in a picture that had become part of tradition and collective memory, to whose creation I myself had contributed during five decades of work in military journalism. Historians, for their part, will treat those points that remain contentious to me in their own studies, precisely and systematically, accurately and rationally, and for this I have the greatest respect.

My second dilemma concerned the question of how to name those individuals who, before the Second World War, for various reasons had borne a different official name (General Avšič — Rade, General Apostolski — Mitić, General Primorac — Sremček, General Matetić — Dušan, etc.) from the one by which we have referred to them for more than six decades. I opted for the latter form, which in my view is the more acceptable.

In the final shaping of the manuscript, I received substantial assistance from the reviewers Dr. Mile Bjelajac, Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Recent History of Serbia, who has worked on this subject extensively and with distinction, and Ljubiša Đorđević, the energetic president of the Association for the Preservation of Aviation Traditions, as well as from a group of outstanding authorities on our military history and popular memory. Among them, I wish to single out with particular gratitude the professors and distinguished writers Čeda Janić and Željko Vidakov Zirojević. I sincerely thank them for this invaluable assistance, as well as all the colleagues who helped me prepare this work for publication.

27 January 2004, Belgrade.

Ivan R. Matović

Part One
NATIONAL HEROES

Of the 1,322 citizens of the "Second Yugoslavia" awarded the Order of the National Hero as the highest distinction for merit in the National Liberation War of 1941–1945, 96 were active officers and NCOs of the Yugoslav Army. Apart from two who received the decoration for their service in the April War, all the others were early participants in the National Liberation War, chiefly veterans of the uprisings of June and July 1941. Of this group of National Heroes, 58 were killed in the National Liberation War: five in 1941, 17 in 1942, 28 in 1943 and eight in 1944.

Of the 157 generals of the NOVJ, or subsequently of the Yugoslav Army (JA) and, from 22 December 1951, the JNA, who had risen from the officer corps of the Yugoslav Army, 35 were National Heroes.

Of the 58 National Heroes killed in the National Liberation War, on the eve of the war four had been cadets in the Yugoslav Army, 31 NCOs, 14 officers and 10 members of the Gendarmerie, which constituted a special branch of the Army. If one takes into account that all 10 gendarmes held NCO ranks, this category proves to have been the most numerous here — 41 men, or more than two-thirds — whereas the proportion of NCOs in the entire group of generals was slightly under one-third (51). This figure is quite surprising, but it also strongly invites and indeed demands further research. Of all the National Heroes killed in the National Liberation War, only 13 held or were posthumously awarded ranks in the NOVJ: one general, five colonels, one lieutenant-colonel and six majors — ranks in which they died at the head of the units they commanded.

Alongside the names of a number of National Heroes who are reliably remembered as having been NCOs or officers, and particularly as having served in the Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie, their occupation was recorded as "clerk," "farmer" or something similar — presumably also because of the official political suspicion directed towards "former officers." Wherever consultation of documents and witnesses made it possible to establish the truth, the correct original occupation has therefore been entered. In some cases, particularly where individuals from outside Serbia and Montenegro were concerned, this was no longer possible, and the present list may consequently be short by two or three names.

Of all 96 National Heroes, 11 received this most prestigious distinction for "heroism inspired by nobility, patriotism, the strength of selflessness and boundless fidelity to the ideals of the revolution" during the National Liberation War itself, while the remaining 85 were proclaimed National Heroes in the post-war years, chiefly in the early 1950s (25 in 1951 and as many as 45 in 1953). One shortcoming of this research is that, with one exception, it does not give the names of those National Heroes who lost the title because they had allegedly accepted the Cominform Resolution, since it proved impossible to establish this information.

Of all 96 "former officers" proclaimed National Heroes, 58 were killed, while of those who survived, three attained the rank of lieutenant-general during the decades of peace and 35 became generals. Here, however, all are treated equally and listed in strict alphabetical order.

ANDRIĆ TADIJA (Belo Polje, Gornji Milanovac, 1919 – Sjenica, 1941), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. Before undertaking military training, he had worked as a day labourer and as an attendant at a primary school. Well armed, he returned from the war to his native region on the slopes of freedom-loving Rudnik. During the uprising he served as a light-machine-gunner in the Takovo Company and later as a company commander in the Takovo Battalion, setting an example through his courage and resourcefulness in combat. Among other exploits, on the approaches to Gornji Milanovac he single-handedly ambushed and eliminated a German patrol. Unlike other units whose ranks were depleted under the pressure of German forces during the First Enemy Offensive, Tadija brought his company intact into the Sandžak and led it into the fighting around Nova Varoš and Priboj and, on 18 December, into the attack on Sjenica. He was at the head of a group of fighters tasked with eliminating the garrison of a large bunker, a prerequisite for further penetration into the town and its capture. He fell before that bunker, his body riddled with bullets.

ANTONČIĆ MILAN Velebit*

APOSTOLSKI MIHAILO*

BENDERAĆ MANOJLO Majo (Klobuk, Trebinje, 1912 – Golo Brdo, Trebinje, 1942), Yugoslav Army sergeant. The son of an impoverished villager and possessed of a keen sense of justice, in 1936 he attempted to travel from Split, where he was serving, to Spain through clandestine channels in order to join the armed struggle against fascism. He was captured on the Italian border and sentenced by a military court in his native Trebinje to five years' imprisonment. He made several attempts to escape from prison, but without success. When he was conditionally released after four years, he found employment as a printing worker at the newspaper *Politika*. Nor did he submit to the Germans during the April War: as a volunteer in the defence of the fatherland, he was captured twice by the occupying forces and escaped on both occasions. An energetic insurgent, he was soon chosen to command a Partisan company. With one of its platoons, on 1 November 1941, he operated from ambush against the Italians at his native Klobuk, halting a motorised column of regimental strength that included 12 tanks. He held his position until reinforcements arrived, after which the column was broken up. In fighting during January 1942 he was severely wounded in the chest, and after recovering sufficiently he was appointed commander of the "Luka Vukalović" Battalion. At the head of this strong unit, on 11 April 1942, he was killed while assaulting the enemy stronghold at Golo Brdo above Trebinje — cut down by a burst of fire in open ground before a fortification encircled by a concrete wall and barbed wire. He was buried in the village of Aranđelovo, where his four brothers, all killed in the anti-fascist war, also lie.

BOGDANOVIĆ GEDEON Geco*

BOŽIĆ NIKOLA Jug (Stupovača, Kutina, 1910 – Gračanica, Kutina, 1942), sergeant in the Yugoslav Army Border Troops. He evaded capture and soon joined the insur-

gents fighting against Ustaša atrocities. He organised a company that became the nucleus of the future Moslavina Detachment, in which he first served as a light-machine-gunner and later as operations officer. He proved a true master of bold and unexpected actions. During the attack on Čazma, he eliminated a sentry with a daring rush and, together with one fighter and crawling across open ground, destroyed a bunker. He then cleared a passage using clusters of small aerial bombs, covered by the fire of his comrades. On 23 December 1942 he took part in an attack on a German transport train laden with weapons on the Zagreb-Kutina railway line. Jug leapt into the locomotive, killed the driver and moved into the first carriage, where he eliminated around 10 German officers. As he crossed into the second carriage, he was met by a burst of gunfire and killed. In retaliation, the Ustaše deported his parents and his brother with his family to the Jasenovac concentration camp, none of whom survived the torment of that "factory of death."

BRAJOVIĆ V. PETAR*

BRAČIČ MIRKO Bradač (Trieste, 1915 – Kočevje, 1943), sergeant in the Yugoslav Army Royal Guard, colonel of the NOVJ. Refusing the "freedom" offered in return for loyalty to the Italians, he joined the Partisans, where he was appointed a company commander. From December 1941 he commanded the "Ljubo Šercer" Battalion and subsequently a group of detachments with which he fought successfully, creating liberated territories in Lower Carniola and Inner Carniola. In the autumn of 1942, at the head of the Soča Detachment of 90 fighters, he broke through into the Slovene Littoral, where in the summer of 1943, after successful fighting against the Italians, he formed two new detachments and then the Alpine Operational Zone, becoming its first commander. Following the capitulation of Italy on 9 September 1943, he became commander of the 14th Assault Division, with which he conducted a number of successful engagements and battles, now against the Germans, often along the Ljubljana-Postojna-Trieste railway, where traffic was consequently frequently interrupted. The destruction of the large Štampet Bridge on that line on 14 October 1943 was an operationally significant success. Under Bradač's command, the division attacked the strong German-Home Guard stronghold at Kočevje; after two days of uninterrupted fighting, his units captured the entire town apart from one well-defended fortification, in front of which a German gun positioned on a bridge kept the attackers pinned down. While charging forward in an attempt to capture it, or at least silence it, Commander Bradač was mortally wounded on 11 December 1943. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of colonel in the NOVJ.

BREŠAN LJUBO Feđa (Mostar, 1913 – Mostar, 1943), Yugoslav Army NCO specialising in aircraft mechanics. He worked at the military airfield near his native city, where the occupation of the country found him. He was one of the organisers of the uprising and subsequently, after going deep underground, directed the organisation of the National Liberation Movement in the city on the Neretva. His clandestine *nom de guerre* was Feđa. He also directed the operation to conceal and care for approximately 150 wounded and exhausted fighters of the Mostar Battalion, whom members of the un-

derground National Liberation Movement organisation smuggled into the city by secret routes after the Battle of the Sutjeska in June 1943 and protected until they recovered. Realising that they had been outmanoeuvred, the Ustaše searched persistently for Feđa until, in mid-July 1943, acting on information supplied by one of his associates who had been unable to withstand torture, they discovered and arrested him. For 15 days and nights he was tortured, frequently in the presence of members of his immediate family, threatened and, like his parents, subjected to promises and inducements, yet he admitted nothing. He was handed over to the Gestapo, which confined him in a solitary cell in the notorious "Bishop's House." There an iron band was tightened around his head, but he continued stubbornly to remain silent. Determined to break him morally, they slipped him a letter from a wounded comrade who had become a traitor, urging him to confess everything. On the same sheet of paper he sent his "reply": "It is better to lose one's life honourably than to lose it as a traitor." He was executed by firing squad in August — the loveliest season, in peaceful times, in the city on the Neretva.

VIDOVIĆ ŽARKO*

VLADUŠIĆ BRANKO (Zrmanja, Gračac, 1917 – Srb, 1942), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie sergeant. He avoided capture in the April War and, well armed, made his way on foot from Serbia to his native region. An early participant in the uprising against Ustaša atrocities against the Serbian people, he fought with the "Marko Orešković" Battalion in the attack on the Ustaše at Plitvice. During the fighting at Šijanov Klanac in early 1942, he and a group of fighters broke into the Italian positions, and he personally captured three soldiers and an officer. On that occasion he also seized a light machine gun, thereby fulfilling his greatest ambition, and, as a corporal, he would not part with it until his death. Several of his exploits were recorded. During the attack on Donji Lapac, for example, he and two comrades held out for an entire day in front of a fortification, dug into the snow on open ground and continually swept by bursts of fire, before finally launching an assault that evening. During the attack on Srb, after the first assault failed, his section maintained the blockade of the strongest Italian bunkers. He ordered his men to withdraw and rest, while he himself, armed with a rifle, took up position in front of a hedge barely 100 metres from an enemy bunker. For more than three hours the experienced soldier and courageous fighter held his own against its garrison, until he was mortally wounded. This occurred on 3 March 1942. In recognition of the brave corporal, the people and their army named one of their battalions "Branko Vladušić"; fighting under the banner of the "Nikola Tesla" Sixth Lika Proletarian Division, it would bear that name with honour until Victory Day.

VREĆA RISTO (Krajkovići, Trebinje, 1920 – Oblo Brdo, Stolac, 1943), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. After the ordeal of the April War, he travelled from occupied Belgrade to his native region and immediately joined actions of determined resistance to the Ustaše. He became the first commander of the first insurgent company formed from fighters in the Trebinje Forest area. Along the railway and road towards Dubrovnik, he

cut telephone lines, demolished culverts and set ambushes. On 7 February 1942, with his company, he attacked a train between Hum and Uskoplje stations, destroying two locomotives and several carriages, capturing 33 Italian soldiers and seizing a substantial quantity of weapons. Operating clandestinely from the summer of 1942, he commanded the "Sloboda" Battalion, which continually carried out armed actions. Among other things, it eliminated several collaborators of the occupying forces. In January 1943, charging at the head of his unit, he opened a passage for a group of fighters surrounded on Mount Bjelašnica. By the spring he commanded a battalion within the South Herzegovinian Detachments and, in April 1943, from positions on Oblo Brdo near Stolac, stubbornly resisted the advance of far superior enemy forces. There, at his post, he remained forever.

VUJOŠEVIĆ ZARIJA (Mataguži, Podgorica, 1903 – Konjic, 1943), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie sergeant. A fighter in the insurgent units and a participant in the Battle of Pljevlja on 1 December 1941, he later became a platoon commander in the Fifth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade. On the basis of his comrades' recollections, the *Collection of National Heroes* records that, within the proletarian brigade, "day after day he reaffirmed his extraordinary heroism. In this respect he carried matters almost to the point of selfishness, always wishing to bear the lion's share of the burden of war, to be the first into battle and the last to leave it. This was not always compatible with his position as a platoon commander, and it prevented his appointment to higher functions, for a commander had to concern himself with his men and deploy them rather than seek out and reserve the most difficult combat tasks for himself, assuming exclusively the role of sniper, rear guard and so forth. He frequently had to be ordered more than once to withdraw, and was sometimes criticised for this. Yet it made no difference — he could not rid himself of the urge to approach the enemy and, carried away by battle, fight them without often paying attention to where his comrades and his unit were." He was said to be "a true master of capturing and destroying enemy bunkers." Thus, during the attack on Prozor in the Battle of the Neretva, his platoon was assigned the task of neutralising by fire a large bunker situated at the junction between the skirmish lines of his brigade and the First Dalmatian Brigade. He was not ordered to capture it, because the prospects of success were considered "more than minimal." Yet as soon as the attack began, Zarija managed, through skilful manoeuvring, to approach and destroy the bunker — "so as not to waste ammunition for nothing." He was killed soon afterwards, during the fighting for Konjic at the end of February 1943, after disobeying his company commander's order to withdraw in the face of an enemy attack from the rear. He could not bear to abandon a position he had captured with great difficulty on the very edge of the town. There, in an unequal fight, he was killed alongside two comrades. Soon afterwards, in April 1943, he was proclaimed a National Hero on the recommendation of his battalion.

VUKELIĆ SAVO*

VUKOJE PAVLE (Pađeni, Bileća, 1919 – Udeska, Ostrožac on the Rama, 1943), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie sergeant. The April War found him serving as commander

of the Gendarmerie station in Bosanska Dubica. From there, well armed, he made his way on foot to his native region. He immediately joined the resistance of the Serbian population to Ustaša atrocities, organising village guards and protection companies. By the autumn of the year of the uprising, he was at the head of the Pađeni Company within the "Vladimir Gaćinović" Battalion. He subsequently commanded a company composed of selected fighters from the Bileća and Gacko districts and, from mid-April 1942, a battalion with which, in fighting from Zelengora across Treskavica and the Neretva to Bosanska Krajina, he courageously and resolutely defended the columns of civilians and the wounded of the Central Hospital. In the original formation of the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade at Šujica on 10 August 1942, he served as deputy company commander and, five months later, as battalion commander. In addition to his exploits during the proletarian forces' offensives towards Bosanska Krajina, his conduct in the fighting for Kupres and Duvno, around Jajce and Travnik, and for Crni Vrh and Vlašić was particularly remembered. He was killed on 11 March 1943, at the height of the fighting associated with the Battle of the Neretva, during a German air raid on Partisan positions at Udeska near Ostrožac.

VUKOTIĆ JOVAN*

VUKSANOVIĆ SLAVOLJUB Jajko (Blace, Prokuplje, 1922 – Ozren, 1943), Yugoslav Army Air Force sergeant. On the eve of the uprising, he undertook the collection of weapons and worked to expose Kosta Pećanac's collaboration with the Germans, a task that was neither swift nor easy, since the population remembered the *vojvoda* as the leader of the Toplica Uprising launched against the Bulgarian occupiers in 1917. For months he performed intelligence duties, often operating clandestinely in Kruševac. As a fighter in the Toplica Detachment, he was captured in combat in November 1941 and subjected to severe torture, yet betrayed neither information nor anyone else. He was freed on 5 December during a successful attack by the Toplica and Rasina Detachments on Blace and was subsequently appointed company commander. He distinguished himself in fighting against units of the Bulgarian occupation army and the collaborationist Serbian State Guard. In a battle at the village of Velika Plana he was seriously wounded. After recovering, he was sent on assignment to eastern Serbia where, as a company commander, he fought within the Timok Detachment, operating from the Kučaj Mountains against the Bulgarians and collaborationist forces. Following the fighting undertaken by the South Morava forces in the Kruševac region, their First Brigade was ordered to break through towards the main force earmarked by the Supreme Headquarters for an advance into Serbia. The march across Šumadija, western Serbia and eastern Bosnia was conducted amid fighting by day and night, particularly severe on the Ozren and Devetak mountains. There, in December 1943, he was killed heroically.

VUČKOVIĆ LJUBO*

VUČKOVIĆ MILOŠ*

GAVRAN DUŠAN (Gornji Budelj, Sanica, 1922 – Sanski Most, 1942), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. During the April War he was captured by the Germans on the Bulgarian frontier together with the company in which he served as quartermaster, but succeeded in avoiding internment in a camp. He was a prominent participant in several insurgent actions and, during the attack on the Ustaša garrison at Prijedor on 16 May 1942, charged the bridge, tore down the wire obstacles and saved the battalion from encirclement. He would not infrequently carry out an action alone, or at least succeed in resolving an apparently insoluble situation. Thus, during an attack on a strongpoint along the Prijedor-Sanica railway, he fired a prolonged burst from a machine gun and threw several hand grenades at the Ustaše and Home Guards, then exploited the ensuing panic to withdraw. As a platoon commander in the First Krajina Detachment, in fighting between Gornja and Donja Sanica, he killed 20 and captured 27 Ustaše and Home Guards. In May 1942, during fighting against strong Italian forces near Donje Bravsko, he approached an Italian light-machine-gunner from the rear, captured him and seized the highly prized weapon, thereby — most importantly — enabling the Partisan attack to succeed. In August 1942 he became deputy commander, and soon afterwards commander, of the Youth Company. He was killed at its head in December 1942 during the battle for Sanski Most, while assaulting a heavily fortified strongpoint.

GROZDANIĆ MILUTIN (Povraće, Danilovgrad, 1915 – Pelev Brijeg, Podgorica, 1943), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie sergeant. During the uprising he fought in a guerrilla detachment and was repeatedly commended for the heroism he displayed in the fighting for Danilovgrad and on the approaches to Podgorica. He served as company commander in the "Bijeli Pavle" Detachment and in the Fifth Proletarian Brigade. During the attack on Prozor, at the height of the Battle of the Neretva, he destroyed a wire obstacle during an assault, eliminated a strong concrete emplacement, penetrated the town and destroyed two Italian tanks. During the fighting on Repovac Hill above Konjic, he charged in broad daylight against a German-Ustaša garrison entrenched on that formidable terrain feature. At Javorka near Nikšić in early May 1943, charging alongside brigade commander Sava Kovačević and a group of his fighters, he captured an artillery battery. Rather than continue listing Milutin's exploits, we may cite the words of his commissar, Vukalica "Đedo" Milutinović, published in a collection of reminiscences about their brigade: "When the shooting started, Milutin would rush forwards without looking either left or right. The heavier the fire became, the more it intoxicated him. He would charge ahead, heedless of obstacles. Until the battle became fully engaged, he commanded his units coolly, but once he found himself in the vortex of fire and assault, he would take on the work of an entire unit. Milutin reached places where no one else could." From his first to his final assault, from his native Danilovgrad to Banja Luka and then back again to the place of his death in Bratonožići, throughout two years of unrelenting combat in which he rose from insurgent fighter to commander of a proletarian company, Milutin, his commissar wrote, "remained always the same: a hero among heroes, an unsurpassed grenadier, an infantryman without equal and a commander with a character all his own. He believed that bullets would not take him. Yet in the end some well-fed Prussian soldier outwitted

him. Grappling hand to hand with Milutin, he overcame him. He killed our Milutin. A hero of the front line." This occurred towards the end of 1943.

DOMAZET NOVICA (Vlahovići, Ljubinje, 1913 – Porim, Mostar, 1943), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie junior sergeant. Caught by the war while in Niš, he set out well armed for his native region, where he joined the spontaneous resistance of the Serbian population to Ustaša atrocities, participating in armed actions in the Ljubinje and Stolac districts. On 10 March 1942, together with his brother Milan and the company commanded by the two of them, he ambushed at Badrljače in the Žegulja area, on the Ljubinje-Stolac road, a German motorised column of 30 vehicles and approximately 200 soldiers transporting looted tobacco. In a fierce four-hour battle, the column was completely destroyed. In the spring of 1942 he became deputy commander of an assault battalion with which he conducted several successful actions. In only five days of fighting in May, Italian units operating on the sector of the front under Novica's command suffered several hundred killed, wounded and captured, including seven officers, one of them a colonel. He fought for 10 months on his native soil under the most difficult conditions, while the proletarian and assault units were campaigning in Bosanska Krajina. Subsequently, with a group of fighters from the "Iskra" Battalion, he joined the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade at the height of the Battle of the Neretva, becoming deputy commander of its Fourth Battalion in March 1943. During the brigade's advance into the Nevesinje Field and towards Mostar, he led the battalion in fighting by day and night, most fiercely against the Italians at Porim, where he again demonstrated both personal courage and command ability in directing units in battle. He was killed while assaulting fortified positions at Porim: standing upright, he hurled grenades at the bunkers before leading his fighters forward in the charge. The Italian unit was completely broken and its heavy artillery captured, but Commander Novica remained there forever, on 14 March 1943.

DRULOVIĆ ČEDOMIR*

DUDIĆ MILOŠ Miša (Klinci, Valjevo, 1915 – Šekovići, 1944), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, NOVJ colonel. He was the son of Dragojlo Dudić, a renowned veteran, a man of progressive views and a respected landowner, who participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the uprising and became the first president of the first government of anti-fascist Serbia (Užice, 17–29 November 1941). During the year of the uprising Lieutenant Dudić commanded the Azbukovica Company and the Rađevina Battalion of the Valjevo Detachment. After the main Partisan forces withdrew from Serbia towards the Sandžak, where they would enter the First and Second Proletarian Brigades, he remained behind and continued fighting the Germans and collaborationists in western Serbia and subsequently in Šumadija, under the most difficult possible conditions. An ardent patriot and committed anti-fascist, a courageous fighter and skilful commander, he carried out numerous exploits and, known by the nickname Suvoborac, became highly popular among both the army and the population. In 1943 he held a succession of commands: in January, commander of the Suvobor Detachment; in June, commander of the

first battalion formed in central Serbia; and in October, deputy commander of Radivoje Jovanović Bradonja's First Šumadija Brigade. In November, on orders from the Supreme Headquarters at Jajce, that brigade set out for the Sandžak to link up with the Second Proletarian and Fifth Krajina Divisions so that, "together, as a stronger grouping, they might penetrate into Serbia." Warmly received in Prijepolje, on 4 December it came under the blows of the Sixth Enemy Offensive and, while offering determined resistance to the Germans in the Lim valley, displayed great courage, resolve and self-sacrifice, but also suffered heavy losses. In this life-and-death fighting Miša sustained several serious wounds. For some 20 days his comrades carried him, continuously under combat conditions, across Ozren and Konjuh to the Central Hospital at Šekovići, but he could not be saved. On 9 January 1944 he was posthumously promoted to the rank of colonel in the NOVJ. He was proclaimed a National Hero in September 1945, and his father Dragojlo only two months later.

ĐORĐEVIĆ DRAGUTIN*

EGIĆ OBRAD*

ERAKOVIĆ SAVA Strahinja (Dobrotić, Prokuplje, 1921 – Rgaje, Pusta Reka, 1944), Yugoslav Army artillery junior sergeant. A participant in the Toplica uprising of July 1941, he took part in armed actions against the Bulgarian occupying forces, including the destruction of the Gendarmerie station at Žitorađa and the liberation of Prokuplje. He subsequently commanded a section that fought from Kopaonik to Crna Trava. A courageous fighter and skilful commander, he became commander of the Rasina Detachment and, in the original formation of the Second South Morava Brigade on 21 November 1943, deputy commander and soon afterwards commander. At the head of the brigade he particularly distinguished himself during its forced march from Pusta Reka to Crna Trava and back again, demonstrating personal courage, notable command ability and concern for his fighters. During the defence of Pusta Reka, at the head of the brigade deployed in skirmish formation for the capture of Kamena Čuka, he was killed in the fighting to break the attack of units under Chetnik commander Keserović. This occurred in March 1944.

EĆIMOVIĆ MARKO (Mandra, Sokolac, 1909 – Čelebić, 1943), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie sergeant. An insurgent from freedom-loving Glasinac, after the liberation of Sokolac on 25 August 1941, in which he distinguished himself particularly, he became commander of the barracks at Podromanija, where he organised military workshops, including one for the production of hand grenades. In March of the following year, in the original formation of the Eastern Bosnia Assault Battalion, he served as platoon commander and soon afterwards as company commander. At the beginning of 1943 he became commander of the Third Battalion of the Sixth Eastern Bosnian Brigade. He displayed particular ability and courage in fighting against the Germans in the Bosut forests, during the transfer of that unit to Srem for a period of operational rest. While the brigade

was resting, Marko's company found itself face to face with a column belonging to a vastly stronger and better-armed Wehrmacht unit, separated from it only by a road. He immediately led the company in a powerful assault, thereby enabling the brigade to regroup and launch an organised attack. The result was approximately 200 German soldiers killed and the capture of three mortars and seven machine guns. At Han Pijesak, with his battalion, he routed an Ustaša battalion that had been decorated by the Poglavnik Pavelić for crimes committed against Serbs on Kozara. During the Fifth Enemy Offensive his battalion attacked at Kušlat near Čelebići, where "only hand grenades did the work." In close-quarter fighting, 55 German soldiers were killed and 19 captured. At the very end of the engagement Marko was seriously wounded. He died in hospital at Čelebići in June 1943.

ŽEŽELJ MILAN*

IVETIĆ VOJISLAV (Priluka, Livno, 1920 – Besarići, Žumberak, 1943), cadet of the Yugoslav Army Lower Military Academy. During the April War, retreating before the German advance, he reached Mostar. There he heard the news of the unconditional capitulation of the army and state, after which, armed and travelling across trackless terrain, he returned to his native region. He took part in fighting to protect the Serbian population of villages in the lower Livanjska polja from Ustaša genocide. At the beginning of 1942 he served as commissar of one of the companies in the "Starac Vujadin" Battalion. During the fighting around Bosansko Grahovo in May 1942, one platoon of the First Proletarian Battalion of Croatia was cut off, and Ivetić, as a good guide familiar with the terrain, was assigned to lead the group back to its parent unit in Lika. The combat march lasted an entire month and, having formed close bonds with the proletarian fighters, he remained in their battalion as platoon commander. A courageous fighter and skilful commander, he soon became operations officer of the "Rade Končar" Thirteenth Proletarian Brigade. He was killed on 30 January 1943 in fighting against the Italians near the Žumberak village of Besarići; attempting to capture a tank, he leapt onto it, opened the hatch and fired at the crew huddled inside the confined armoured compartment. He was cut down by a burst of fire from another tank.

IVKOVIĆ OBREN (Donji Drežanj, Nevesinje, 1911 – Donji Drežanj, 1972), Yugoslav Army infantry sergeant, JNA colonel. During the April War he fought courageously on the front in Albania and, after returning to his native region, worked to prepare the Serbian population for determined resistance to the Ustaše, particularly after their incursion into Donji Drežanj on 3 June. He was one of the leaders of the uprising in the Nevesinje area and, from September 1941, deputy commander of the "Nevesinjska Puška" Battalion, later of the Fifth Assault Battalion of the North Herzegovinian Detachment. In June 1942 he distinguished himself in the fighting at Gat, where his battalion enabled the main Partisan force to withdraw towards Zelengora. On Treskavica in July, leading the battalion in the assault, he captured the mountain summits, dislodged the enemy and opened the route for units and wounded men marching towards Bosanska Krajina. In August 1942 he commanded the Second Battalion of the Tenth Herzegovinian

Brigade and, in February of the following year, became deputy commander of the First Dalmatian Brigade, at whose head he survived the battles of the Neretva and Sutjeska before subsequently commanding the Second Group of Herzegovinian Assault Battalions. In the original formation of the 29th Division on 21 November 1943, he commanded the Eleventh Brigade. Soon afterwards, with the brigade, he took part in the attack on Bileća, during which he was seriously wounded in both legs. After prolonged treatment he performed rear-area duties and later became Chief of Staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Division of the People's Defence Corps of Yugoslavia (KNOJ). After the war he held senior command and staff appointments. He concluded his active military service as commander of the Banja Luka Military District and retired from that post in 1959 with the rank of colonel in the JNA.

JANIĆIJEVIĆ RADISAV Bomba (Belo Polje, Gornji Milanovac, 1917 – near Foča, 1943), Yugoslav Army sergeant. An early participant in the July uprising in legendary Takovo, he commanded the group of fighters that on 7 August 1941 carried out one of the first major acts of sabotage in the Rudnik region, setting fire to a military hay store inside the barracks compound of a Wehrmacht unit in Gornji Milanovac. He became the first commander of the Third Company of the Takovo Battalion of the "Dr. Dragiša Mišović" Čačak Detachment, with which he achieved notable victories in fighting against Chetniks, who from the beginning of November had already begun treacherously attacking the Partisans. After the main Partisan forces withdrew from Serbia into the Sandžak, Bomba, although seriously wounded, became commander of the Second (Čačak) Battalion, the famed "Grebići." He held the same position in the original formation of the Second Proletarian Brigade at Čajniče on 1 March 1942. During the march of the group of proletarian and assault brigades from Zelengora towards Bosanska Krajina, he distinguished himself through courage and skill in commanding units in engagements from Kreševo, through Kupres, to Jajce. He was seriously wounded several times in this fighting and, after recovering, became a member of the Staff of the Second Proletarian Division, responsible for intelligence work. He was killed near Foča in September 1943.

JANKOVIĆ JOVO (Krnje, Sokolac, 1919 – Šići, Romanija, 1942), cadet of the Yugoslav Army Artillery NCO School. He participated in the National Liberation War from the July uprising of 1941, when he commanded the Glasinac Company, one of the most combat-effective units in the Romanija Detachment. As Jovo's comrades later recalled, it "always entered the hardest engagements and emerged victorious, owing above all to the courage and skill of its commander." In his first clash with an enemy motorised column on Romanija, he destroyed the leading lorry with grenades; with a group of fighters he ambushed the Germans at Lisina and showered them with grenades; he destroyed the Gendarmerie station at Žljebovi with grenades; near the school on Romanija, in close-quarter fighting conducted largely "with bayonet and grenade," 22 German soldiers were killed and three lorries carrying food and weapons were captured; in the company's attack on Rogatica, more than 100 enemy soldiers were put out of action and substantial booty was taken; in the fighting for the liberation of Sokolac, he resolutely de-

stroyed enemy positions along his line of advance, while at Stambolčić and Pale more than 100 enemy soldiers were killed. At the beginning of 1942, at the height of the Second Enemy Offensive, Jovo skilfully and courageously organised the defence of the liberated territory; among other actions, at Crvene Stijene he halted the advance of forces several times stronger than his own. Shortly afterwards, in March 1942, he fell seriously ill with typhus and was admitted to a Partisan hospital in the village of Šići. One day, as part of their "coups," the Chetniks attacked the hospital. A life-and-death struggle developed, in which wounded Partisans also took part. The immobile wounded, among them Jovo Janković, were massacred by the Chetniks, as were the nurses who refused to abandon their helpless comrades. Jovo's entire family participated in the anti-fascist war; his father and two brothers were also killed.

JOVANOVIĆ ZDRAVKO (Osladić, Valjevska Kamenica, 1909 – Dednik, Grosuplje, 1943), Yugoslav Army sergeant-platoon commander. One of the leading organisers of the July uprising in western Serbia, he became the first commander of the Valjevo Detachment on 28 June 1941. At the head of the detachment he took part in all the fighting it conducted over the following months, distinguishing himself particularly in the attack on Lajkovac, where he fought hand to hand during the battle for the railway station; in the attack on the Germans at Krupanj, he led a grenade-throwing platoon that destroyed a strongly fortified position; and largely through his efforts, strong German forces at the Zavlaka Pass were held up for 14 days and suffered heavy losses. As commander of the Valjevo Detachment, he participated in the Military Conference at Stolice on 26 September 1941. When the main Partisan forces withdrew towards the Sandžak, he was left behind, in his capacity as a member of the Main Staff and commander of the Valjevo Detachment, to direct the armed struggle in western Serbia. The fighting undertaken by the Valjevo Group of Detachments was continuous and exhausting, conducted under exceptionally difficult tactical and weather conditions. For this reason, in March 1942, in order to preserve his depleted and exhausted manpower, he transferred the remnants of the units across the Drina and, in co-operation with the Second Proletarian Brigade, linked up with the Supreme Headquarters at Foča. From his post as company commander in the Belgrade Battalion of the First Proletarian Brigade, he was sent by decision of the Supreme Headquarters, together with a group of 12 commanders from proletarian units, to Slovenia as experienced cadre support for its Main Staff. There, while serving as Chief of Staff of the Second (Inner Carniola) Operational Zone, he was killed on 3 February 1943.

JOVANOVIĆ PETAR (Liverovići, Nikšić, 1917 – ?, 1943), Yugoslav Army second lieutenant. During the April War, as a young officer and energetic commander, he fought courageously at the head of his platoon, retreating before far stronger German forces from Subotica to Sarajevo. From there he made his way across the mountains of Herzegovina and reached his native region. He soon became involved in preparations for the uprising as a military instructor and adviser in the formation of units. He participated in the first armed actions and in preparations for an attack to liberate Nikšić from the Italians. As

a volunteer, on 1 December 1941 he took part in the battle for the liberation of Pljevlja, where his conduct in the street fighting was particularly noted. From his position as commander of the Župa Battalion, in February 1942 he co-ordinated the defensive operations of several units seeking to prevent the Italians from breaking out of their completely blockaded garrison at Nikšić. While serving as commander of the Third Assault Battalion of the Nikšić Detachment, he was seriously wounded in fighting on the Ostrog Heights. As soon as he had recovered somewhat, in May 1942 he was appointed commander of the "Budo Tomović" Youth Battalion, but shortly before taking up the post he was again seriously wounded, this time by an artillery shell fragment. On a stretcher, as part of the Central Hospital, he was carried across the Piva to Zelengora and from there, during the proletarian forces' advance in the summer of 1942, as far as Bosanska Krajina. Conscious that he represented a heavy burden to his comrades and unwilling to be separated from his wartime companions, he demanded to be transferred from the stretcher to a horse. Throughout the three-month forced march he bore himself with dignity and courage, several times falling when the horse beneath him was killed, yet never consenting to give up. Those accompanying the column of wounded men felt at the time that fate itself was testing how much a fighter for freedom could endure. When his wounds were treated at the Central Hospital in Bosanski Petrovac, he was sent to Donji Lapac as an instructor at the Supreme Headquarters Military School. Soon afterwards the Main Operational Group began an offensive eastwards, pursued by the successive waves of the Fourth Enemy Offensive. During this advance, still not fully recovered and physically exhausted, he contracted typhus and once again found himself on a stretcher. Delirious, and perhaps also driven by a subconscious fear of falling into enemy hands, this courageous man and talented commander took his own life, ending his tormented and heroic existence at an unknown location during the march.

JOVANOVIĆ RADIVOJE Bradonja*

JUGOVIĆ RADISAV Bako (Kosić, Danilovgrad, 1915 – Maglaj, 1943), Yugoslav Army lieutenant. An early participant in the uprising, he commanded a platoon in the fighting for the liberation of Danilovgrad and a company in the planned attack on the Italian garrison at Podgorica. As company commander in the Kosovi Lug Battalion, on the Danilovgrad-Spuž road, he fell into an Italian ambush but reacted rapidly: he opened fire with his pistol and, although wounded, succeeded in breaking through. Holding with his company part of the established front, he prevented the relief of the Italian garrison in Nikšić. In the winter of 1942, as company commander in the "Bijeli Pavle" Assault Battalion, he held positions on Sinjajevina, while in the spring he took part in exhausting fighting on the Piva and Golija. On the day the Fourth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade was formed, 10 June 1942, he was a company commander and subsequently participated in the battles for the liberation of Donji Vakuf and Bugojno. During street fighting in the Ustaša stronghold of Kupres on 12 August 1942, the commander of Bako's battalion was seriously wounded and he responded swiftly: he assumed command, organised the continuation of the attack and, at dawn, successfully extricated the companies from en-

circlement and evacuated the wounded. He also distinguished himself as commander of a proletarian battalion: near Knin he halted and then broke an Italian attack; near Livno he succeeded in extracting his unit from complete Ustaša encirclement without major losses; and during the attack on Duvno, leading the assault, he was the first to enter the town, helping to cause the collapse of the Ustaša defences on other sectors as well. During the Battle of the Neretva, his battalion was the first to enter Jablanica, where it captured an Italian headquarters and seized substantial booty. There followed the fighting during the advance through Herzegovina and Montenegro, where in May 1943, near his native Danilovgrad, he was seriously wounded in the leg but refused to leave the battalion until the enemy had been defeated. After recovering, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Second Dalmatian Brigade. He was killed in positions near Maglaj in July 1943.

KARANOVIĆ NIKOLA*

KECMAN PERO Mukonja (Bukovača, Bosanski Petrovac, 1921 – Devetak, 1943), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. After resisting the Germans in the April War, he returned to his native Bukovača carrying a light machine gun from which, as a section commander in the "Sloboda" Battalion, he would remain inseparable throughout the insurgent fighting. He distinguished himself in actions repelling Ustaša attacks on Serbian settlements and subsequently in assaults on enemy strongholds, including the garrison at Bosanski Petrovac. During the second attack on that town, he penetrated boldly into the Gendarmerie barracks and, during the withdrawal, covered his comrades' retreat before himself escaping under dramatic circumstances. In severe four-day defensive fighting at the end of August 1941, when strong forces advancing from Petrovac attempted to break through towards the insurgent centres of Oštrelj and Drvar, he and his elder brother, who served as his assistant on the light machine gun, made a substantial contribution to defeating the attack. A volunteer in the Krajina Proletarian Battalion, he distinguished himself throughout its entire wartime course and in engagements across central Bosnia, Motajica, Slavonia and Moslavina. Always and everywhere with his light machine gun — wherever a passage had to be opened, a retreat covered or a bunker captured. In fighting at Radulovica, he crawled up to an Ustaša bunker, seized the barrel protruding through the firing slit and pouring out deadly fire, tore the weapon from the hands of the Ustaše, drove out the garrison and, although seriously wounded, captured the bunker. After the proletarian forces returned to Krajina, he became a company commander and soon afterwards a battalion commander in the Seventh Krajina Brigade, with which he survived the battles of the Neretva and Sutjeska, frequently using his light machine gun to clear the way to success. Then, when the fighting thundered at its fiercest, he remained forever on Mount Devetak.

KLUZ FRANJO (Jošik, Bosanska Dubica, 1912 – Omiš, 1944), Yugoslav Army pilot sergeant, major in the NOVJ and RAF. A reconnaissance pilot with the Third Regiment in Skopje, he did not manage to reach Banja Luka until late 1941. Initially serving in the air force of the NDH, he soon defected: on 23 May 1942, in an operation organised

by the National Liberation Movement, he took off from Zalužani airfield in a Potez 25 and reached liberated territory at the Urije airstrip near Prijedor. On the same day he was joined there by Yugoslav Army reserve pilot sergeant Rudi Čajavec, and the exploit of these two men is associated with the beginnings of the NOVJ air force. Despite overwhelming enemy superiority, including in the air, particularly during the Kozara Offensive, they managed to remain operational for 45 days, striking enemy targets. After losing his aircraft on 6 July, Kluz was assigned to the Operational Headquarters for Bosanska Krajina, where he remained until November 1943, when, as part of a group of pilots from the NOVJ First Air Base, he was sent for training at Allied instructional centres in North Africa. He was one of the more gifted pilots of the NOVJ First Squadron, formed on 22 April 1944, in which he also served as commissar. Holding the rank of captain and flying a Spitfire, he accompanied squadron commander Major Mileta Protić on 18 August 1944 in the formation's first combat mission over the Yugoslav theatre. From then onwards, flying from wartime airfields at Canne in Italy and on Vis, he carried out numerous combat sorties east of the Adriatic, attacking German targets or escorting Allied bomber formations. He was killed on 24 September 1944 when, leading a formation of four Spitfires in an attack on the port of Omiš, his aircraft was shot down by German anti-aircraft artillery. He was posthumously promoted to major and, four years later, proclaimed a National Hero. He was buried in the British Military Cemetery in Belgrade.

KNEŽEVIĆ VLADIMIR Vološa (Vaškovo, Pljevlja, 1914 – Trnovo, Mrkonjić Grad, 1942), Yugoslav Army lieutenant. An organiser of the July uprising in the Pljevlja area, he became commander of the newly formed Main Staff of the Sandžak in October 1941 and, on 3 June 1942, the first commander of the Third Sandžak Proletarian Brigade. At the head of this elite NOVJ formation, in the summer of that year and as part of the main body of forces around the Supreme Headquarters, he advanced from Zelengora in the offensive towards Bosanska Krajina, recording victories during the crossing of the Sarajevo-Mostar railway and road, in the liberation of Prozor and Šujica, the capture of Livno and the fighting around Kupres and Mrkonjić Grad. For his personal exploits and his brigade's victories, over the course of a year of fighting from Kamena Gora to Jajce, he was commended in writing four times by the Supreme Headquarters. He was killed during the night of 2–3 October 1942 by Chetniks from the Mrkonjić area, together with the brigade's deputy commissar Rifat Burdžović Tršo and commander of the Fourth Battalion Tomaš Žižić. All three were proclaimed National Heroes on 25 September 1944 as courageous fighters and popular commanders. They remained inseparable: in battle, in death and in recognition of their heroism.

KNEŽEVIĆ RADOVAN Tihi*

KOVAČEVIĆ BRANKO Žika Mornar (Prijevor, Budva, 1922), cadet at the Yugoslav Navy mechanical engineering school, JNA lieutenant-colonel. Immediately after returning from Kumbor, where he had experienced the April War, he was arrested by the Italians and sent for internment, but escaped from them in Ljubljana; on his way to

Montenegro he was arrested by the Germans, but escaped from a camp in Sarajevo; while attempting to find refuge in Serbia, he was arrested by the Bulgarians at Vrnjačka Banja and interned in a camp at Džumaja, but after two months' imprisonment escaped from there as well, reached Serbia and joined the clandestine National Liberation Movement in Leskovac. Following a police crackdown in the "Serbian Manchester," he withdrew to freedom-loving Kukavica, from where he was sent, with a section under his command, into the Jablanica area, where they formed the nucleus of the Jablanica Detachment. In the detachment's battle at Lebanski Krš, he and a group of fighters eliminated the German commander, causing hesitation and panic among the occupying forces. Žika Mornar exploited the moment to launch a powerful assault and rout the confused enemy. As commander of one of the "semi-clandestine companies," he carried out numerous acts of sabotage and disruption, assassinations of German informers and attacks on smaller German, Bulgarian and Chetnik units and groups. After the First Enemy Offensive he moved into central Serbia, where he joined the First Šumadija Detachment operating from Rudnik. In the First Šumadija Brigade he served as deputy to its commander, Radivoje Jovanović Bradonja. In a dramatic clash with Chetniks near the village of Darosava by Aranđelovac, he was seriously wounded. He ended the war holding the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

KOVAČEVIĆ MILOŠ (Grahovo, Nikšić, 1910 – near Konjic, 1943), Yugoslav Army sergeant-platoon commander. From his post in Trebinje he was assigned to wartime duty on the Albanian front where, as a member of the Herzegovinian Division, he distinguished himself in fighting against the Italians. During the July uprising he commanded a company in the Grahovo Battalion, with which he participated in the liberation of his native town from the Italian occupiers and subsequently in blocking the Risan-Grahovo route. In the Battle of Pljevlja on 1 December 1941 he served as deputy company commander in the "Peko Pavlović" Battalion and was seriously wounded while leading assaults through the town. In the original formation of the Fifth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade on 12 June 1942 he served as deputy company commander. During the proletarian forces' advance into Bosanska Krajina he became deputy commander of the Kupres Battalion and then commander of the Prozor Partisan Battalion, before being appointed commander of the Mostar Battalion of the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade in November. Even *Slobodna Jugoslavija*, broadcasting at the time from the distant Urals, reported on his heroism in the capture of Žepče. During the attack by units of the Third Assault Division on Prozor, at the height of the Battle of the Neretva, Miloš was the first, together with the Mostar fighters, to penetrate the fortified town. Further battles and further exploits by the battalion and its commander followed, but soon afterwards he was killed in one of the fierce engagements with the Germans. It occurred near Konjic, during fighting to protect columns of wounded men; as befitted a hero of his stature, he died at the head of his battalion.

KOMLJENOVIĆ STOJAN Čoka (Veliki Gradac, Glina, 1920 – Virovitica, 1943), Yugoslav Army sergeant. A comrade-in-arms of the legendary insurgent leader Vasilj Gaćeša, he became, at the beginning of 1942, a fighter in the First Proletarian Company

of Banija, commanded by the renowned hero Nikola Demonja. In the Kalnik Detachment he would soon replace the seriously wounded Demonja as commander of the First Battalion. In a clash with the Germans on the main Zagreb-Belgrade railway near Pakrac, he succeeded in moving the battalion to the vicinity of Okučani without suffering losses. Towards the end of the second year of the war, the notorious Ustaša "Black Legion" surrounded his battalion in the village of Ivanec on Mount Kalnik. Commander Čoka neither panicked nor lost his composure. At the head of the battalion, singing, "We will not give up our land — for the Ustaše to trample," he succeeded in breaking through, thereby saving both the unit and its war matériel. Soon afterwards, with his battalion, he entered the "Jože Vlahović" Youth Brigade, formed at Daruvar on 30 December 1942, and became its first commander. At its head, not long afterwards in February 1943, he was killed during the Fourth Slavonian Division's attack on the garrison of the fortified Ustaša stronghold at Virovitica.

KOMNENOVIĆ DANILO*

KUKIĆ MILAN (Baljci, Bileća, 1915 – Majdan, Rama, 1943), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie sergeant. The war found him serving in Peć, from where, armed, he made his way to the Bileća area. In the first insurgent battles against the Ustaše and Italians, he displayed courage and resourcefulness, persistence and a marked ability to organise operations. He commanded a Partisan company that was particularly active in clashes along the Trebinje-Bileća road and railway. He played a significant role in the attack on Bileća railway station. During the assault on the Gendarmerie station at Jasen, he smashed down the door with an axe and cleared the way for his fighters with grenades. The destruction of this station disrupted supplies to the strong garrison at Bileća, which for months could thereafter be provisioned only by air. At the beginning of April 1942 he commanded a company in the South Herzegovinian Detachment, with which he fought severe engagements in the Neretva valley. In the original formation of the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade at Šujica on 10 June 1942, he was a company commander and, five months later, deputy commander of its First Battalion. In Bosanska Krajina he distinguished himself in the fighting for the liberation of Kupres and Jajce, and later on Vlašić and at Turbe. During the Battle of the Neretva in February 1943, he charged at the head of his fighters and broke into Prozor, where, although wounded, he captured a bunker and fortified buildings. In the fighting near Marina Pećina, at the head of one of the Herzegovinian companies, he routed the remnants of the Prozor garrison, where elements of the Italian "Murge" Division suffered heavy losses: five tanks and 12 lorries were captured, 210 officers and soldiers were killed, and 280 were wounded or captured. Because Commander Kukić again displayed exceptional courage and heroism in that engagement, his comrades called him the "hero of Rama." Soon afterwards, very near Rama itself, at Majdan, he was killed on 18 February by a howitzer shell.

KUČ MILAN (Babin, Berane, 1909 – Lješnica, Berane, 1943), cadet of the Yugoslav Army artillery NCO school. He chose the "queen of battle" and learned the artillery-

man's trade in Ćuprija, but illness forced him to abandon his training. During the April War he commanded a large group of volunteers defending the fatherland against fascism, fighting on the Albanian front. During the uprising he headed the Military Committee of the Berane district, commanding all insurgent units on the right bank of the Lim. He worked tirelessly and competently to consolidate conditions in the liberated territory and later, during attacks by the Italians and collaborationists, organised its defence. In October 1941 he became commander of the Lower Vasojevići Territorial Brigade and, at the beginning of 1942, headed the Berane Partisan Detachment. He fought in the Sandžak against units of the Italian "Pusteria" Division and the collaborationist Muslim militia. He was always in the forefront of battle, an exceptionally courageous and skilful fighter despite illness and frostbitten feet. During the second half of that year and at the beginning of 1943, under the harshest clandestine conditions, he directed the National Liberation Movement in Upper Polimlje, continually hunted and with a high price on his head. It was under these severe conditions that he was killed on 12 February 1943, together with his wife Stana and a group of comrades surrounded by Italians, Chetniks and Muslim militiamen. Attempting to break out of a blockaded dugout in the village of Lješnica, they all fought courageously to the last bullet. Commander Kuč died on his feet, charging forward. He was proclaimed a National Hero on 13 July 1945.

LAZAREVIĆ BOŽO*

MANDIĆ GLIGORIJE Gligo*

MARKOVIĆ ŽIVAN Žića (Mojković, Krupanj, 1919 – Komirić, 1942), Yugoslav Army Air Force fighter-pilot sergeant. The April War found him at Kapino Polje airfield near Nikšić, from where, having refused the opportunity to fly to the Allies in the Middle East and thus avoid capture, he returned to his native home. He participated in the first insurgent action in Serbia, carried out at Bela Crkva on 7 July, and then became a fighter in the Rađevina Company of the Valjevo Detachment, with which he conducted numerous armed actions. In October 1941, from Gajića Stena in the Zavlaka area, together with about 100 fighters, he held the passage against a punitive expedition of the Wehrmacht's 342nd Division for 12 days and as many nights, preventing incomparably stronger forces from advancing from Šabac towards Krupanj and, beyond it, towards Užice. Infantry attacked, tanks and cavalry pressed forward, all supported from the air, but Žića and his comrades held the assigned position until ordered to withdraw following the fall of Krupanj. Throughout the fighting he operated a machine gun. In the village of Stave, the defenders of Gajića Stena received a high commendation from the Supreme Headquarters, with the name of machine-gunner and commander Žića appearing first. On Serbian New Year in 1942, Žića was with the Rađevina Battalion in the village of Donje Crniljevo, where, after the defeat of a collaborationist unit, a public gathering was being held. At 14:00 he ordered the unit to prepare to move, faithful to the Partisan tactical principle: do not remain until morning where you spent the night. Suddenly the enemy opened fire from the surrounding hills. Realising that his battalion was completely encircled, he

ordered a breakout while he himself fired the machine gun and waited for confirmation that all the fighters had escaped. He then set off after them, but just as he was crossing a fence, a burst from a sub-machine gun struck him across the chest. His comrades carried him, seriously wounded, to the village of Komirić, where he fought for his life with determination, but without any prospect of victory. Those gathered around him, anxiously awaiting the outcome of Žića's final struggle, remembered how, at the hour of death, he asked them to sing to him: "I am a Partisan and proud of it, not everyone can be one — only a mighty hero can die for freedom..." They sang as he tried to join them and slowly passed away. His comrades buried him secretly, as in an epic song, during the night of 14 January, covering his grave with a snowdrift before moving on.

MARTINOVIĆ NIKOLA Niko (Bajice, Cetinje, 1915 – Hvar, 1943), Yugoslav Army engineering lieutenant, NOVJ colonel. The aggression against Yugoslavia found him at his wartime post in Senta. While demolishing a bridge over the Tisza, he fell into the hands of the Hungarian occupying forces, whose summary court sentenced him to death. His life was saved by an acquaintance, a Yugoslav Army officer of Hungarian origin, who transferred him from the group condemned to death to those designated for transport to Budapest. The same former colleague also helped him escape captivity by obtaining a Gendarmerie officer's uniform in which it was still possible to travel to Serbia. He reached Belgrade and from there travelled to his native region in civilian clothes. The Italians arrested him in Cetinje, where he was working clandestinely on preparations for an insurgent attack on the town. He escaped from prison and undertook the organisation of the Cetinje Battalion. He commanded a company in the Lovćen Detachment and later in the Fourth Proletarian Brigade, then served as Chief of Staff of the Fifth Proletarian and Third Krajina Brigades, and ultimately as commander of the 26th Dalmatian Division. Everywhere — in battles and engagements from his native region across Bosnia to Krajina, then in the battles of the Neretva and Sutjeska and as far as Hvar and Korčula — his courage in combat and wisdom in commanding units were conspicuous, together with his adherence to the commander's maxim: "Among the first into battle, and out of battle with the rear guard." During the night attack on Kupres on 12 August 1942, he led his company in a powerful assault, and although seriously wounded, destroyed the positions in front of him and broke through to the opposite side of the town. Kupres, however, was not captured, and the commander remained puzzled as to how this had happened. On the Sutjeska, on 13 June 1943, after the death of Sava Kovačević, he managed to gather elements of the shattered Third Assault Division, form a breakthrough group from the remnants of the Fifth Proletarian Brigade and, with these men, catch up with the Supreme Headquarters near Kladanj. Finally, as commander of the 26th Division, he assessed that "the situation on Korčula, following the German landing of 26 December 1943, was extremely difficult," and therefore set off there with a battalion to assist the defenders. While restoring the shaken battle formation on Korčula, he was seriously wounded and transferred to Hvar, but only after personally assuring himself that all the more seriously wounded men had already been evacuated. He died of his wounds without learning that the Supreme Headquarters had promoted him to colonel in the NOVJ.

MATIĆ STOJAN (Nebljusi, Donji Lapac, 1915 – Donji Lapac, 1942), Yugoslav Army Air Force lieutenant. While serving in Karlovac, he studied law in Zagreb and then, immediately before the war, completed training as an aerial observer. Captured at Doboj, he succeeded in escaping from the Germans, but in his native region he was forced underground to avoid falling into Ustaša hands. After the massacre in which the Ustaše threw 70 Serbs from Nebljusi into a pit, he organised the population to resist the violence and prepared armed actions. In August, on the proposal of insurgent leader Marko Orešković Krntija, he became commander of all insurgent units in Lika. He established links with insurgent headquarters in western Bosnia and Dalmatia so that they could jointly meet and break enemy columns with armed force and thereby prevent atrocities against the population. At the same time he commanded the Lapac Battalion, with which he participated in the attack on Donji Lapac on 27 February 1942. He succeeded in breaking the defences along his battalion's axis of attack and, in the afternoon, turned to eliminating isolated strongpoints in solidly constructed buildings. During this action, while charging at the head of a group of fighters, he was seriously wounded. He attempted to continue the assault and firmly refused assistance. In his death throes he nevertheless managed to bury confidential documents in the snow. His fighters then launched a powerful assault and soon crushed the resistance from the bunkers and fortified buildings. The following day the Lapac Battalion inscribed the name of Stojan Matić on its battle flag and, as part of the Second Lika Brigade, bore it with honour until Victory Day.

MATKOVIĆ MIRKO*

MAŠERA SERGEJ (Gorica, 1912 – Tivat, 1941), Yugoslav Navy artillery lieutenant, second class. In the late 1920s he was the most gifted pupil at a Ljubljana grammar school and, in the seventh class of the Naval Military Academy in Dubrovnik, its best mathematician. During the April War he served as first artillery officer aboard the destroyer *Zagreb* in the Bay of Tivat, which until 13 April, like the other warships, was subjected to attacks by Italian bombers operating from high altitude, beyond the range of the ships' anti-aircraft weapons. Orders were then issued for the destroyers *Zagreb*, *Dubrovnik* and *Beograd* to be moored in secluded coves, camouflaged and painted so that, to the aggressor's pilots, they would appear to form part of the shoreline. The destroyer *Zagreb* was moored off Prevlaka, with only the cooks and anti-aircraft crews remaining aboard, while the rest of the crew occupied dispersed trenches ashore. Thus, in the midst of the very war for which their officers had spent years preparing them, the warships found themselves effectively "laid up," with their crews separated from them. Mašera and his academy classmate, the Belgrader Milan Spasić, interpreted this as psychological preparation for the crews' complete abandonment of the ships, even as an act intended to prevent them from putting to sea and resisting. Indeed, on 16 April a Supreme Command communiqué announcing an armistice with the occupier arrived, followed the next day by a warning from the Navy Commander prohibiting the destruction of ships and the opening of fire on aircraft, with the observation that "it is too late to sail." Complete disintegration then overtook the fleet, and naval lieutenants Mašera and Spasić decided to act in accordance

with the highest traditions of the navy: rather than allow the destroyer to fall into enemy hands, they scuttled it and went down with it. The tremendous explosion at approximately 14:00 on 17 April tore *Zagreb* apart, together with the bodies of Lieutenants Mašera and Spasić.

MEĆAVA PETAR (Živaja, Kostajnica, 1914 – Travnik, 1944), Yugoslav Army sergeant, NOVJ lieutenant-colonel. He avoided capture in the April War, but as a Serb and an NCO he subsequently fell into Ustaša custody. Fleeing that danger, he crossed the Una and joined the fighters of the Second Krajina Detachment. As a fighter and soon afterwards a company commander, he took part in the battles on Kozara, particularly in the capture of Mrakovica, which was secured largely through Mećava's courage and resourcefulness. His role in the liberation of Prijedor in May 1942 was also notable, and during the most dramatic phase of the Kozara epic, he and his fighters broke through the German-Ustaša encirclement and opened a route of escape for a column of 80,000 civilians and the surrounded units. He then became battalion commander in the Kozara Detachment, with which he soon joined the First Krajina Brigade, while during the Fourth Enemy Offensive he commanded the Twelfth Krajina Brigade. At New Year 1944 he took part in the operation to liberate Banja Luka and, after the fighting for the liberation of central Bosnia, also participated in the second Banja Luka operation in September 1944. Immediately after these battles, holding the rank of NOVJ lieutenant-colonel, Mećava became deputy commander of the Tenth Krajina Division. In October 1944 the division fought for the liberation of the strongly fortified town of Travnik, where its commander, the legendary hero and Mećava's faithful wartime comrade Josip Mažar Šoša, was killed. Lieutenant-Colonel Mećava assumed command of the division, declaring: "For Šoša's death — Travnik must fall tonight!" Following their commander's order, the units did all that could be demanded of them: they captured street after street and house after house. To seize the final strongpoint, the heavily defended barracks, Lieutenant-Colonel Mećava climbed into a tank and charged towards it. At that moment an anti-tank shell struck him directly through an opening in the turret. The commander's vow was fulfilled — Travnik fell, but Commander Mećava remained there forever. He was proclaimed a National Hero on 27 July 1945.

MIKLAVC VLADO Henrik (Ljubljana, 1918 – Drvar, 1944), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. During the April War the Germans captured him in Sarajevo, but he succeeded in escaping from a transit camp and reaching home. He became an activist of the National Liberation Movement in Ljubljana and a member of the People's Protection organisation working for the Liberation Front. In mid-1942 he joined the Dolomite Detachment, where he worked for the intelligence service of the Partisan Security and Intelligence Service, courageously taking part in armed actions, particularly raids and ambushes, against the Italians and White Guards. Carrying correspondence between the Main Staff of Slovenia and the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ in Bosnia, he sometimes spent weeks forcing his way through, often even passing through enemy lines, in order to complete his task. During the war he served as escort to senior military and

political leaders. Together with Supreme Headquarters member Edvard Kardelj, he was caught in Drvar by the airborne assault of 25 May 1944. He was killed there defending the headquarters of the National Liberation Movement leadership against the German paratroopers.

MILANOVIĆ MARKO (Dicmo, Sinj, 1919 – Grabovac, Obrenovac, 1944), Yugoslav Army Air Force aircraft-mechanic sergeant and pilot, NOVJ major. A highly skilled and courageous pilot, he served as a flying instructor at several airfields in Serbia. In April 1941 he took part in organising the evacuation by air of the King and government from Kapino Polje to the Middle East. He refused to leave the country himself, abandoned his aircraft and, armed, reached Belgrade on foot. In August 1941 he joined the Second Šumadija Detachment, in which he soon became a company commander. At its head, on 29 November 1941, together with the Workers' Battalion and two companies each from the Posavina and Užice forces, a total of 320 fighters, he defended the Kadinjača Pass in a life-and-death struggle, where 23 of his fighters remained forever. In the autumn of 1942 he commanded a battalion in the Second Proletarian Brigade, and in February 1943, at the height of the Battle of the Neretva, became commander of the Fifth Dalmatian Brigade. In September he assumed command of the Fourth Vojvodina Brigade. Before the final assault for the liberation of Belgrade, he was appointed deputy commander of the 16th Vojvodina Division under Lieutenant-Colonel Marko Peričin Kamenjar, but asked to remain at the head of his brigade until the capital had been liberated. His request was granted, but his wartime fortune then deserted him: he was killed while leading his brigade in an assault to break the remnants of the Stettner Corps Group, which was pressing from Avala towards Skela in an attempt to cross the Sava and reach Srem. This occurred on the very day Belgrade was liberated, 20 October 1944 — the city of Marko's barefoot youth.

MILOJEVIĆ MILOJE*

MILOJEVIĆ RADOMIR Rade (Umetići, Kostajnica, 1918 – Umetići, 1944), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. Returning from the April War, he was captured by the Germans in Serbia and twice by the Ustaše in Croatia, but on each occasion managed to escape. He served first as platoon commander and then company commander in Banija insurgent units, and in April 1942 became a battalion commander in the First Croatian Brigade. He also commanded a battalion in the Seventh Banija Division, under whose banner he travelled the long and arduous road of war from his native region, across the Neretva and Sutjeska, and back to Banija. During that march the Banija units were thinned by Germans and Ustaše, hunger and typhus, while Commander Rade, in many engagements and whenever circumstances were most critical, would take up a light machine gun and personally help resolve the crisis, whether in attack or defence. When the division returned to Banija it was rapidly replenished, and Rade became commander of its First Brigade. Further battles followed, against the 373rd Legionnaire Division, the First Cossack Division and the Second Home Guard Brigade. In March 1944, while with the

First Battalion of his brigade, he came under intense crossfire. Courageous, experienced and composed, he quickly assessed the situation and remained behind with one platoon to cover his comrades' withdrawal. In close-quarter combat, on open ground and in deep snow, his fighters resisted the assaults of a far superior enemy with the utmost effort. They fought literally to the last bullet. Even after being seriously wounded and left alone, the commander refused to allow himself to be taken alive by the Ustaše: with the final round in his revolver, he took his own life on the outskirts of his native village on 11 March 1944.

MILOŠEVSKI TIHOMIR Tićo*

NIKOLAJEVIĆ SINIŠA (Pirot, 1914 – Šekovići, 1943), Yugoslav Army quartermaster lieutenant. The son of a professor, he completed secondary school in Belgrade and served as a divisional quartermaster in the Belgrade garrison. Following the capitulation of the army and occupation of the country, he was mobilised into Nedić's Serbian State Guard. Determined not to collaborate with the occupiers, while his "Guards" unit was marching towards Šabac he defected, together with a richly laden supply train, to the Posavina Partisan Detachment commanded by Koča Popović — Pera Posavac. After several actions on Rudnik and in Posavina, he became a company commander. He held that post at Rudo as well, in the ranks of the Belgrade Battalion of the First Proletarian Brigade. At the head of this unit, on 1 January 1943, he took part in the battle for the capture of Teslić. On one ridge the proletarians encountered strong bunkers; further advance was possible only at heavy cost, yet there could be no withdrawal. Commander Siniša proposed that the battalion take cover while he used mortars to destroy the bunker and clear the way. Under his direction this was accomplished rapidly and successfully. In the fighting around Duvno, Siniša's company played a decisive role in an engagement in which the enemy lost 80 men. In addition, with one platoon he worked his way behind the Ustaše and broke into Duvno. A written commendation from the Supreme Headquarters followed, praising his "courage and skill in conducting battle." In recognition, he was appointed commander of the Belgrade Battalion and, after the Battle of the Sutjeska, deputy commander of the Sixth Krajina Brigade. In July 1943 he became Chief of Staff of the 17th Eastern Bosnian Division. Known as a courageous and skilful commander, he was given the task of transferring a column of wounded men from the Central Hospital at Šekovići to Majevica, with the assistance of the Sixth Eastern Bosnian Brigade. While using a topographical map to determine the safest route by which to extract the column from attacks by the "Devil's Division," he was killed by an artillery shell.

NOVKOVIĆ MOMČILO*

PAVIĆEVIĆ ĐOKO (Do Pješivački, Nikšić, 1872 – Do Pješivački, 1970), Yugoslav Army major, JNA colonel. A veteran freedom fighter and officer of the Montenegrin Army in the two Balkan Wars and the First World War, he was repeatedly retired and then recalled to active service as political regimes changed. During the July uprising of

1941 — in the seventieth year of his life — he joined the National Liberation War from its earliest days together with his two sons, two daughters and wife, and soon became commander of the Trebješki Battalion. He was justifiably called "Yugoslavia's oldest Partisan." He would spend the entire anti-fascist war with a rifle in his hands. Among other things, he participated in the offensive of the Group of Proletarian Brigades from Zelengora towards Bosanska Krajina, a forced combat march of more than 350 km, and in the dramatic epics of the Neretva and Sutjeska. Everywhere he was respected by headquarters, fighters and civilians alike for his personal courage, wartime experience, practical wisdom, moral firmness and major contribution to the struggle for freedom. He attended patriotic conferences held in 1942 at Ostrog Monastery on 8 February and at Tjentište on 16 June, served as a delegate to wartime parliamentary sessions and was a passionate speaker at large public gatherings, influential among and highly respected by the people. He retired with the rank of colonel in the JNA and thereafter lived at his home in Mokra Njiva near Nikšić, reaching the age of 98. He lies in Nikšić cemetery, his life remaining an enduring example of moral integrity, courage in battle and fervent patriotism.

PANIĆ TODOR (Boljanić, Gračanica, 1911 – Ozren, 1942), Yugoslav Army engineering sergeant. The war found him engaged in fortifying the frontier towards Italy and, by the time he returned home, mass executions of innocent Serbs were already under way. Recognised as a courageous and resourceful fighter, he directed the first actions against the Ustaše. He subsequently planned and carried out further attacks and ambushes, particularly against railway and road installations. The *Collection of National Heroes* (1975) records his comrades' testimony that he "displayed particular skill and daring in command during the fighting to eliminate the strong enemy stronghold at Lepoglava near Đurđevik in October 1941. Thanks to his courage and resourcefulness, the enemy suffered a severe defeat on that occasion, losing a considerable number of soldiers and officers. The Partisans also captured substantial booty. Among other things, three heavy and several light machine guns, a large number of rifles and a considerable quantity of ammunition were seized. Todor was wounded in the shoulder during the fighting, but nevertheless continued to perform his duties without interruption throughout the engagement." In November 1941, as a battalion commander, he routed and drove into flight an Ustaša battalion from Gračanica, thereby frustrating an Ustaša plan to destroy the highly active Ozren Detachment. In mid-December of that year he led his unit in an assault on the German strongpoint of Đukin Krst on the Doboj-Sarajevo railway, capturing it within an hour and inflicting heavy German losses in men and matériel. At the end of February 1942, in an attack on the fortified positions of Krstac and Dugo Brdo, his unit broke the enemy defence and completely destroyed a Home Guard battalion, putting more than 150 soldiers and officers out of action and capturing all its weapons, including two heavy and five light machine guns. By then Todor was deputy commander of the Ozren Partisan Detachment, one of the strongest in Bosnia. During the Chetniks' subversive "coups" within insurgent headquarters, he was sentenced to death by them, a sentence carried out treacherously by one of their paid agents in mid-June 1942, who cut his throat while he was shaving.

PETROVIĆ DRAGOSLAV Gorski*

POGLAJEN FRANC*

POPOVIĆ TOMICA*

POŠTIĆ MIRKO (Perna, Vrginmost, 1913 – Brezova Glava, Karlovac, 1942), Yugoslav Army sergeant. While serving as a company sergeant in the 29th Infantry Regiment in the Trebinje garrison, he attempted to make his way to Spain in order to defend the Republic against the fascists. He was captured and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, loss of rank and deprivation of the right to employment. In February 1941 he was called up for military exercises in Sisak and was captured by the Germans at Slavonska Požega, but avoided internment. During the uprising against those carrying out mass massacres of the Serbian population, he led 500 poorly armed men against an Ustaša column sent to kill civilians and burn villages. With air support, the Ustaše succeeded in breaking into the villages and setting them on fire, but the inhabitants had already taken refuge in well-protected shelters on Petrova Gora. He subsequently led a section that included five Poštić brothers. On his own at Vučjak, he ambushed seven Home Guards and seized their weapons and uniforms; he waded across the swollen, icy Glina and captured two armed Ustaše; and, together with two of his brothers, entered by night a burning village beneath Petrova Gora, where from ambush they killed an Ustaša officer and his escorts. In recognition of his heroic deeds and military skill, in January 1942 he was appointed commander of a battalion in the First Kordun Detachment. At the head of this unit, in March, he fought fierce engagements against the enemy on the approaches to Karlovac, where on 20 March he was killed while assaulting the crew of an artillery piece. He was proclaimed a National Hero on 6 December 1944.

PREDOJEVIĆ ĐURAĐ Đurin*

PRIMORAC RUDOLF Rudi*

PUCAREVIĆ MOMIR (Drmanovići, Prijepolje, 1918 – Livno, 1942), Yugoslav Army engineering second lieutenant. He avoided capture in the April War and returned to his native village well armed. An insurgent and fighter in the Zlatar Partisan units, he was particularly noted for his courage and resourcefulness in the defence of Užice. At the end of December 1941 he became deputy company commander and, only three months later, commander of the Zlatar Battalion, with which he entered the Third Sandžak Proletarian Brigade. In the battle to capture the final stronghold in Livno on 6 August 1942, his unit, as part of the attacking formation, was ordered "to eliminate several strong enemy fortifications." According to the testimony of his comrades recorded in the *Collection of National Heroes*, "the attack began in the morning, before dawn, and when daylight came only one bunker remained unconquered in front of his battalion. From this bunker the Germans and Ustaše continued to fire persistently, skilfully exploiting the open ground on its approaches. Pučarević called upon the men trapped there to surren-

der, and at a critical moment they raised a white flag. Suspecting no deception, Pučarević, being the closest, stood up and incautiously advanced towards the bunker alone. When he was only a few metres from it, the Germans and Ustaše opened fire on him. Seriously wounded, Pučarević commanded: 'Forward, comrades, the enemy is fleeing on the other side!' The battalion charged and destroyed the enemy. After the battle had ended and the victory to which he himself had contributed most had been won, the fighters comforted him by saying that he would soon recover, but he replied: 'I know the wound is serious and that it is not easy to die at 24, but I have no regrets.'"

RADAKOVIĆ LAZO*

RADEVIĆ PETAR*

RADOSAVLJEVIĆ RADIŠA Šoša (Bjeluša, Arilje, 1919 – Bosansko Grahovo, 1942), Yugoslav Army Air Force junior sergeant and mechanic. During the days of the uprising he fought in the Arilje Company of the Čačak Detachment, armed with a French-made light machine gun known as a "šoša," from which he acquired his nickname. In his hands the weapon always functioned flawlessly — his comrades said that it "sang." He participated in numerous battles throughout Serbia, particularly in resisting the First Enemy Offensive and in the defence of Užice. In all these engagements, his wartime comrades recalled, he "was among the first in the assault, the last in retreat and always where the fighting was hardest." After the withdrawal from Serbia and three months of fighting in the Sandžak, on 1 March 1942 he joined the original formation of the Second Serbian Proletarian Brigade, becoming a comrade-in-arms of such renowned heroes as Petar Leković, Boško Buha, Lune Milovanović and Sava Jovanović Sirogojno. With them he fought throughout eastern Bosnia, the Piva region and Herzegovina, and took part in the proletarian forces' wartime advance towards western Bosnia. For his exploits in the fighting around Kupres in early August 1942, he was commended in an order issued by the Supreme Commander, an exceptionally high distinction at the time. He displayed equal courage and skill in the fighting for Mrkonjić Grad, on Manjača and in the liberation of Jajce. He was killed on 28 October 1942 in the attack on the strong Italian-Chetnik stronghold of Bosansko Grahovo, the native region of the celebrated national hero Gavrilo Princip. The First and Second Proletarian Brigades took part in the attack and the fighting continued for several days. The outer defences were broken, but the town itself was not captured. Radiša was killed while assaulting a garrison barricaded inside the hospital building, with his celebrated "šoša" still in his hands. In dozens of actions, whether in attack or defence, he had used it reliably to protect his comrades, the renowned grenade-throwers of the Second Proletarian Brigade, but in the end he could not protect himself.

RASPOPOVIĆ MILAN (Martinići, Danilovgrad, 1915 – Sitnica, Banja Luka, 1942), Yugoslav Army sergeant. A military instructor responsible for training future insurgents, he was a resolute grenade-thrower in the July attacks on the Gendarmerie

station at Spuž and the barracks at Bralenovica near Danilovgrad. For the courage he displayed in the celebrated ambush at Jelin Dub on 18 October 1941, he was commended in an order of the Zeta Detachment Headquarters. He participated in the Battle of Pljevlja in December. In the First Proletarian Brigade, formed at Rudo on 22 December 1941, he served as a fighter in its Second Battalion and, six months later, in recognition of the courage he had displayed in battles from the Drina to the Neretva, became deputy company commander. He distinguished himself particularly in the battle for the final liberation of Livno on 6 August 1942, concerning which the *Collection of National Heroes* records: "The Second Battalion crossed the Livanjsko polje, slipped through the wire obstacles and between trenches and bunkers, and penetrated the centre of the town, thereby creating confusion among the enemy and making it easier for the units attacking the outer fortifications to accomplish their task. Milan, at the head of one column, was among the first to enter the town and, when the Ustaše began taking up positions, he met them with light-machine-gun fire, inflicting appreciable losses and capturing several of them. After this battle, this fearless hero received another distinction: as the bravest soldier of the Second Battalion, in August 1942 at Livno he was presented with a watch by the Staff of the First Proletarian Brigade." In the battle for Sitnica on 20 November 1942, according to the recollection of his comrade Špiro Lagator, "as deputy company commander he led his comrades in the assault; they captured trench after trench, bunker after bunker, building after building, always where the fighting was hardest. He eliminated the crew of one bunker, captured a sub-machine gun, slung his rifle across his back, climbed onto the walls of the mosque, where the Germans and Ustaše had barricaded themselves, and from there poured fire upon them. Hit in the abdomen, he fell dead. But he enabled his battalion and the entire First Proletarian Brigade to capture the Sitnica stronghold and seize substantial booty." In recognition of the magnitude of his example of courage, diligence, modesty and discipline, the entire battalion and the Staff of the First Proletarian Brigade petitioned the Supreme Headquarters to proclaim Milan Raspopović a National Hero, which was done on 17 May 1945.

RAŠOVIĆ MILIJA (Fundina, Podgorica, 1915 – Krčino Brdo on the Drina, 1943), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie junior sergeant. Before the war he served in Belgrade and refused to remain in the Gendarmerie under the collaborationist general Milan Nedić. In his native Kuči he participated in preparations for the uprising against the Italian occupiers and, in November 1941, was among the first volunteers to leave for the Sandžak, where on 1 December he distinguished himself through heroism in the ambush at Savin Lakat, from which the rear of the forces attacking Pljevlja was protected. An early fighter of the First Proletarian Brigade, he participated in all the brigade's battles from Rudo, across eastern Bosnia, Herzegovina and Bosanska Krajina, as far as Aržano, everywhere setting an example of self-sacrifice, endurance, daring, energy and persistence in defeating occupation and collaborationist forces. In the battle for Sitnica, armed with a light machine gun, he broke into an enemy fortification, a decisive moment after which the surprised Germans and Home Guards surrendered. *Slobodna Jugoslavija* reported his exploit to the Allies, calling him a "Partisan hero." He received the praise as a true hero should —

modestly, with a sense of responsibility and ready for further exploits. As a participant in the Main Operational Group's advance eastwards, in April 1943 he fought his final battle during severe fighting on the Drina. He volunteered to lead a group of grenade-throwers behind an Italian battalion fortified on Krčino Brdo. His commander, his comrades recalled, "caressed him with his eyes; he was sorry that Milija had been the one to volunteer, but at such moments there could be no hesitation." He departed with his group, worked his way "right up to the trenches and, crawling forward, showered the enemy trench with grenades." He fell riddled with bullets, but the Italians were driven off.

ROJC KARLO (Banja Luka, 1915 – Čemernica, 1942), Yugoslav Navy technical sergeant. Shortly before the war, because of his political activity while in service, he was sentenced to one year of rigorous imprisonment, which he served in "military solitary confinement," and was subsequently expelled to his native city "as unworthy of service in the Navy." During the collapse of the army in April, he collected weapons and concealed them in an empty tomb, later sending them to the Partisans through clandestine channels during the uprising, principally to Starčevica. He soon joined them himself, but was subsequently sent back to undertake underground work in the city on the Vrbas. Because of the danger of arrest, he returned to Starčevica in September. Assigned to a communications platoon, he boldly carried out a series of operations intended to disrupt the enemy's communications system. In the spring of 1942 he became commander of the Protective Platoon of the hospital on Čemernica, where he persisted in fighting to protect the most seriously wounded. Together with security personnel and nurses, he concealed them in caves, where in moments of crisis guards and patients would often find themselves intermingled in the performance of the same task. Defending the lives of the comrades entrusted to him, at the end of May he fought, despite being seriously wounded himself, to the last bullet. He reserved that bullet for himself, rather than fall alive into enemy hands.

SOLDATIĆ DANILO (Ljuti Do, Stolac, 1911 – Prebilovci, Čapljina, 1942), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie junior sergeant. Having left government service, shortly before the April War he returned to his trades as wheelwright and blacksmith in his native Ljuti Do. From there, in May 1941, after the first mass killings of the Serbian population by the Ustaše, he withdrew with the people into refuges, where he instructed them in the military skills necessary for the defence of their lives. In November the insurgents elected him company commander. He soon became renowned as the best machine-gunner in the Stolac Partisan Battalion. In May 1942 he entrenched his company among the hard karst terrain of the village of Prebilovci, determined to secure from those positions the route from the Neretva to Čapljina. With his 70 fighters, he allowed the enemy to approach at close range before subjecting them to intense fire, repelling their assaults and directing particularly fierce fire against artillery and mortar crews. At the most critical moment Commander Soldatić sent a section, also armed with a light machine gun, around the enemy's rear. Soon afterwards the section opened fire on the bridge over the Bregava, causing panic in the enemy ranks. At that moment he led his company out of the trenches in an assault and drove approximately 300 Italians into the swollen Bregava, of whom

only about 70 managed to reach the bank. At the very end of this fierce engagement Commander Danilo himself was mortally wounded. This occurred on 17 May 1942. Radio Moscow also reported his exploit, citing Soldatić's heroism "as an example of the courage of the Yugoslav Partisans." He was proclaimed a National Hero in August 1942.

SPASIĆ MILAN (Belgrade, 1909 – Tivat, 1941), second-class naval lieutenant in the Yugoslav Navy. An outstanding pupil at a Belgrade grammar school, first in his class at every military school he attended, a gifted officer, proven patriot and honourable man. During the April War he served as torpedo and mine officer aboard the destroyer *Zagreb*, based in the Bay of Kotor. When Italian bombers attacked on the morning of 6 April, the destroyer, like several other naval vessels, was caught moored at the quay in Dobrota. On the first day of the war, Italian pilots, operating from high altitude out of fear, failed to hit their targets, while the next bombing raid, delayed by bad weather until 13 April, was somewhat more accurate but likewise caused no serious consequences. The defeatist-minded commander, however, ordered the ships to be camouflaged and their crews to remain ashore during daylight hours, which Captain Spasić interpreted as "only one step away from abandoning them." Two days later came notification that an armistice had been concluded with the Italians, together with orders prohibiting the scuttling of ships or opening fire on enemy aircraft, which were now operating at low altitude. Then came what Captains Spasić and Sergej Mašera had already perceived as a step towards betrayal: on 17 April, when Italian naval forces entered the Bay of Kotor, orders were issued to abandon the warships. This decision deeply wounded the two officers and patriots, academy classmates and close colleagues throughout their naval service. Seeing no other honourable course, they decided to destroy their destroyer and die aboard it. Colonel Dr. Jovan Vasiljević recorded that *Zagreb* was first "abandoned by the sailors and NCOs, then by the junior officers and finally, at around 14:00, a motor launch came alongside to collect the commander (Captain Nikola Krizomali – *I. M.*) and the first officer, as well as Spasić, Mašera and an artillery sergeant. Spasić and Mašera, however, as agreed, refused to enter the launch and informed the commander that they would ignite the fuses leading to the ammunition magazines. Faced with a fait accompli, the commander and the others rapidly withdrew. Several minutes later the first and then the second ammunition magazine exploded, and the ship, blown to pieces, disappeared beneath the surface together with the officers who had detonated it. The following day fishermen in the Bay of Tivat discovered a body in naval uniform, which was identified as Spasić's. He was buried on 19 April at the military cemetery in Savina near Herceg Novi, attended by civilians, sailors and his comrades. Impressed by such heroism and patriotism, the Italians sent a platoon of soldiers to the funeral to render military honours." Mašera's remains, embraced by the sea, were never recovered, but his name was inscribed beside Spasić's on their joint memorial at the naval base in Tivat. Thus, they served together and died together, and together they remain in history and human memory. Their names and chivalrous deed entered the world's most prestigious naval encyclopaedias as an example of devotion to the military profession, to their ship, to the sea and to the fatherland.

STANIVUKOVIĆ MILAN (Klenik, Okučani, 1912 – Psunj, 1944), Yugoslav Army artillery second lieutenant, NOVJ colonel. An exemplary and ambitious NCO serving in the Ministry of the Army and Navy in Belgrade, he had been taking examinations for promotion to commissioned rank. The war found him on the northern frontier, and during the retreat before German troops he avoided capture. Returning to his native region, he joined preparations for an uprising against the Germans and Ustaše. With a shock group he sabotaged installations used by the enemy, carrying out his first act of sabotage on the Belgrade-Zagreb railway near Okučani. He conducted armed actions first in the Croatian and then in the Bosnian part of Posavina. At the beginning of 1942 he became a company commander on insurgent Psunj and soon afterwards a detachment commander; in October he became Chief of Staff of the Twelfth Brigade, known among the people as the "Mother of Slavonia," and while serving in that post was seriously wounded for the third time in fighting at Gradište. After recovering, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Sixth Corps, but soon, following the death of Nikola Demonja, became commander of the Twelfth Assault Division. In December 1944 the division came under attack by German forces determined to reopen their supply routes in eastern Slavonia. From positions at Levanjska Varoš, the division resolutely met the German assault. A dramatic battle developed in which the enemy attacked the positions even with heavy tanks. Commander Stanivuković, judging that continued defence at all costs would exact excessive casualties, ordered his units to withdraw, while he, true to his character, withdrew among the last. In doing so, as in every battle before, courageously and honourably protecting the lives of his comrades, he sacrificed his own. This occurred on 27 December 1944. He was buried on 1 January beside the grave of the legendary Nikola Demonja. The two inseparable wartime comrades, commanders of the Twelfth Division and heroes of fighting Slavonia, thus remained together in death, in folk song and in memory. Stanivuković was proclaimed a National Hero on 13 March and Demonja on 19 June 1945. Both died holding the rank of colonel in the NOVJ.

STANIČIĆ MATE*

STANOJLOVIĆ MILORAD Mića (Družetići, Valjevo, 1919 – Mlinište, Glamoč, 1942), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. Determined not to fall into German captivity, he returned, well armed, to his native Družetići, where in July 1941 he became a fighter in the Podgor Company of the Valjevo Detachment. Thanks to his courage and resourcefulness, the company soon captured a group of German soldiers, which significantly strengthened the fighters' morale. Near Ostobić, on the Valjevo-Loznica road, on 2 September he attacked a German column advancing from Krupanj. Armed with a light machine gun, he engaged the column from a distance of approximately 50 metres and swept it with long bursts of fire. The column was halted and broken up, three lorries were captured and a large number of soldiers were killed or wounded. When the Podgor Company expanded into a battalion, Mića was appointed company commander. He remained in that position, fighting throughout western Serbia, until 6 March 1942, when, with part of the Valjevo Detachment, he crossed into eastern Bosnia. At Foča he was appointed platoon

commander in the Supreme Headquarters Escort Company and, equally courageous and resolute, remained in that post until his death on 30 September 1942 near Mlinište. Selflessly protecting the renowned Partisan doctors Olga and Sima Milošević, who had come under ambush there, he was killed by Drenović's Chetniks. Although seriously wounded, he continued firing his light machine gun until the doctors had escaped, after which he succumbed to his wounds.

STANOJLOVIĆ MOMČILO Moma (Kragujevac, 1916 – Tjentište near the Sutjeska, 1943), Yugoslav Army Air Force lieutenant and pilot. On the first day of the April War the Germans destroyed his aircraft on the ground at Šarlince near Niš. Retreating inland with a group of airmen, on 15 April he participated in the defence of Užice, where he was seriously wounded. Having avoided capture, he remained clandestinely in Kragujevac with a group of fighters and became involved in the National Liberation Movement. After the uprising he became a company commander and soon afterwards commander of the Third Battalion of the Kragujevac Detachment. In the original formation of the First Proletarian Brigade on 22 December 1941, he commanded a company in the Kragujevac Battalion and distinguished himself the very next day in fighting at Gaočić, where more than 120 Italians were captured. During the offensive of the group of proletarian brigades towards Bosanska Krajina, he distinguished himself in fighting along the entire route of approximately 360 km, particularly during the extraction of his unit from the Ustaša stronghold of Bugojno. In September 1942 he became commander of the Kragujevac Battalion, repeatedly proving himself in the most difficult circumstances to be a perceptive and courageous commander, always appearing where he was most needed and having an encouraging word for every comrade. At the height of the Battle of the Sutjeska, his battalion firmly held the defence of Ilijina Glava in order to preserve the crossing over the Tara. There he received orders from the Supreme Headquarters to proceed urgently to the post of deputy commander of the Third Sandžak Proletarian Brigade. At the head of the Sandžak fighters he was killed on the dramatic 13 June 1943 above Tjentište, close to the place where, only moments earlier, the commander of his Third Assault Division, NOVJ Colonel Sava Kovačević, had fallen.

TARABIĆ JOCO*

ĆETKOVIĆ PETAR Pero*

UZELAC MILE*

HAMOVIĆ RADE*

ČAVIĆ MILOŠ (Javoranj, Dvor na Uni, 1918 – Šegestin, 1942), Yugoslav Army artillery junior sergeant. Shortly before the war, while serving in the horse artillery at Niš, he was discovered to be a political activist and sentenced to loss of rank and one year of rigorous imprisonment. In his native village he was surprised neither by the collapse of the army nor by Ustaša brutality. Maintaining contact with the leadership of the upris-

ing on Grmeč, he organised a Partisan group with which he attacked and eliminated the headquarters of several Ustaša municipalities. In an ambush he captured eight Ustaše and seized their weapons. He became commander of the first battalion in the Dvor area, with which he laid ambushes for the Ustaše, attacked their installations and obtained weapons, including a light machine gun with ample ammunition. Owing to the operations directed by Čavić, by the end of 1941 the entire Dvor district had been liberated apart from the Zrin stronghold. He was killed defending this territory on 24 January 1942 in an armed clash with the Ustaše near Šegestin, remaining in the memory of his comrades as an example of a courageous fighter and fearless commander. From the time of his death and throughout the entire National Liberation War, the battalion he had commanded bore the name "Miloš Čavić" with distinction.

ŠARANOVIĆ MILOVAN (Potkraj, Danilovgrad, 1910 – Novo Mesto, 1943), Yugoslav Army captain, second class, NOVJ colonel. He served as a platoon commander in the 29th Infantry Regiment at Trebinje, then as an instructor at the Reserve Infantry Officers' School in Bileća and later at Maribor. Immediately before the April War, he was sent with the Cadet Battalion, in accordance with his wartime assignment, towards Sarajevo. During the march he was ordered to organise the defence of Jajce. Realising that panic had seized the officers of the garrison, he organised the defence, with his company of cadets and in co-operation with the Barutana Battalion, against the advance of a German armoured column from Banja Luka towards Sarajevo. Several of these young intellectuals and patriots were killed in the action. From there, on orders from the Supreme Command Staff at Pale, he hurried to assist General Petar Nedeljković's units in organising the defence of Travnik against Ustaša bands and units of Maček's "Protection," in which he participated courageously, although all efforts ultimately proved futile. He then set out with a group of officers and soldiers towards Montenegro, marching through trackless terrain and under constant combat conditions. The march lasted 20 days. During the uprising he was among the earliest fighters, serving as a company commander in the attack on Danilovgrad and before Podgorica. He was military adviser to the Staff of the "Bijeli Pavle" Battalion during the Battle of Pljevlja on 1 December 1941. At the beginning of the following year he commanded a battalion of the Nikšić Detachment tasked with preventing the Italians from relieving their garrison in Nikšić. During the march towards western Bosnia he commanded the Fourth Battalion of the Fifth Proletarian Brigade, which was assigned to protect the column of the most seriously wounded during the long march from Vrbnica to Bosanski Petrovac. By the autumn he was deputy commander of that brigade, still under the command of Sava Kovačević. In mid-November 1942, together with a group of 12 commanders from the proletarian brigades, he was sent to the Main Staff of Slovenia to reinforce the command cadre in the north-western theatre. Initially commander of the Lower Carniola Operational Zone, where he achieved notable military successes, he was soon appointed, in recognition of these achievements, Chief of the Main Staff, where he successfully planned and directed numerous battles. He was killed on 31 July 1943 during the attack on the Žužemberk stronghold. In recognition, he was posthumously promoted to colonel in the NOVJ and proclaimed a National Hero on 25 October 1943.

ŠARAC MILAN (Đedovci, Sokolac, 1917 – Sutjeska, 1943), Yugoslav Army junior sergeant. An insurgent, he rose in the Romanija Detachment from ordinary fighter to company commander. At the beginning of 1942 he commanded a company in the Belgrade Battalion of the First Proletarian Brigade and soon afterwards became its deputy commander. At the head of the company and later the battalion he participated in the group of brigades' advance towards Bosanska Krajina, subsequently in the offensive through Dalmatia and then in the march towards Serbia, including the epics of the Neretva and Sutjeska. Bold and self-sacrificing, he was entrusted with increasingly responsible duties and complex assignments, and on every wartime occasion justified the confidence placed in him by higher headquarters and his comrades. As commander of the Belgrade Battalion, for two days and two nights he held the crossing over the Jablanica with this elite unit and stubbornly checked the advance of the main enemy column, whose objective was to encircle the units and part of the Central Hospital in the Prozor basin. Later, when the Germans captured the hospital and supply train of the Sixth Eastern Bosnian Brigade near Čelebići, the Belgrade Battalion recaptured them in a rapid assault. Having seized the German supply train, it drove the Germans back 15 km in only 40 minutes, thereby enabling a large number of units to cross the Sutjeska. In the horrific clash between the "Belgraders" and the Germans near the Sutjeska, Commander Šarac was killed in June 1943.

ŠARENAC DANILO (Davidovići, Bileća, 1913 – Kokorina, Gacko, 1943), Yugoslav Army infantry sergeant-platoon commander. After the capitulation of the army, he travelled on foot from Negotin, across the Serbian mountains and dressed as a peasant, to his native village, where the assistance of every soldier and patriot was invaluable in protecting the lives of Serbs threatened by the Ustaše. During the June uprising he commanded a platoon of fighters from Davidovići and Fatnica, soon afterwards a company and then became deputy commander of the "Vladimir Gaćinović" Battalion. In April 1942 he became commander of an assault battalion with which, already in May, in fighting at Bišina, he completely destroyed a motorised column comprising four tanks and more than 100 lorries from the Italian "Murge" Division, reinforced by a Chetnik escort. The column had been advancing from Mostar towards Nevesinje. In three days of fighting on that front, the enemy suffered heavy losses and would be unable to use this important communication route for a considerable period. After the withdrawal, in June 1942, of the main Partisan forces from Herzegovina, Danilo operated under clandestine conditions and subsequently commanded the "Sloboda" Battalion, with which he fought for months deep in the enemy rear, in the Popovo Polje area and then across the region from Konavle, over Biokovo, to Makarska. In April 1943 the battalion entered the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade and Danilo was appointed commander of its Fourth Battalion, with which he survived the infernos of the Neretva and Sutjeska before returning to his native Herzegovina in June 1943. Near Ravno on 24 August, his battalion destroyed a cavalry squadron of the German Seventh SS Division and, only a few days later, at Oblje near Kalinovik, defeated a German unit and inflicted heavy losses upon it. He was soon killed in fighting at Medena Glava on 7 September 1943 near the village of Kokorina, in the Gacko area.

ŠERCER LJUBOMIR Ljubo (Branik, Gorica, 1915 – Ljubljana, 1941), Yugoslav Army lieutenant. The war found him in Knin and, determined not to surrender with his platoon to the Germans, he broke through towards Serbia, convinced that he would find there the conditions necessary to continue the defence of the fatherland. After several clashes with the Germans he realised his mistake, disbanded the platoon and reached occupied Ljubljana. He joined the Liberation Front and became a member of an assault group. He was among the first company commanders and later became battalion commander. Personally courageous, he was also skilled in leading his unit both in battle and during periods of rest. His most important action occurred on 19 October 1941, in the attack on the Italian stronghold at Lož. With 77 fighters he attacked approximately 100 occupation troops deployed in several fortified buildings. Two days before the action, disguised as a civilian, the commander had carefully observed the Italian dispositions and behaviour from a village inn and was therefore able to direct the operation all the more effectively. It ended in victory: the Italian unit was routed, dozens of defenders were killed or wounded and seven soldiers together with their commander were captured. Serious difficulties followed, however, which during the Italian offensive would hinder and reduce Partisan armed activity. Snow had fallen unusually early and severe frosts set in, accompanied by exhaustion, hunger and disease, followed by a succession of betrayals and the increasing ruthlessness of the occupiers. Commander Šercer skilfully extricated his battalion from encirclement and then sent a substantial part of it, particularly the wounded, sick and exhausted, into Ljubljana for safety, joining them himself around 1 November 1941. Two weeks later he was arrested following a betrayal. He and a group of comrades were tried by an occupation summary court, which possessed all the evidence against them. The Partisan commander nevertheless conducted himself courageously and patriotically, insisting that he "not be tried as a criminal, but as an officer who had remained faithful to the oath he had sworn to his people and his homeland." He and five comrades were sentenced to death. Italian documents testify that he faced the firing squad courageously on 22 December 1941. A Slovene brigade of the NOVJ would bear the name of Ljubo Šercer on its battle flag until Victory Day, and he was proclaimed a National Hero on 25 October 1943.

ŠKORPIK VELIMIR (Brodarica, Zadar, 1919 – Zagorje, Posušje, 1943), Yugoslav Navy second lieutenant, NOVJ major. By entering the Naval Military Academy in Dubrovnik he followed in the footsteps of his father Josip, born in 1892, a lieutenant in the Austro-Hungarian Army and later a Yugoslav Army colonel. The April War found him in the port of Šibenik, from where, in order to avoid Italian capture, he transferred by torpedo boat to Divulje, scuttled the boat and proceeded to Split and then Zagreb. There was no refuge there either: he was mobilised and, as a naval officer of the Home Guard of the NDH, sent to serve in Makarska. For a year and a half he commanded the harbour authority while clandestinely conducting intelligence work for the National Liberation Movement, supplying Partisan headquarters with reports, occupation documents and his own analyses. On instructions from the headquarters on Biokovo, on 1 December 1942 he brought his father Josip and two NCOs out of Makarska to liberated territory, first to

Glamoč and then Bosanski Petrovac. Soon afterwards, by order of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters, a Naval Section was established within the Staff of the Fourth Operational Zone in Dalmatia and Second Lieutenant Škorpik was appointed its head. There followed almost a year of patient and judicious work in organising and directing Partisan forces at sea, accompanied by frequent and fierce clashes with the Italians. When, on 18 October 1943, the Navy of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia was formally established by order of the Supreme Headquarters, Major Velimir Škorpik was appointed its first Chief of Staff. Before he could assume the post, however, he was killed while serving as Chief of Staff of the Third Dalmatian Brigade; near Posušje he was intercepted by Ustaše, robbed and murdered. He was proclaimed a National Hero on 8 September 1952.

ŠKUNDRIĆ PETAR (Budelj, Gornja Sanica, 1913 – Budimlić Japra, 1941), Yugoslav Army Air Force radio-technical sergeant. His training qualified him as an airborne radio telegraphist and gunner and, during the April War, as a crew member of a bomber in the 81st Independent Air Group at Mostar, he flew several combat missions. He avoided capture and returned to his native region. A participant in preparations for armed resistance to Ustaša violence and an early insurgent, he became commander of the Jelašinovac Detachment, in which his father and four brothers also served. A succession of actions followed: the burning of the bridge at Gornja Sanica; an ambush at Janjila in which 40 enemy soldiers were killed and six lorries together with substantial additional booty were captured; and, in mid-September, his personal destruction by fire of the railway bridge over the Dabar River. On every occasion he protected the population threatened by Ustaša violence, cared for his fighters and developed an intelligence network, regarding this as one of the prerequisites for success in combat. He was killed on 1 October 1941 during the attack on the stronghold of Budimlić Japra. In recognition, the First Battalion of the First Krajina Detachment bore the name of Petar Škundrić from then until final victory. He was proclaimed a National Hero on 26 July 1945.

ŠTULIĆ MIRKO (Ploča, Gračac, 1914 – Oštra, Gospić, 1942), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie junior sergeant. After returning from the April War, he became a firm advocate of organising armed resistance by the Serbian population against the Ustaše, repeatedly insisting that without organisation there could be no action, and working selflessly in that spirit. In August the insurgents elected him commander of the Ploča Company, which under his leadership attacked the Ustaša station in his own village. This was followed by a succession of operations designed to prevent incursions by Ustaša and Italian forces from Lovinac into liberated territory. In the autumn of 1941 he commanded a company in the "Velebit" First Lika Detachment, with which he coolly and resolutely conducted further armed actions, including participation, as part of a group of four Partisan battalions, in the attack on the Ustaša-Home Guard garrison at Podlapača. Skilfully manoeuvring his company and, above all, through a bold assault with grenades, Commander Štulić captured the strongest fortification above Podlapača, thereby making a decisive contribution to the overall success of all the units involved in the attack. In the

meantime he had become deputy battalion commander, but even then he preferred in battle to lead whichever platoon or company had been assigned the most difficult combat task, so that at decisive moments he could instil confidence in his fighters. He acted in the same manner on 14 July 1942 during the attack on Oštra Hill near Gospić, where he was struck by machine-gun fire while charging. To preserve his memory, the First Battalion of the First Lika Detachment was named "Mirko Štulić."

Part Two
JNA GENERALS

For decades after the Second World War — roughly until the mid-1980s — the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), as the backbone of the highly developed system of Total National Defence, was justifiably regarded as a regional military power, possessing, alongside Italy, one of the largest general officer corps in Europe in proportion to the number of soldiers or inhabitants, or indeed per "square kilometre of state territory." There were numerous and compelling reasons for this, but the point here is that, from the establishment of the rank on 1 May 1943, through Victory Day and into the mid-1970s, the list of those entitled to wear the oak-leaf insignia came to include 157 generals who had risen during the National Liberation War from the ranks of active officers of the Yugoslav Army or, as they were continually called, "former officers." Classified according to the ranks in which they ended their active service, there were 78 major-generals, 55 lieutenant-generals and 24 colonel-generals. With very few exceptions, these were participants in the National Liberation War from 1941, supplemented by generals drawn from two further "sources": those incorporated upon the liberation of particular parts of the country — eight from Serbia alone — and those selected from among prisoners of war upon their return to the country, nine of whom had been admitted by mid-April 1945.

Of these 157 generals and admirals, 35 were National Heroes, all of them company or formation commanders from the days of the uprising and, during the war, officers holding senior command and staff appointments in the National Liberation Army and, from 1 March 1945, the Yugoslav Army (JA). From 1 May 1943 onwards, "former officers" holding senior NOVJ ranks were principally employed as chiefs of staff in operational formations, so that, for example, towards the end of 1944, 13 of the chiefs of staff of the NOVJ's 15 corps came from this category. They also occupied almost all the leading posts in the Supreme Headquarters and in the National Defence Commissariat of the National Committee for the Liberation of Yugoslavia (NKOJ), as well as in the Air Force and Navy and in the artillery and armoured branches. Twenty-eight members of this group attained general officer rank in the NOVJ during the war and, by Victory Day, when the Yugoslav Army (JA) had a total of 72 generals, they constituted a highly significant and influential contingent. To them should be added another 21 men who, at approximately the same time, were "taken over" from prisoner-of-war camps or recalled to active service from civilian life.

It is noteworthy that, within this category of generals, 51 holders of the "oak leaves" in the armed forces of the "Second Yugoslavia" had entered the uprising as NCOs, 53 as junior officers — ranging from five cadets and six second lieutenants to 27 captains, first and second class — and 34 as senior officers: nine majors and 14 lieutenant-colonels or colonels. Among the hundreds of former active Yugoslav Army officers who joined the NOVJ upon the liberation of their respective regions were nine generals, while a further 12 were admitted upon returning from prisoner-of-war camps. Of all the active officers who arrived at different times from different environments and later rose to general officer rank, 13 had been General Staff officers, mostly holding ranks from major to colonel. Appropriately elevated to

senior positions within the military organisation, they made a substantial contribution to the establishment of a modern and high-quality staff service in the JNA.

Of these 157 Yugoslav Army (JA) generals, 29 had also participated in both Balkan Wars and the First World War, while during the Second World War and the three years following it, 28 completed advanced military education in the Soviet Union — nine at the Voroshilov General Staff Academy, eight at the Frunze Higher Military Academy, five at the Dzerzhinsky Academy and others elsewhere.

Two NOVJ generals received this high rank posthumously after being killed while on duty, while two others would receive it for wartime merit 54 years after Victory Day. Three, in the post-war decades, held the highest military office and one traditionally held in particularly high esteem among the Serbs — Chief of the national General Staff. In October 1945, one man, in recognition of his suffering for freedom and the honour of the fatherland in prisoner-of-war camps, was proclaimed an honorary major-general of the Yugoslav Army (JA)...

Within the category of JNA generals who had risen from the ranks of active Yugoslav Army officers, 31 had served in the Air Force before the April War and 17 in the Navy, while members of the former Land Forces were, naturally, the most numerous. Yet all of them, having sworn loyalty to the fatherland in their youth and matured in war and peace into respected military professionals, made a significant contribution to strengthening the armed forces of the "Second Yugoslavia," even though conditions were often unfavourable owing to decades of underestimation and marginalisation within an intensely politicised army.

In the meantime, through the inexorable workings of history, the era of the two Yugoslavias has passed and with them both "armies of the lives" of these combative and honourable men — the royal Yugoslav Army, in which they served as officers, and the communist JNA, in which they served as generals. Their example, however, endures; their achievements merit attention and their names deserve remembrance.

AVŠIČ JAKOB Jaka (Kleče, Ljubljana, 1896), cavalry colonel in the Yugoslav Army, lieutenant-general in the JNA. As an officer of the Austro-Hungarian Army, he surrendered to the Russians in 1915 and subsequently took part in the operations of the Serbian Volunteer Division in Dobruja and on the Salonika Front. In 1920 he was admitted to the army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes with the rank of cavalry major. During the April War, holding the rank of Yugoslav Army colonel, he commanded a cavalry brigade. By declaring loyalty to the Italian occupation authorities in Ljubljana, he avoided internment in a prisoner-of-war camp. At the end of October 1941 Colonel Draža Mihailović summoned him to Ravna Gora, where, after acquainting him with the military programme, he appointed him "commander of Chetnik troops in Slovenia." Avšič declined the offer, recommending General Staff Major Karlo Novak, Chief of Staff of the Triglav Detachment during the April War, for the post. He then joined the military wing of the Liberation Front, working to rally Yugoslav Army officers around the programme of that coalition. From the Roška Offensive of 1942 he served as deputy commander of the Main Staff of Slovenia and, from August 1944 to June 1945, as commander of the NOVJ, later Yugoslav Army (JA), Rear Services. Thereafter, until the end

of 1947, when his active military service ended, he served as head of the Yugoslav Military Mission in Berlin.

ADAMOVIĆ STEVAN (Volar, Prijedor, 1920), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving in posts ranging from platoon commander to brigade commander. After the war he served as chief of staff of a division and of a military district. He graduated from the War School. His active service in the JNA ended in 1972.

ANĐELIĆ MIHAILO (Kolašin, 1884), Yugoslav Army lieutenant-colonel, JNA major-general. Holding the rank of captain in the Montenegrin Army, he participated in both Balkan Wars and the First World War. An early participant in the National Liberation War, he commanded the Kolašin Battalion and served as military adviser on the Staff of the Kom Detachment. By decree of the Supreme Headquarters dated 1 May 1943, he was promoted to major-general in the NOVJ. Until the end of the war he held instructional and rear-area appointments in the highest headquarters operating in Montenegro and the Sandžak. Among other duties, he served as military adviser on the Staff of the Second Assault Corps. His active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) ended in 1946.

ANTONČIĆ MILAN Velebit (Gospić, 1918), Yugoslav Army artillery NCO, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the July uprising of 1941 until Victory Day, serving, among other posts, as commander of a battalion and brigade and as artillery commander of the Sixth Lika Proletarian Division. During the decades of peace he served as artillery chief of a corps, military district and army area, and as inspector of artillery in the JNA Main Inspectorate. He completed the highest levels of military education. His active service in the JNA ended in 1976. National Hero.

APOSTOLSKI MIHAILO (Štip, 1906), Yugoslav Army General Staff major, NOVJ colonel-general. During the April War, under the surname Mitić, he served as Chief of Staff of the rear area of the Drava Division. At the beginning of the anti-fascist war he established contact with the leadership of the National Liberation Movement in occupied Skopje. After reaching liberated territory, he became commander of the Main Staff of Macedonia and of a group of Partisan detachments operating between Macedonia, Kosovo and southern Serbia. Together with General Svetozar Vukmanović Tempo, delegate of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters, he planned and, at the beginning of 1944, conducted the "February March" of units of the National Liberation Army of Macedonia. He later directed the disarming of units of the Bulgarian occupying Fifth Army and commanded formations which, during the final operations, fought Wehrmacht units withdrawing from Greece through the Vardar valley and Ballist forces in western Macedonia. From the end of the fighting for the liberation of Macedonia in mid-November 1944, holding the rank of lieutenant-general, he served as Assistant Chief of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters and, from 1 March 1945, of the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff, with responsibility for training and organisation. After the war he commanded an army,

served as head of the Higher Military Academy and as head of the Infantry Directorate in the General Staff. His active service in the JNA ended in 1958. Thereafter, as a doctor of military sciences and president of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, he devoted himself to the study of the modern history of the Macedonian people. He wrote several notable publications, including *Prolećna ofanziva 1944. u Makedoniji* [*The Spring Offensive of 1944 in Macedonia*] (1946), *Završne operacije za oslobođenje Makedonije* [*Final Operations for the Liberation of Macedonia*] (1953) and *Oslobodilački rat makedonskog naroda* [*The Liberation War of the Macedonian People*] (1965). National Hero.

ARSENIJEVIĆ MILAN (Kragujevac, 1901), Yugoslav Army medical colonel, JNA Medical Service major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1944, serving in posts at the Main Military Hospital. After the war, holding the rank of JNA major-general, he became head of the Internal Medicine Clinic at the Military Medical Academy (VMA), chief physician of the JNA and professor at the VMA. He specialised in internal medicine. His active service in the JNA ended in 1967.

BIKIĆ STEVAN (Grgurevci, Sremska Mitrovica, 1918), Yugoslav Army artillery sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the 1941 uprising in Srem, serving as battalion and brigade commander and as artillery chief of the Main Staff of Vojvodina and of the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Third Army. After the war he served as artillery commander of an army and as head of the JNA Artillery Directorate. He graduated from the Artillery Academy in the Soviet Union. His active service in the JNA ended in 1976.

BIOČIĆ ANTE Toni (Kaštel Sućurac, Split, 1913), Yugoslav Army engineering lieutenant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from February 1943, serving as battalion commander, Chief of Staff of the Ninth, 19th and 26th Divisions and of the Eighth Corps. During the final operations for the liberation of Lika, the islands of the northern Adriatic, Istria and Trieste, he headed the Operations Section of the Fourth Army Staff. After the war he served as Chief of Staff of the First Tank Army and as head of a department at the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

BLAŽEVIĆ MIHAJLO (Brezova Glava, Vojnić, 1909), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as battalion, detachment and brigade commander and as Chief of Staff of the Eighth Kordun Division. After the war he commanded a division and, following study at the Higher Military Academy, a brigade of Yugoslav border troops. His active service in the JNA ended in 1962.

BOGDANOVIĆ GEDEON Geco (Crna Vlast, Vrhovine, 1912), Yugoslav Army NCO, JNA major-general. Shortly before the April War, after physically assaulting an officer who had wronged him in his capacity as an NCO, he fled the law and took refuge on Bilogora, where he was sheltered and protected by the Serbian population. He became

commander of the first group of insurgents from this freedom-loving mountain. With a high price placed on his head by the Ustaše, he skilfully evaded their traps and attacked them day and night, enjoying broad support from the threatened Serbian population. His subsequent appointments in the National Liberation War included commander of the Bilogora Company and of a battalion, and then commander of the Twelfth Brigade, known as the "Mother of Slavonia," with which he conducted successful engagements and battles throughout that sector of the theatre. He later became Chief of Staff and then commander of the 28th Division, formed on Papuk on 17 May 1943, before being transferred to the First Tank Brigade. With that formation, alongside its commander Periša Grujić, he participated in the final operations for the liberation of the country and in the capture of Trieste on 1 May 1945. After the war he commanded the First Tank Division and then the Second Proletarian Division, and later served as assistant commander of a military district. His active service in the JNA ended in 1965, after which he became notably active as a writer of military and political commentary. National Hero.

BOŽIĆ IVAN (Jurovo, Karlovac, 1894), Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA major-general. He spent the entire war in captivity, where he became visibly involved in the work of the clandestine organisation of the National Liberation Movement. Towards the end of the war he served as president of the legal representative body of prisoners of war, the Anti-Fascist Council, in the Osnabrück camp. From 1945 he served in the Yugoslav Army (JA), where he was "transferred" into the rank of major-general. He was employed chiefly in military education, while also successfully pursuing the study of military geography, in which field he published several notable works. His active service in the JNA ended in 1955.

BONAČI JURAJ (Milna, Brač, 1903), Yugoslav Navy frigate captain, JNA rear admiral. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1943, serving as commander of a naval coastal sector and as deputy head of the Naval Department in the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters under General Srećko Manola. In January and February 1945, holding the rank of colonel, he was a member of the Military Delegation conducting negotiations with the Red Army General Staff concerning the armament of 30 NOVJ divisions. After the war he served as head of the Naval School and commander of the River Flotilla. He graduated from the Naval Military Academy and the Submarine School. His active service in the JNA ended in 1960.

BORIĆ MILAN (Plitvički Ljeskovac, Korenica, 1913), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA major-general. From the April War until 1944 he was a prisoner of war, after which, as a proven anti-fascist, he joined the NOVJ and was appointed battalion commander. After the war he served as chief of staff of a division and deputy head of a directorate in the General Staff. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

BOŠKOVIĆ VASILIJE Vaso (Orja Luka, Danilovgrad, 1916), Yugoslav Army artillery lieutenant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War

from the uprising of 1941, serving as commander of a detachment and brigade. After the war he served as artillery commander of an army and, after graduating from the Higher Military Academy, as head of the Air Defence Directorate of the General Staff. His active service in the JNA ended in 1972.

BRAJOVIĆ VUKAŠIN (Jelenak, Danilovgrad, 1921), cadet of the Yugoslav Army Artillery NCO School, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving, among other posts, as commander of an artillery battalion in the Second Assault Corps. After the war he served as artillery chief of a corps and deputy head of the Artillery Directorate in the General Staff. He completed the highest levels of military education. His active service in the JNA ended in 1974.

BRAJOVIĆ V. PETAR (Rijeka Crnojevića, Cetinje, 1915), Yugoslav Army Air Force lieutenant, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the uprising in Kosovo and, by Victory Day, had served as commander of the Metohija and then the Šar Planina Detachments, the First Macedonian-Kosovo Brigade, which he commanded with particular success during the "February March" of 1944, covering approximately 300 km under combat conditions, and, during the final operations, as commander of the 48th Macedonian Division and the 14th Corps. When a state of emergency was introduced in Kosovo on 7 February 1945 because of the Ballist revolt, he served as deputy commander of the Operational Headquarters under Colonel Savo Drljević and subsequently, as commander of the 52nd Division, directed operations to defeat counter-revolutionary forces in Drenica, where he lost a leg. After the war he held posts in the General Staff and, from 1955, following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, served as head of the Department of Military History and later as head of the Military History Institute. His active service in the JNA ended in 1973. National Hero.

BRAJOVIĆ S. PETAR (Jelenak, Danilovgrad, 1915), Yugoslav Army artillery sergeant, JNA major-general. During the uprising he commanded the Brajovići Company and later served as deputy company commander in the Fourth Proletarian Brigade. In November 1942, by order of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters, he was sent to the north-western theatre as part of a group of 12 military commanders assigned to reinforce the Main Staff of Slovenia. There he served as commander of the Artillery Brigade, Chief of Staff and commander of the 18th Division and, during the final operations for the liberation of the country, as Chief of Staff of the Fourth Operational Zone in Styria, where he played an important role in the fighting for the liberation of Carinthia and in establishing co-operation in the destruction of the strong German-Ustaša grouping withdrawing through the area, particularly in the capture of Wehrmacht General and Commander-in-Chief South-East Alexander Löhr and his staff. After the war he served as artillery chief of a corps and as head of the Artillery Training Centre. His active service in the JNA ended in 1965. He wrote several publications on people and events from the National Liberation War, including monographs on his comrade-in-arms in Slovenia, commander

of the 15th Division and National Hero Predrag Jevtić Škepo, and the extensive memoir *Konačno oslobođenje* [*Final Liberation*] (1983).

BRSTINA DUŠAN (Jačišta, Mostar, 1914), Yugoslav Navy communications sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the uprising in Herzegovina in June 1941, serving as battalion commander in the South Herzegovinian Detachment and the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade, and later as head of the Communications Department of the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Fourth Army. After the war he served as communications commander of an army and head of the JNA Communications Directorate. He graduated from the War School. His active service in the JNA ended in 1970. He was particularly involved in the preparation of the five-volume collection of memoirs *Veze u NOB* [*Communications in the National Liberation War*].

BULAT MILAN (Dabrina, Glina, 1919), Yugoslav Army engineering sergeant, JNA major-general. An insurgent from July 1941. During the National Liberation War he served as battalion commander and commissar of a group of detachments. After the war he commanded an engineering brigade and, after graduating from the Higher Military Academy, became engineering chief of an army. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

BULATOVIĆ VEKO (Liješnje, Kolašin, 1884), Yugoslav Army lieutenant-colonel, Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. He served as a captain in the Montenegrin Army during the wars of 1912–1916, then became a prisoner of war in Hungary and, from 1939, held the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Yugoslav Army. He was promoted to major-general in the NOVJ by decree of the Supreme Headquarters dated 1 May 1943. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as commander of the Rovca Battalion and, by the end of the first year of the war, of the Kom Detachment. In the autumn of 1943, after a prolonged period of clandestine activity, he became military instructor on the Staff of the Second Assault Corps and served in rear-area posts at operational-level headquarters in Montenegro and the Sandžak. His active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) ended in 1946.

VIGNJEVIĆ DUŠAN (Pisarovina, Karlovac, 1900), Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA major-general. During the Second World War he was held in German captivity, where he conducted himself courageously and patriotically. Upon returning to the country he was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA), in which he served as commander of the Infantry Training Centre in Sarajevo and as head of a department at the Higher Military Academy. In the Yugoslav Army he had graduated from the Military Academy's Higher School. His active service in the JNA ended in 1958.

VIDOVIĆ ŽARKO (Bosanski Brod, 1913), Yugoslav Army artillery lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. The April War found him serving as battery commander on the front facing Zadar. His determined resistance to the enemy proved futile because of the situation along the entire front; he was captured, but managed to escape from the transit camp at

Drniš and reach his brothers in Pljevlja on foot. He established contact with the leadership of the National Liberation Movement and the insurgents and, among other actions, smuggled a radio set out of the town. Recognised as a skilful and courageous officer, he was appointed commander of one of the Pljevlja companies and later commander of the Pljevlja Battalion. In early spring 1942 he became commander of the Pljevlja Detachment and subsequently of the Bijelo Polje Detachment. In the Third Proletarian Brigade he commanded the Third Battalion and served as Chief of Staff, soon afterwards becoming brigade commander. In these posts he distinguished himself particularly in the dramatic battle at Vilića Gumno, fought in defence of columns of wounded and typhus patients in the Prozor basin, and later at Tjentište, in the horrific clash with the Germans on 13 June 1943, when, during the afternoon and under exceptionally difficult conditions, he extricated a group of comrades from multiple encirclement. As commander of the reconstituted brigade, he distinguished himself especially in December 1943 in resisting the German offensive Operation "Kugelblitz," thereby enabling the Staff of the Second Assault Corps and part of its units and institutions to withdraw from Pljevlja. He became the first commander of the 37th Sandžak Division on 4 March 1944 and soon afterwards commander of the Eleventh Krajina Division. He was promoted to major-general in 1947 and retired at his own request in 1956. He wrote a monograph on the 37th Sandžak Division. National Hero.

VLAISAVLJEVIĆ VLADIMIR (Krbavica, Korenica, 1917), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as battalion commander and deputy brigade commander. After the war he served as chief of staff of a division and, following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, of a corps. His active service in the JNA ended in 1967.

VLAISAVLJEVIĆ DUŠAN (Debelo Brdo, Korenica, 1919), Yugoslav Army Air Force NCO, JNA Air Force lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941 and, by Victory Day, had served as commander of the Knin Brigade and of the 13th and later 43rd Divisions. After the war he commanded a division, served as chief of staff of an air corps and as assistant for logistics in the Air Force and Air Defence Command. He graduated from the M. V. Frunze Military Academy in Moscow and completed the JNA Operational Art Course. For many years he was the highly active president of the Aeronautical Association of Yugoslavia. His active service ended in 1977.

VOJNOVIĆ MIHAJLO (Katinovac, Topusko, 1916), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving, among other posts, as commander of a battalion, brigade and the Eighth Kordun Division. After the war he commanded a division and, following graduation from the War School, served as head of a department in the Federal Secretariat for National Defence (SSNO). His active service in the JNA ended in 1965.

VOJNOVIĆ PETAR (Slatina, Sanski Most, 1908), Yugoslav Army engineering lieutenant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941,

serving as deputy commander of the First Krajina Detachment, chief of staff and commander of the Sixth Krajina Brigade and commander of the Fourth Krajina Division. In peacetime he served as division commander and head of the Engineering Training Centre in Karlovac and, after graduating from the Higher Military Academy, held appointments in the Engineering Directorate of the General Staff. His active service in the JNA ended in 1968.

VUJOVIĆ MITAR (Kočani, Nikšić, 1911), Yugoslav Army quartermaster captain, second class, JNA lieutenant-general. During the April War he served as deputy quartermaster of the Zeta Division on the Shkodra front. He participated in the National Liberation War from the July uprising of 1941, serving as quartermaster of the Main Staff of Montenegro and the Bay of Kotor and deputy quartermaster of the Economic Department of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters. He attained general officer rank during the war for demonstrated merit in supplying Yugoslav Army (JA) units with quartermaster and technical matériel, particularly during the final operations for the liberation of the country, when he served as Chief of Staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Rear Command. During the decades of peace he headed the Higher Quartermaster Academy and the Rear Services Directorate of the SSNO and served as commander of an army's rear services. His active service in the JNA ended in 1966. He wrote the monograph *Ekonomska služba Vrhovnog štaba NOV Jugoslavij*e [*The Economic Service of the Supreme Headquarters of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia*] (1990).

VUKELIĆ SAVO (Drežnica, Ogulin, 1917), Yugoslav Army Air Force sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. Serving as a commander in the Air Force Parachute Battalion, he avoided capture during the retreat in the April War and reached his native Drežnica. During the uprising he commanded a "Partisan camp" and became renowned throughout Gorski Kotar for his skilful and daring conduct of armed actions. He was soon appointed company commander and then battalion commander. As his successes in armed struggle and his popularity grew, further appointments followed: commander of the Sixth Littoral-Gorski Kotar Brigade, Chief of Staff of the 13th Division and commander of the Operational Headquarters for Istria. In August 1944 the 43rd Division was formed there, and he commanded it until Victory Day, becoming particularly noted for the fighting for the liberation of Trieste. After liberation he commanded a division of the KNOJ, the Guards Division and the Rijeka Military District, then served as an inspector in the Land Forces and as assistant head of the Higher Military Academy. He died while still in service in 1974. National Hero.

VUKOTIĆ JOVAN (Nikšić, 1907), Yugoslav Army captain, first class, Yugoslav Army (JA) colonel-general. The April War found him serving as commander of a machine-gun company attached to the Headquarters of the Littoral Army Area in Mostar, where he distinguished himself in breaking up Ustaša bands. Together with battalion commander Major Rudolf Primorac and their units, he offered determined resistance to the Ustaše on the approaches to Mostar and Nevesinje, after which — realising that the battle had been

lost, but not the war — he reached his native region. As a military professional and patriot, he became actively involved in preparations for armed resistance to the occupier. From the days of the uprising until June 1942, he held a succession of posts in the Nikšić Detachment commanded by Sava Kovačević: leader of a patrol tasked with reconnaissance and the capture of bunkers; commander of a section armed with an artillery piece from which he fired on Italian targets in the town of his youth; company commander; and deputy battalion commander. In the proletarian formations he served as military instructor to a group of battalions, deputy commander of an assault and then a proletarian battalion, Chief of Staff of the Fifth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade, the Second Proletarian Division and the Third Assault Corps and, from 15 August 1944, as the first commander of the KNOJ. He was promoted to major-general in the NOVJ on 1 November 1943. During the final operations for the liberation of the country, operating deep behind the front, he successfully directed operations to eliminate remaining enemy forces. During the first five years of an uncertain peace he commanded KNOJ, which continued to conduct military operations, and subsequently served as head of the Infantry Training Centre in Sarajevo, president of the Permanent Examination Commission for promotion to major and, towards the end of his career, head of the Military History Institute. He retired in 1962 and, as a master of historical sciences, thereafter devoted himself to archival research and historical writing. Among other works, he published the monographs *Druga proleterska divizija* [*The Second Proletarian Division*] (1972) and *Ustanak u nikšićkom srezu 1941* [*The Uprising in the Nikšić District in 1941*] (1974), together with several studies on the military art of the National Liberation War, notably on the functioning of military rear-area authorities and river crossings during the war. National Hero.

VUČKOVIĆ LJUBO (Ljubotinj, Cetinje, 1915), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA colonel-general. During the April War he was transferred from his post as platoon commander in Mostar to command a company on the Shkodra front, where he demonstrated courage and skill in fighting against the Italians. He was first arrested by the Italians and later by the Ustaše, but on both occasions succeeded in avoiding deportation to prisoner-of-war camps. He participated in the National Liberation War from the July uprising, serving as battalion commander in the Lovćen Detachment and then in the Fourth Proletarian Brigade, commander of the Second Dalmatian and Fourth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigades, and commander of the Second Proletarian Division and 13th Corps of the NOVJ. During the final operations, holding the rank of major-general, he served as Chief of Staff of the Second Army under General Koča Popović. Ljubo Vučković's name is associated with notable exploits in the major sabotage operation on the Sarajevo-Mostar railway in July and in the battle for the capture of Kupres in August 1942, in the forcing of the Neretva and establishment of a bridgehead for the passage of the main forces of the Supreme Headquarters and the wounded in March 1943, and in conducting the decisive defence at Donje Bare during the Sutjeska epic. He made major contributions to the offensive operations for the liberation of Serbia, particularly Niš, to the destruction of the German 22nd Infantry Division in the Drina valley and to the successes of the Second Army in the Karlovac operation, which culminated in the liberation of Zagreb

on 8 May 1945. In peacetime, after graduating from the K. E. Voroshilov General Staff Academy in Moscow between March 1946 and May 1948, he headed a directorate in the General Staff and later, holding the rank of colonel-general, served as Chief of the JNA General Staff from 1955 to 1961. His active service in the JNA ended in 1975. He published several notable works, including the study *Odbrana streljačkog korpusa na planinskom zemljištu* [*Defence of a Rifle Corps in Mountainous Terrain*] (1949) and the memoir *Dalmatinski proleteri* [*Dalmatian Proletarians*] (1968). National Hero.

VUČKOVIĆ MILOŠ Vučko (Ulcinj, 1914), Yugoslav Army military band sergeant, JNA major-general. The April War found him serving in the Fourth Infantry Regiment at Užice, which was disarmed at Kosovska Mitrovica. He avoided captivity and took refuge on Kopaonik, from where, dressed as a civilian, he made his way to Belgrade. After a brief intelligence assignment at Ravna Gora, he joined the military-Chetnik detachment of the priest Vlada Zečević and Lieutenant Ratko Martinović, which was engaged in fighting against the Germans in western Serbia. As a company commander he participated in the liberation of Krupanj, in the joint Partisan-Chetnik attack on Šabac and in fighting around Valjevo. He later served as company commander in the First Proletarian Brigade, battalion commander in the Third Sandžak and Third Krajina Brigades and Chief of Staff of the "Rade Končar" 13th Proletarian Brigade. From May 1944 until Victory Day he headed the intelligence service of the First Proletarian Division, the First Proletarian Corps and the Yugoslav Army's (JA) First Army. One of Major Vučković's most notable exploits occurred three weeks before the liberation of Belgrade, when, equipped with a radio set, he infiltrated the capital through German and collaborationist lines, sent reports from the city, organised an intelligence network, established links among assault groups and conducted operations with them. After the war he headed the intelligence department of an army and army area, served as president of the Permanent Examination Commission for promotion to major in the JNA and headed the Intelligence Department at the Centre for Advanced Military Schools. His active service in the JNA ended in 1964. National Hero.

GVARDIOL ANTE (Novigrad, Benkovac, 1918), Yugoslav Army Air Force sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1943, serving as commander of a detachment and brigade. During the decades of peace he served as chief of staff of a division and as an instructor at the JNA Higher Military Academy. He graduated from the Higher Air Force Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1970.

GOJKOVIĆ VOJISLAV (Niš, 1882), lieutenant-colonel of the Serbian Army, participant in both Balkan Wars and the First World War, Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. Because of his support for the defendants in the fabricated Salonika Trial, in 1917, while holding the rank of major, he was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment, of which he served three and a half. He was recalled to active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) in 1945 and retired in 1948.

GRUBELIĆ JOSIP (Tribunj, Split, 1918), Yugoslav Navy NCO, JNA vice-admiral. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as commander of an insurgent company, deputy brigade commander and brigade commander, and as head of the Naval Infantry Department in the NOVJ Navy Command. After the war he served as commander of a naval zone, chief of staff of a fleet formation and of a naval district. He graduated from the Higher Naval Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1976.

GRUBOR NIKOLA (Dubrava, Otočac, 1903), Yugoslav Army captain, second class, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, in which he rose to the position of division commander. After the war he served as chief of staff of a corps and as head of a department in a regional command. His active service in the JNA ended in 1958.

GRUJIĆ PERIŠA (Lipovo, Kolašin, 1915), Yugoslav Army armoured-units lieutenant, JNA major-general. He avoided capture in the April War and made his way on foot from Aranđelovac to his native Kolašin. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as company commander in the Fourth Proletarian Brigade, battalion commander in the Second Dalmatian Brigade, Chief of Staff of the Second Vojvodina Brigade and subsequently of the 16th Vojvodina Division and 12th Assault Corps. During the final operations for the liberation of the country he commanded the First Tank Brigade, which, within the battle formation of the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Fourth Army, operated successfully on the left strategic wing, from Gospić to Trieste and the Soča. After the war he served as commander of the Fourth Army's armoured units, head of the Operations Department of the First Tank Army and of the Tank Training Centre, and head of the Armoured Units Department at the Centre for Advanced Military Schools. He wrote a monograph on the 16th Vojvodina Division. His active service in the JNA ended in 1971.

DEAK ANDRIJA (Szigetvár, Hungary, 1889), physician, Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA Medical Service major-general. During the Second World War he was interned in Hungary. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1944, serving as director of military hospitals in the combat zone of the Third Army on the right strategic wing. After the war he served as president of the JNA Main Military Medical Commission. His active service in the JNA ended in 1956.

DINIĆ DRAGOLJUB (Kragujevac, 1881), captain in the Serbian Army and brigadier-general in the Yugoslav Army, JNA major-general. He participated in Serbia's wars of 1912–1918. He taught at the Yugoslav Army Military Academy from 1926 to 1937 and, holding the rank of Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general, at the Infantry Military School in 1945–1946. He wrote several publications, including *Pešadijski podsednik* [*The Infantry Officer's Handbook*] (1904), *Savremena ratna tehnika* [*Modern Military Technology*] (1928) and *Poznavanje naoružanja* [*Knowledge of Armaments*] (1936). Between the two world wars he founded and published *Vojni vesnik* and edited *Vojnički glasnik*.

DOKMANOVIĆ STEVO (Plaški, Ogulin, 1925), cadet of the Yugoslav Army Military Crafts School, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, chiefly in political posts, serving longest at battalion level. After the war he held staff appointments, including head of a department in an army command and at the Institute for the Study of Military Art. He graduated from the War School. His active service in the JNA ended in 1977.

DOTLIĆ DUŠAN (Nebljusi, Donji Lapac, 1913), Yugoslav Army NCO, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as battalion and brigade commander in the "Nikola Tesla" Sixth Lika Proletarian Division. In peacetime he served as division commander and chief of staff of a military district. In the autumn of 1944 he was sent from the Srem Front to the K. E. Voroshilov General Staff Academy in Moscow, and later also completed the JNA Operational Art Course. He died in 1975.

DRULOVIĆ ČEDOMIR (Vraneša, Prijepolje, 1912), Yugoslav Army artillery lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. During the April War he commanded a battery at Ruma, where, after determined resistance, he avoided capture. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the uprising in the Sandžak, serving as the first commissar of the Zlatar Company and subsequently as commissar and commander of the Zlatar Battalion, at whose head, as part of the Third Sandžak Proletarian Brigade, he fought from one end of the theatre to the other. He was in the foremost ranks during the battles for the liberation of Prozor, Livno, Banja Luka and Kotor Varoš and in the epics of the Neretva and Sutjeska, never and nowhere accepting that a situation was hopeless. As deputy commander of the Fourth Sandžak Brigade, with 90 fighters he encountered 1,600 Chetniks near Gornji Trudovi. A fierce engagement followed. Through his courage and skill, Commander Drulović, despite heavy losses of 24 killed and 19 wounded, managed to prevent the destruction of his unit, which had been compressed into a deep ravine. In February 1945 he became commander of the 37th Division, which participated in battles and operations deep in the rear of the fronts. After the war he served as division commander and head of a directorate in the SSNO. His active service in the JNA ended in 1965. National Hero.

ĐOKIĆ VOJISLAV (Sarajevo, 1893), Yugoslav Army major, NOVJ major-general. While serving as commander of a unit in the Maribor garrison, he was sentenced to several years' imprisonment for revolutionary activity and remained incarcerated from 1932 to 1940. At the beginning of the National Liberation War he joined the insurgents and soon became Chief of Staff of the Kalinovik Detachment. By order of the Supreme Headquarters dated 6 May 1942, he was appointed a member of the Supreme Headquarters, the highest military institution of the Yugoslav National Liberation Movement. During the offensive operation of the group of brigades from Zelengora to Bosanska Krajina in the summer of 1942, he served as Chief of Staff of the Second Proletarian Brigade and, during the fighting for the liberation of Kupres, together with Colonel Sava Orović, com-

manded the Kupres Operational Forces comprising 16 battalions. He was among the first instructors at the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters Officers' Military School. During the advance of the Supreme Headquarters Main Operational Group eastwards, from the Una to the Drina, between January and May 1943, he served as Chief of Staff of the Seventh Banija Division, and was killed at Rudine in May 1943 while holding that post. By decree of the Supreme Headquarters dated 1 May 1943, he was posthumously promoted to the rank of NOVJ major-general.

ĐORĐEVIĆ DRAGUTIN Alija (Đakovica, 1920), junior sergeant specialising in radio telegraphy in the Yugoslav Army Air Force, JNA Air Force major-general. He avoided capture in the April War and, in occupied Đakovica, joined the clandestine organisation of the National Liberation Movement. As leader of one of the most successful assault groups, he conducted sabotage operations in the town and surrounding area. After reaching liberated territory he served as section and platoon commander and, in the Šar Planina Detachment in the summer of 1943, as company commander. Renowned for organising ambushes, he also served as courier between the headquarters of Kosovo Partisan units and the Main Staffs of the National Liberation Army of Albania and Macedonia. In the First Macedonian-Kosovo Brigade he served first as military instructor and then as battalion commander during the "February March" of 1944. He distinguished himself in numerous battles throughout western Macedonia, particularly in operations against Ballist bands. One such action took place on the blocked Ohrid-Resen road, where he commanded a battalion. He first employed grenades and then led the unit in an assault. From August 1944 he commanded the Sixth Macedonian Brigade, with which he spent months breaking up Ballist formations. In January 1945 he assumed command of the First Kosovo-Metohija Brigade, with which, within the framework of the Military Administration, he participated in suppressing the Albanian revolt that had begun in Drenica. After the war he served as chief of staff of a division, commander of the Air Force Training Centre and head of a department in the Air Force and Air Defence Command. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969. National Hero.

ĐORĐEVIĆ JOSIF (Vranje, 1880), Yugoslav Army general of the geodetic service, JNA Geodetic Service major-general. From 1939 until the April War of 1941, he served as head of the Yugoslav Army Military Geographical Institute. He joined the Yugoslav National Liberation War on 15 November 1944, when, holding general officer rank in the NOVJ, he was tasked with re-establishing the Military Geographical Institute. He carried out this assignment willingly, successfully, professionally and patriotically until 15 June 1945, when he submitted a documented report to the Chief of the General Staff on what he and his colleagues had accomplished and requested retirement. His request was granted and his active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) ended at the age of 65. He wrote several publications, including *Niža geodezija* [*Elementary Geodesy*] (1930) and *Čitanje karata, krokiranje i panoramsko snimanje* [*Map Reading, Field Sketching and Panoramic Surveying*] (1931).

ĐUKANOVIĆ DRAGO (Čevo, Cetinje, 1914), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. During the April War he commanded a company within the defences of the Bay of Kotor. Until August 1943 he operated within the National Liberation Movement organisation in Dubrovnik, when, shortly before the capitulation of Italy, he led a company of fighters out of the city and joined the Herzegovinian Partisans in Popovo Polje. Until the end of the war he served as Chief of Staff of the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade and the 29th Herzegovinian Division. After the war he served as Chief of Staff of KNOJ, head of the JNA Rear Command, chief of staff of a military district and head of a directorate in the SSNO. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1972.

ĐUKNIĆ ILIJA (Smederevska Palanka, 1893), Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA major-general. A participant in both Balkan Wars and the First World War. He spent the entire Second World War in captivity, chiefly at the Osnabrück camp, where he immediately aligned himself with the National Liberation Movement and became active in its clandestine organisation. From 1945 he served in the JNA as assistant head of a directorate in the SSNO and as a lecturer in departments of the Military Academy. He wrote several instructional texts for cadets and students. His active service in the JNA ended in 1958.

EGIĆ OBRAD (Gošić, Šibenik, 1908), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. During 15 years of troop service in NCO appointments in the garrisons of Sisak, Benkovac and Biograd na Moru, he experienced many injustices towards himself and others, but none more painfully than the collapse of the Adriatic Division, to which he belonged and to which he frequently returned in his writings on the April War. He avoided Italian capture, and his military knowledge, life experience, military skill and determination to confront the occupiers and Ustaše "only over the sights of a weapon" proved invaluable to the insurgents. Initially he commanded a Partisan group with which he carried out several successful acts of sabotage, while on the Neretva and Sutjeska he commanded a Dalmatian battalion. One of the battles in which he participated with his battalion was the decisive defence by the Second Dalmatian Brigade at Bare in early June 1943, from where, with no right to withdraw, it protected the safe passage of the main body of units around the Supreme Headquarters through the Sutjeska defile. In four days of exhausting fighting against the Germans, 55 men of his battalion were put out of action, but those who remained, with Commander Egić at their head, continued resolutely to repel the attacks. Further battles followed as the brigade, within the Second Corps, fought throughout the Sandžak, Montenegro and Herzegovina, including in the liberation of Trebinje, Dubrovnik, Risan and Kotor. From December 1944 he commanded the Macedonian Division of KNOJ. After liberation he commanded a division and the Zadar Military District, from which post he retired in 1964. National Hero.

ŽEŽELJ MILAN (Podurljaj, Donji Lapac, 1917), Yugoslav Army Gendarmerie junior sergeant, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from

the uprising of the Serbian population in Lika against the Italians and Ustaše. In combat he distinguished himself as an outstanding light-machine-gunner and an effective platoon and company commander in the "Marko Orešković" Battalion. Charging ahead of his company during the attack on Donji Lapac in February 1942, he leapt into a trench and seized the hot barrel of a light machine gun with his bare hands; he badly injured his hand, but overpowered the Italian gunner, thereby facilitating the advance into the town. Two days later, with his company, he entered Jezerane by night and, with 32 fighters, owing to the indecision of others, remained barricaded for an entire day in the strongest building of that Ustaša stronghold, repelling assaults and launching counter-attacks. Only the following night did he break through to the main force, having lost only two men. He later served as operations officer and commander of the First Proletarian Battalion of Croatia, deputy commander and then commander of the "Rade Končar" 13th Proletarian Brigade. Even in these posts he continued to involve himself personally in operations. During the attack on the Gliding School at Sveta Ana, on the very outskirts of Zagreb, on the night of 28 May 1943, dressed in the uniform of a Home Guard air-force officer and accompanied by a group of fighters, he entered the airfield, disarmed the guard and, taking advantage of the battalion's attack from outside, rapidly broke the resistance of the completely surprised enemy. The result was the capture of 126 Home Guards and cadets, together with officers and instructors, the destruction of two lorries and several gliders and the burning of all the workshops. At the head of the "Končar" fighters, along the wartime route of the First Proletarian Division, he continued fighting until the liberation of Belgrade on 20 October 1944, when, holding the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he was appointed commander of the Guards Brigade. During the decades of peace he served as commander of the Guards Division and the JNA Guard, *aide-de-camp* to the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the SFRY and Chief of Staff of the Border Units. His active service in the JNA ended in 1975. National Hero.

ŽIŽIĆ VELJKO (Miloševići, Šavnik, 1911), Yugoslav Army legal officer, JNA major-general. One of the organisers of the uprising in the Šavnik area, he served as deputy commander of the Uskok-Drobnjak Battalion in the Battle of Pljevlja and commander of the Assault Battalion of the Durmitor Detachment. He was deputy commander and then commander of a battalion in the Fourth Proletarian Brigade, later becoming the first commander of the Sixth Montenegrin Assault Brigade, which he commanded for 10 months of the war. He subsequently assumed the post of Chief of Staff of the Second Assault Corps from General Rade Hamović and, seven months later, handed it over to Colonel Milutin Dapčević. During the suppression of the military revolt in Kosovo in February 1945, he commanded the Operational Group of Montenegrin Brigades, a formation equivalent to a division. After the war, first as a colonel and then as a Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general, he served in the highest organs of military justice. In 1950, while serving as Chief Military Prosecutor, together with the President of the Supreme Military Court, Major-General Mirko Kržić, and a group of three colonels of the legal service from the highest levels of the military judiciary, he refused to try officers on the basis of reports submitted by the Counter-Intelligence Service (KOS) for alleged "criminal of-

fences against the state and the people." He was consequently arrested and sentenced to several years' imprisonment, which he served in the camps at Goli Otok and Bileća.

ZVICER NIKOLA (Tivat, 1918), Yugoslav Army NCO, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, progressing from insurgent fighter to brigade commander. After the war he served as chief of staff of a division and deputy commander of a corps. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1968.

ZELENIKA MILAN (Prijedor, 1885), Yugoslav Army General Staff brigadier-general, JNA lieutenant-general. As an officer of the Austro-Hungarian Army, he graduated from the Military Academy and War School in Vienna. He was subsequently admitted to the army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Until the beginning of the 1940s he worked in the Operations Department of the Main General Staff, chiefly on war planning. On the eve of the historic political upheavals of March 1941 and the April War, because of his open disagreement with the defeatist views and political involvement of the most senior Yugoslav Army officers, he was transferred from that post to a teaching appointment at the Military Academy. As Chief of Staff of the Third Army during the war, he resolutely advocated offensive operations through Albania, where he was wounded, but could do nothing against the capitulationist political and military leadership. He spent the entire war in German captivity, chiefly at the Osnabrück camp, where, unlike the overwhelming majority of approximately 180 Yugoslav Army generals, he immediately joined the National Liberation Movement organisation and became one of its mainstays, firmly committed, professionally and patriotically, to armed struggle against fascism in the fatherland. Upon returning to the country in March 1945, he was admitted to the NOVJ and, holding the rank of lieutenant-general in the Yugoslav Army (JA), directed the establishment of the Military History Institute. He wrote several publications, including *Bitka kod Kobarida* [*The Battle of Kobarid*] (1950), *Rat Srbije i Crne Gore 1915* [*The War of Serbia and Montenegro in 1915*] (1954) and *Prvi svetski rat* [*The First World War*] (1962). His active service in the JNA ended in 1955.

ILIĆ PAVLE Veljko (Brusnik, Negotin, 1910), Yugoslav Army engineer captain, second class, JNA colonel-general. One of the first Partisans and saboteurs in Posavina. In the initial phase of the National Liberation War he served as deputy commander of the Belgrade Battalion of the First Proletarian Brigade and Chief of Staff of the Second Proletarian Brigade, then as Assistant Chief of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters and commander of the Eighth Corps, followed by service as Supreme Headquarters delegate to the Main Staff of Serbia and Chief of the Main Staff of Macedonia. In peacetime he became the first Chief of Staff of the Fifth Army in Skopje, commander of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Engineering Arm and, after graduating from the Higher Military Academy, head of the School of Tactics. He died in 1969 in Peć while serving as commander of the Border Units and inspecting the frontier facing Albania.

INKRET FRANC (Braslovče, Celje, 1914), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, serving as chief of staff of an operational zone, division and corps. After the war he held staff appointments in the Engineering Directorate, served as artillery commander of a corps and army area and as head of a directorate in the SSNO. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

JANKOVIĆ MILORAD Mića (Klićevac, Valjevo, 1920), cadet of the Lower School of the Yugoslav Army Military Academy, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the 1941 uprising in Serbia, serving as deputy commander and, holding the rank of NOVJ captain, commander of the Supreme Headquarters Escort Battalion, and as battalion commander in the original formation of the Guards Brigade at the end of October 1944. During the war he distinguished himself particularly through courage and resourcefulness as escort to Brigadier Fitzroy Maclean, Churchill's official representative to the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters, on the march from Jajce to Korčula and, together with Generals Aleksandar Ranković, Sreten Žujović and Arso Jovanović, in the defence of the Supreme Headquarters at Drvar during the most dramatic phase of the German airborne assault of 25 May 1944. In peacetime, within the Yugoslav Army (JA) Guards formations, he served as regimental and divisional commander, then as head of the Infantry Training Centre in Sarajevo, chief of staff of a military district and of the First Army, and head of the School of National Defence. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1978. In the memory of generations of JNA officers he remained an example of personal discipline, responsibility and orderliness, precision in issuing orders, strictness and fairness in evaluation, concern for subordinates and devotion to the military profession.

JELAČIN STANKO (Ljubljana, 1904), Yugoslav Army artillery lieutenant-colonel, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1943, serving as head of the Officers' School of the Main Staff of Slovenia. After the war he served as artillery commander of an army and head of the Artillery Training Centre. His active service in the JNA ended in 1960.

JELINEK VACLAV (Klatovy, Czechoslovakia, 1883), Yugoslav Army Medical Service brigadier-general and dentist; from 1944 he served in the NOVJ as head of the Dental Department of the Main Military Hospital. He retired in 1946 with the rank of major-general in the Yugoslav Army (JA) Medical Service.

JOVANOVIĆ ARSO (Zavala, Podgorica, 1907), Yugoslav Army General Staff captain, first class, Yugoslav Army (JA) colonel-general. He served as platoon commander in the Takovo Regiment and company commander at the Reserve Infantry Officers' School in Sarajevo, then as commander of the Training Battalion at the Kalinovik training

area. At the beginning of the April War he was undergoing General Staff training in the Main General Staff and subsequently commanded the Cadet Battalion, at whose head he fought determinedly against the Ustaše in the Sarajevo and then Travnik areas until the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army. He participated in the National Liberation War from the uprising, serving as commander of the Supreme Command of the National Liberation Troops of Montenegro, the Bay of Kotor and the Sandžak, Chief of the Main Staff of the National Liberation Partisan Detachments of Montenegro and the Bay of Kotor, and commander of the Montenegrin Detachment for operations in the Sandžak, which comprised 3,690 fighters and launched the unsuccessful attack on Pljevlja on 1 December 1941. From 12 December 1941 he served as Chief of the Supreme Headquarters of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia and remained in that post until 1 March 1945, when, during the final operations for the liberation of the country, he became Chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA). He planned and, together with the headquarters of operational and strategic formations, organised offensive and defensive operations, carried out two key wartime missions in the north-western theatre in Slovenia, at the beginning of 1943 and in May 1945, represented the NOVJ in negotiations with Allied leaders General Wilson at Caserta in August 1944 and Marshal Stalin in Moscow in January and February 1945, and during the final operations for the liberation of the country co-ordinated the actions of the Fourth Army, Air Force and Navy and their co-operation with the Allies in Italy, culminating in the triumphant capture of Trieste on 1 May 1945. He was promoted to major-general on 1 May 1943 and to lieutenant-general in November of the same year. In peacetime, until 15 September 1945, he served as the first Chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA), after which, together with 16 Yugoslavs, mostly generals, he was sent for two years of study at the K. E. Voroshilov General Staff Academy in Moscow, graduating at the end of May 1948 with the rank of Yugoslav Army (JA) colonel-general. He was appointed the first commandant of the Higher Military Academy, but, after being linked to the Cominform Resolution, was killed in August 1948, allegedly while attempting to flee the country across the Romanian border. No evidence concerning this has survived and, among other things, the location of his grave remains unknown even after more than five decades. During the war and peacetime he wrote more than 30 works, chiefly on the National Liberation War; the more substantial include *Taktika pešadijskog bataljona* [*Tactics of the Infantry Battalion* (1939), *Analiza Pljevaljske bitke* [*Analysis of the Battle of Pljevlja*] (December 1941), *Beogradska operacija* [*The Belgrade Operation*] (1945) and *Pregled NOB-a* [*Overview of the National Liberation War*] (1946), illustrated with 13 of his original diagrams. For his services in the National Liberation War he received the highest Yugoslav and Allied military decorations, including the Soviet Orders of Kutuzov and Suvorov, First Class.

JOVANOVIĆ VASILIJE Vaso (Piperi, Podgorica, 1915), lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force motor transport units, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as commander of the "18 October" Battalion in the Battle of Pljevlja, deputy commander of the Second Battalion of the First Proletarian Brigade, commander of the Romanija Detachment, Chief of Staff of the First and Second

Proletarian Brigades and of the First Proletarian Division, and, from November 1943 until Victory Day, as commander of that division. The most authoritative figures in the NOVJ and the Allied armies regarded him as one of the most successful chiefs of staff and commanders of NOVJ formations at the operational level. After the war he served as army commander, chief of staff of an army area, head of the War School and president of the Permanent Examination Commission for promotion to colonel in the JNA. He completed the highest levels of military education in the JNA. His active service in the JNA ended in 1975.

JOVANOVIĆ ĐORĐE (Pančevo, 1890), Yugoslav Army Air Force brigadier-general, JNA major-general. During the Second World War he was a prisoner in German and Italian camps. He was one of the relatively small number of Yugoslav Army generals who decisively aligned themselves with the National Liberation War. Highly educated, he possessed a strong command of almost all the major European languages. From his return from captivity in 1945 he served in the Yugoslav Army (JA) as head of a department in the Military History Institute. His active service in the JNA ended in 1952.

JOVANOVIĆ ILIJA (Gornja Pištana, Osijek, 1914), Yugoslav Army NCO, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as commander of a detachment and brigade. After the war he served as division commander, assistant commander of a military district and, after graduating from the War School, head of a department at the Centre for Advanced Military Schools. His active service in the JNA ended in 1968.

JOVANOVIĆ JEFTA (Niš, 1902), Yugoslav Army General Staff lieutenant-colonel, JNA major-general. He spent the entire Second World War, until February 1945, as a prisoner in the Osnabrück camp, where, within the National Liberation Movement organisation, he conducted himself courageously and patriotically. He returned to the country in March 1945, when he was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) with the rank of colonel and appointed second assistant Chief of Staff of the Fifth Army in Skopje under Major-General Pavle Ilić. In the post-war years, holding the rank of major-general, he served as head of the Logistics Department at the Higher Military Academy and as head of the Higher Quartermaster Academy. In the Yugoslav Army he had completed General Staff School and in the JNA the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1959.

JOVANOVIĆ RADIVOJE Bradonja (Zarube, Valjevo, 1918), Yugoslav Army artillery second lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. Having avoided capture in the April War, he spent a short period on Ravna Gora in early June 1941, but soon left after concluding that the Chetnik concept of refraining from armed struggle against the Germans until a signal arrived from London was unacceptable. He then approached the organisers of the uprising, who appointed him commander of the Kolubara Company of the Valjevo National Liberation Partisan Detachment. For victories achieved under Bradonja's com-

mand, the Main Headquarters, from 26 September 1941 the Supreme Headquarters, of the National Liberation Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia commended the company in writing three times during the first two months of the uprising. During the "Užice period" of the National Liberation War he served as deputy commander of the Užice Detachment and, in effect, as a military adviser to the Supreme Commander, then as Chief of the Main Staff under Commander Sreten Žujović and subsequently as commander of the Valjevo Group of Detachments during the winter of 1942. From 6 May 1942 he was a member of the Supreme Headquarters and soon afterwards commander of the Main Staff of Serbia, then commander of the Third Serbian Brigade and, during the final operations for the liberation of the country, commander of 14th Corps of the NOVJ and deputy commander of General Koča Popović's Second Army. He performed all these wartime duties successfully and was known and respected for both personal and command courage, decisiveness and skill in armed struggle. After completing two years at the Dzerzhinsky Artillery Academy in Moscow from 1946 to 1948, he served as commander of the Belgrade City Command and of JNA artillery, then commander of the Ljubljana Corps and Chief of Staff of the Seventh Army in Sarajevo. From that post, in 1958, he transferred to the reserve at his own request. In addition to the state functions he performed in Serbia, he wrote extensively on the National Liberation War, often provoking sharp public controversies, and published the study *Uvod u kritičku analizu strategije NOR-a 1941-1945* [*Introduction to a Critical Analysis of the Strategy of the National Liberation War, 1941–1945*] (1988). National Hero.

JOVANOVIĆ RADMILO (Kruševac, 1893), Yugoslav Army Medical Service colonel, JNA major-general. He participated in both Balkan Wars and the First World War. He joined the National Liberation War in 1944 and was engaged in caring for the wounded from the final battles for the liberation of the country. After the war, holding the rank of major-general, he served as chief physician of the JNA. His active service in the JNA ended in 1958.

JOVIĆ RADOSLAV Miško (Čortanovci, Inđija, 1921), cadet-sergeant of the Yugoslav Army Air Force Military Academy, JNA Air Force lieutenant-general and pilot. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, after escaping from a prisoner-of-war camp, serving as commander of the Second Vojvodina Brigade and the 36th Division and as Chief of Staff of 12th Corps of the NOVJ. After the war he served as chief of staff of an army and corps, commander of an air division, Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Air Defence Command and inspector of that service in the Main Inspectorate of the Armed Forces of the SFRY. He graduated from the Higher Air Force Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1979.

KARANOVIĆ NIKOLA (Prkosi, Bosanski Petrovac, 1914), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA colonel-general. After returning from the lost April War, during which he had commanded a platoon in a machine-gun company in Slovenia, he became involved in preparations for the real war to liberate the country from occupation. A succession of ap-

pointments followed: commander of a battalion, detachment and the Third Krajina Brigade; from August 1943 commander of the Tenth Division; and finally, holding the rank of NOVJ colonel, deputy commander of Major-General Slavko Rodić's Fifth Corps. His marked personal courage and sense of command responsibility, his skill in leadership and concern for his men were especially evident while commanding the Krajina brigade, particularly during the Neretva and Sutjeska epics. Whenever circumstances were most difficult, he would be found at the decisive point, first into the assault and last to withdraw. On one occasion, near Konjske Vode, a German advance party unexpectedly encountered the Brigade Staff. Commander Karanović did not lose his composure; he gathered couriers, cooks, medical orderlies and all other personnel present around the headquarters, led them in an assault and, after fierce fighting, drove the Germans back. After the war he served as division and corps commander, Chief of Staff of the Split Army Area and commander of a military district. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1974. National Hero.

KERN IVAN (Žužemberk, Novo Mesto, 1898), Yugoslav Navy captain, JNA rear admiral. During the April War he commanded the Third Torpedo Division and, acting on his own initiative amid the prevailing chaos, brought part of the navy out of the Bay of Kotor and incorporated it into British naval formations in the Middle East and Mediterranean. In 1943–1944 he also served as a minister in Dr. Šubašić's government in London. He joined the National Liberation War in 1944 following the Vis Agreement between Marshal Tito and Prime Minister Dr. Šubašić. For a period he served as commander of the Navy while negotiations were under way concerning its incorporation into the NOVJ, which was accomplished immediately after the liberation of the country. He retired in 1945.

KIČIĆ MIOLJUB (Vranje, 1911), Yugoslav Army Medical Service physician and captain, second class, JNA major-general. During the April War, as an internist holding officer rank, he was captured and spent the entire war in camps in Germany. On returning to the country in 1945 he was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) Medical Service. Holding the ranks of colonel and general, he served as head of the Endocrinology Department and of the Internal Medicine Clinic at the Military Medical Academy. In the course of his professional and scientific work, he published more than 175 specialist studies in journals and edited collections. He made a significant contribution to the establishment of endocrinology, while his extensive body of published work also contributed to the development of wartime medical doctrine. In 1980, for his personal contribution to the development of medicine, he received the highest social distinction, the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia (AVNOJ) Award. His active service in the JNA also ended that year.

KLEUT PETAR (Medak, Gospić, 1913), Yugoslav Army sergeant and law graduate, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving

as commander of a brigade and division. After the war he served as military attaché and division commander. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. He authored several works on the National Liberation War, including a monograph on the 35th Division, which he had commanded during the war. His active service in the JNA ended in 1963.

KLIŠANIĆ VJEKOSLAV (Bjelovar, 1897), Yugoslav Army General Staff colonel serving in the Intelligence Department of the Main General Staff, JNA major-general. He had been in contact with the leadership of the National Liberation Movement in Zagreb since 1941 and joined the National Liberation War in May 1943. At that time, while serving as Chief of Staff of the First Home Guard Corps, he and 27 soldiers were captured by Banija Partisans between Glina and Topusko. From a post in the Main Staff of Croatia, he was transferred at the beginning of 1944 to the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters as deputy head of the Intelligence Department under Major-General Ivan Rukavina, where he received the rank of NOVJ colonel. He produced notable and valuable analyses of the situation and assessments of possible developments on the domestic and Allied fronts, as well as daily and weekly reports on events in the theatres of war, using information supplied by operational headquarters. As a wartime general, he later became head of the Intelligence Department of the General Staff, then head of the Infantry Directorate and head of the Military Geography Department at the Higher Military Academy. He wrote numerous works, particularly in the fields of intelligence, military geography and history, published in specialist journals. His active service in the JNA ended in 1958.

KNEŽEVIĆ VELIMIR (Pljevlja, 1916), Yugoslav Army signals lieutenant, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941: first as an insurgent, then as company commander and battalion commander in the Pljevlja National Liberation Partisan Detachment, battalion commander in the Third Proletarian Brigade, commander of the Tenth Krajina and 20th Dalmatian Divisions; holding the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he served as Chief of Staff of the Fifth Corps and, as a colonel, as head of the Operations Department of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Second Army Staff. After the war he became first Assistant Chief of Staff of General Pavle Ilić's Fifth Army, head of the Signals Directorate, commander of a military district and inspector in the JNA Main Inspectorate. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1976.

KNEŽEVIĆ NIKICA (Rudanci, Šavnik, 1889), Yugoslav Army major, Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. As an officer of the Montenegrin Army, he was awarded the Gold Obilić Medal for wartime merit. He participated in the uprising of July 1941. During the National Liberation War he served as military adviser on the Staff of the Montenegrin-Sandžak Detachment, organiser of the National Liberation Movement in clandestine conditions, commander of a military district and military area in Montenegro and the Sandžak and, towards the end of the war, holding the rank of Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general, commander of the Main Staff of Serbia. After the war he served as

deputy head of a department in the General Staff. His active service in the Yugoslav Army ended in 1947.

KNEŽEVIĆ RADOVAN Tihi (Koturić, Daruvar, 1916), Yugoslav Army Air Force sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the first days of the uprising on Bilogora, later serving as company commander and battalion commander in the Slavonian Detachment, commander of the "Jože Vlahović" 16th Youth Brigade and commander of the 12th Slavonian Division. With his units he liberated towns throughout Slavonia and frequently attacked the Zagreb-Belgrade communications route, consistently providing his comrades with an example of courageous and resolute conduct in battle. After the war he served as division commander, assistant head of a directorate in the SSNO and commander of a military district. His active service in the JNA ended in 1965. National Hero.

KOVAČEVIĆ BLAŽO (Grahovo, Nikšić, 1909), Yugoslav Army Air Force pilot and captain, second class, JNA Air Force major-general and pilot. Captured during the April War, he was confined in the German Osnabrück camp, where he was active in the innermost leadership of the National Liberation Movement organisation, which through its programme and activities rallied approximately 1,500 officers, 526 of them active officers. He returned to the country in March 1945 and was immediately appointed commander of the 123rd Assault Regiment, at whose head he participated in supporting the battles and operations of the Yugoslav Army (JA) during the final assaults for the liberation of the country. After the war he served as head of the Pilot School in Pančevo and as head of a department at the Higher Air Force Military Academy. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in the Soviet Union. His active service in the JNA ended in 1964.

KOLB VEKOSLAV (Polhov Gradec, Ljubljana, 1901), Yugoslav Army General Staff colonel, JNA lieutenant-general. During the April War he fell into German captivity, where the camp authorities repeatedly offered him the opportunity to go to Ljubljana, then in the Italian occupation zone, sign a declaration of loyalty and spend the war peacefully on a "soft mattress." He firmly rejected the offer and, known as an opponent of any collaboration with the occupiers, remained in the Osnabrück camp in order, as he openly stated, "to share the fate of my comrades, the Serbian officers." He was among the most active members of the camp's National Liberation Movement leadership, which directed the activities of thousands of anti-fascists, and was repeatedly punished for his involvement. At the head of approximately 850 officers and NCOs liberated from the camp, he set out for the homeland as the publicly elected commander of the detachment, accompanied by Commissar Oto Bihalji Merin and Chief of Staff Captain Dragić Gajović. All were hurrying to participate in the final operations for the liberation of the homeland. They reached Belgrade on 22 March after a month of marching across Europe. They were greeted by crowds who showered them with flowers. In a speech at Slavija he demanded to be sent to the front, but the Chief of the General Staff retained him at a post in that highest military institution. He was soon appointed head of the Cabinet of the Minister of

National Defence, where, over the following several years, in recognition of his dedicated professional work and significant contribution to the development of the armed forces, he received two promotions in general officer rank. He wrote publications on combat operations in karst terrain (1954) and forests (1956), as well as dozens of articles in specialist military journals. His active service in the JNA ended in 1964.

KOLUNDŽIĆ ANTON (Slavonski Kobaš, 1905), Yugoslav Army captain, first class, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1943, serving in command posts in Vojvodina — as a NOVJ major, Chief of Staff of the Second Brigade and, as a lieutenant-colonel, Chief of Staff of the 36th Vojvodina Division. From February 1944, holding the rank of colonel, he served as Chief of the Main Staff of Vojvodina and, at the beginning of the final year of the war, as deputy head of the Operations Department of the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff under Major-General Rade Hamović. After the war he served as chief of staff of an army, head of the War School and head of the Strategy Department at the Centre for Advanced Military Schools. He completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1962.

KOMNENOVIĆ DANILO (Donji Poplat, Stolac, 1915), Yugoslav Army Air Force technical-service sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. The April War found him serving as head of the technical service of a squadron at the airfield near Ruma. He avoided capture and reached his native region on foot, where soon, during the June uprising, he became commander of a village company engaged in preventing Ustaša atrocities. He commanded a Partisan company in fighting throughout Herzegovina until June 1942, when, as part of the Herzegovinian National Liberation Partisan Detachment, he joined the offensive of the group of proletarian brigades from Zelengora into western Bosnia. In the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade, formed at Šujica on 10 August 1942, he rose from section commander to commander of the Fifth Battalion, at whose head, during the counter-offensive of the Supreme Headquarters Main Operational Group, he participated in the advance eastwards, including the battles of the Neretva and Sutjeska. During the latter, in the decisive defence on Krvava Brda on Maglić, he resolutely repelled attacks by elements of the German Seventh SS "Prinz Eugen" Division and reliably protected the only remaining route of withdrawal for the main NOVJ forces from Mratinje towards Tjentište. Subsequently, in Herzegovina, he commanded the 12th and then 13th Herzegovinian Brigades, followed by the South Herzegovinian Operational Group of the 29th Division and, from the end of 1944, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Division of KNOJ. After the liberation of the country he commanded an armoured division and, following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, served as head of the JNA Armoured Units Directorate, head of the Armoured Units Department at the Higher Military Academy, chief of staff of an army and inspector in the Main Inspectorate. His active service in the JNA ended in 1975. National Hero.

KRAGUJEVIĆ MILAN (Ašanja, Zemun, 1884), Yugoslav Army infantry brigadier-general, Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. From 1941 to 1945 he was held in captiv-

ity in Germany. Because of his combative and patriotic conduct in the Osnabrück camp and his firm commitment to the National Liberation Movement, he was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) upon returning to the country, with the rank of major-general. After one year of successful staff work, he retired in 1946.

KRAJŠIĆ NIKOLA (Hrkanovci, Đakovo, 1921), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, serving as battalion commander, deputy detachment commander and head of the operations section of a division. After the war he commanded an anti-aircraft regiment and, following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, headed a directorate in the General Staff. His active service in the JNA ended in 1974.

KRAUT BOŽIDAR (Gornji Logatec, 1901), Yugoslav Army artillery lieutenant-colonel, JNA lieutenant-general. From 1941 to 1943 he was held in prisoner-of-war camps. During the National Liberation War he served as head of the operations section of a corps and of the Operations Department of the Main Staff of Croatia. After the war he served as Chief of Staff of the Artillery Command, head of the Artillery Directorate in the SSNO and head of the Directorate for Military-Technical Research. His active service in the JNA ended in 1959.

KRĐIĆ MIRKO (Mašnica, Andrijevica, 1908), Yugoslav Army military judicial officer, JNA major-general. During the uprising he served as commander of a sector on the Andrijevica front, commander of a Partisan battalion, clandestine leader of the National Liberation Movement behind enemy lines, Chief of the Main Staff of Montenegro, president of the court of the Second Assault Corps, member of the Military Judicial Department and judge of the Higher Military Court attached to the Supreme Headquarters on Vis and in liberated Belgrade. During the period of the final operations for the liberation of the country he headed the Department for Liaison with Foreign Military Missions from the Soviet Union, Great Britain, the United States, France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania and Bulgaria. In 1950, together with the leading figures of the military judiciary — Major-General Veljko Žižić and three colonels — he refused to try his wartime comrades on charges brought by KOS for alleged "criminal offences against the state and the people." He was consequently arrested and stripped of his rank and, during the investigation, died in one of Belgrade's prisons.

KUJAČIĆ MILORAD (Klobuk, Trebinje, 1922), Yugoslav Army NCO, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the uprising in Herzegovina in June 1941, serving in posts ranging from section commander to brigade commander. After the war he commanded a division and served as assistant head of the Military Medical Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1974.

LAZAREVIĆ BOŽO (Cerovice, Podgorica, 1909), Yugoslav Army bomber pilot and captain, second class, JNA colonel-general. During the April War, after bombing airfields and communications in southern Austria and Hungary, he avoided capture and

soon became involved in preparations for the uprising against the occupiers in his native region, undertaking specialist military tasks. During the uprising he commanded a sector and then the "Jole Piletić" insurgent battalion and, in 1943, after a period of clandestine activity, became commander of the Zeta Detachment and Chief of Staff of the Third Assault Division. Holding the rank of colonel, in April 1944 he was appointed a member of the NOVJ Military Mission in Great Britain, where he gathered Yugoslav Army airmen from the wider Mediterranean area and throughout Africa and sent them either for training at Allied centres or back to the fatherland. During the final phase of the National Liberation War he served as deputy commander of the NOVJ Air Force Headquarters and commander of the 42nd Assault Division and, holding the rank of major-general, as commander of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Group of Air Divisions. After the war he commanded an air division and air corps and served as Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Air Defence Command. He graduated from the K. E. Voroshilov General Staff Academy in Moscow and the JNA Higher Air Force Military Academy. He authored the monograph *Vazduhoplovstvo u NOR 1941-1945* [*The Air Force in the National Liberation War, 1941–1945*] (1972) and the memoir *Sećanje na rat i revoluciju 1941-1945* [*Recollections of War and Revolution, 1941–1945*] (1987). His active service in the JNA ended in 1964. National Hero.

LAZIĆ DUŠAN (Priština, 1917), Yugoslav Army artillery lieutenant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as chief of staff of a brigade and commander of a military district. After the war he commanded a brigade and headed the Artillery Training Centre. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1970.

LAH MILAN (Lož pri Rakeku, 1913), Yugoslav Army captain, second class, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, serving as Chief of Staff of the Seventh Krajina Brigade, liaison officer between the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters and foreign military missions and deputy Chief of the Main Staff of Slovenia. After the war he served as head of a department in the State Secretariat for National Defence, head of the Staff Service Department at the Higher Military Academy and Chief of Staff of the Belgrade City Command. His active service in the JNA ended in 1959.

LEVIČNIK KAREL (Ljubljana, 1900), Yugoslav Navy captain, JNA lieutenant-general. From the April War until 1943 he co-operated with the organisation of the Liberation Front of Slovenia and, after joining the National Liberation War, served as artillery commander of the NOVJ on Vis, head of the Artillery Department of the Supreme Headquarters and artillery commander of the Eighth Corps and later the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Fourth Army. After the war he served as Chief of Staff of the Artillery Directorate and of the JNA Technical Directorate. His active service in the JNA ended in 1959. He wrote the monograph *Artiljerci prekomorci* [*The Overseas Artillerymen*] (1963).

LEPETIĆ VUKO (Mokrine, Herceg Novi, 1881), Yugoslav Army artillery brigadier-general, Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. From 1941 to 1945 he was held in captivity in the Osnabrück camp, where, as a patriot and Yugoslav Army general, he firmly aligned himself with the National Liberation War and set an example for both younger and older colleagues. Immediately upon returning to the country he was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) with the rank of major-general. From 1945 to 1947 he commanded the Artillery Officers' School and retired at the age of 66.

LONČARIĆ JOVO (Selce, Crikvenica, 1912), Yugoslav Army NCO, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, serving as commander of a battalion and brigade and as chief of staff of a division. After the war he served as head of a department in the staff of a military area and as assistant head of a directorate in the General Staff. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1964.

LJILJAK ĐURO (Klasnić, Glina, 1922), cadet of the Yugoslav Navy Engineering School, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as commissar of a battalion and brigade. After the war he worked in the military industry, spending almost two decades at the head of the Krušik works in Valjevo. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1980.

MANDIĆ GLIGORIJE Gligo (Kameno, Herceg Novi, 1912), Yugoslav Navy engineering sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. Because of political activity, he was discharged from active service in 1937. He participated in the National Liberation War from the uprising in the Bay of Kotor. At the beginning of the armed struggle he served as deputy commander and, by the end of 1941, commander of the Orjen Battalion. He was subsequently sent to the Kolašin front at the head of an assault battalion and later became commander of the Kom Detachment. In June 1942 he commanded a battalion in the Fifth Proletarian Brigade and soon became deputy commander of that formation, known as "Sava's Brigade" after its first commander, Sava Kovačević. At the end of 1942 he became commander of the First Dalmatian Brigade, which he led in the fighting associated with the Neretva and Sutjeska epics. He was the first commander of the 17th Eastern Bosnian Division, with which, in the summer of 1944, he participated in defeating the German offensive Operation "Rübezahl" — the Andrijevica Operation — and subsequently, as part of the Assault Group of Divisions, in the advance through Serbia. Highly regarded for his personal and command courage, self-sacrifice and engagement in combat, in January 1945, holding the rank of major-general, he was appointed commander of 12th Assault Corps, replacing General Danilo Lekić, who had been sent from the front for training in Moscow. The liberation of the country found him engaged in operational work in the General Staff. From Victory Day until September 1945 he commanded the Yugoslav Occupation Corps in southern Austria and thereafter, until April 1947, commanded Coastal Defence and served as Assistant Commander of the Yugoslav Navy. He gradu-

ated from the K. E. Voroshilov General Staff Academy in Moscow and, upon returning to the country, was appointed Chief of Staff of KNOJ, subsequently becoming army commander and commander of a military district. He retired in 1963. National Hero.

MANOJLOVIĆ MILOŠ Mima (Srpska Kapela, Bjelovar, 1917), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as battalion commander, deputy brigade commander, chief of staff of a division and head of a corps operations department. After the war he headed a training centre and later a directorate of the JNA General Staff. He graduated from the JNA Higher Military Academy and the War School in France. His active service in the JNA ended in 1972.

MARTINOVIĆ RATKO (Banja Luka, 1916), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. After returning to Serbia from the April War, he spent a short period at the Chetnik headquarters on Ravna Gora, but, dissatisfied with its policy of refraining from armed struggle against the occupiers, left for western Serbia. There, from the days of the July uprising, together with the priest Vlada Zečević and at the head of the Krupanj Military-Chetnik Detachment, he fought the Germans for some 10 months from Šabac to Užice. He then became Chief of Staff of the Valjevo Detachment and, under intolerable pressure from the occupiers and collaborationists, broke through into eastern Bosnia together with units commanded by Danilo Lekić and Zdravko Jovanović. At the beginning of June 1942 he became the first Chief of Staff of the Third Proletarian Brigade. By the end of the war he had also served, among other posts, as commander of the Second Krajina Brigade and Chief of Staff of the Fifth Division and the Main Staff of Serbia. After the war he served as assistant army commander, head of the Infantry Training Centre in Sarajevo and assistant commander of an army area for rear services. He graduated from the JNA Higher Military Academy. He wrote the memoir *Od Ravna gore do Vrhovnog štaba* [*From Ravna Gora to the Supreme Headquarters*] (1979). His active service in the JNA ended in 1958.

MARČIČ KAREL (Litija, 1891), Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the autumn of 1943, serving as head of the Geodetic Section and later as president of the Higher Court of the Main Staff of Slovenia. After the war, holding the rank of lieutenant-general, he became head of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Geographical Institute. His active service in the JNA ended in 1953.

MATETIĆ VLADIMIR (Lovran, 1911), Yugoslav Army Air Force pilot and captain, second class, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the uprising, serving as Chief of Staff of the Fifth Operational Zone, commander of the 14th Littoral-Gorski Kotar Brigade, head of the Operations Department of the Main Staff of Croatia and commander of the Tenth Corps. After the war he served as Assistant Commander of the Air Force, head of the Air Force Military Academy, commander of an air corps, Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Air Defence, and

later in military-industry appointments, including as head of the Directorate for Military-Technical Research. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1971.

MATKOVIĆ MIRKO (Podi, Herceg Novi, 1915), Yugoslav Army artillery captain, second class, JNA major-general. During the April War, while commanding an anti-aircraft battery in Sarajevo, he was captured by the Germans but succeeded in jumping from the train at Slavonski Brod station. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the uprising in the Bay of Kotor. His wartime appointments in 1941 ranged from commander of a guerrilla group and the Krivošije Company to commander of the Orjen Battalion, whose commissar was Nikola Đurković. In the battle at Cerovik on 7 December 1941, a group of 30 fighters from Orjen, led by Commander Matković, ambushed an Italian unit 10 times their strength, supported by four tanks and artillery. Through determined defence culminating in a powerful counter-attack, the column was driven back to its original garrison. Matković distinguished himself particularly in this action, as in earlier engagements, but was also very seriously wounded. For almost three years he underwent treatment, first clandestinely in Herzegovina and then in hospitals in Italy, but remained permanently and completely disabled as a consequence of his wartime wounds. Towards the end of the war he headed the Officers' Course attached to the Staff of the 29th Division and later the NCO School of the Second Assault Corps in Trebinje. After the war he commanded the Artillery Officers' School in Belgrade and, following a further two years of treatment for the consequences of his wounds, held appointments in the SSNO. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1964. National Hero.

MAKHIN FYODOR Ataman (Nikolayevsk-on-Amur, Siberia, 1882), General Staff major in the Imperial Russian Army, JNA lieutenant-general. A descendant of the old Yevdokimovich ataman family resettled in Siberia, he graduated from the Cossack Military School and the General Staff Academy in Russia. During the First World War he joined the Serbian Volunteer Division and, after fighting in Dobruja, transferred with it to the Salonika Front, where he participated in the breakthrough. He came to Yugoslavia in 1923 and became notably active as a military writer. He remained an ardent Russian patriot, an Orthodox Christian and a respecter of history and tradition, and was recognised as a sound authority on the operational and strategic levels of military art. He joined the National Liberation War in 1941 and, from the "Užice days" until Victory Day, worked within the Propaganda Department of the Supreme Headquarters, writing articles explaining the alignments and forces on the Yugoslav battlefield for publication in the democratic world. He analysed operations on the world's battlefronts, promoted the NOVJ, compiled weekly reports on battles, engagements and operations in the domestic theatres, and offered assessments of developments and forecasts of the outcome of military events and of the war as a whole. During the National Liberation War he founded and edited several publications. For his demonstrated contribution to the development and popularisation of the National Liberation War, he received two promotions

in general officer rank in the NOVJ. After the war he became the first head of the Historical Department of the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff. Immediately after returning from a long-desired visit to "Mother Russia" in 1945, he died in Belgrade. He left behind a large body of mostly uncollected and unorganised writings on wartime events in Yugoslavia, many of enduring value, while works published in 1944 included *Juriš na Nemačku* [*Assault on Germany*] and *Nova regularna vojska* [*The New Regular Army*], together with several other pamphlets on the history of the armed forces of the National Liberation Movement in the struggle against fascism.

MERLAK JOŽE (Bistra, Vrhnika, 1917), Yugoslav Army NCO, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as battalion and brigade commander. After the war he commanded a regiment, headed the Infantry Training Centre in Pula and served as Chief of Staff of the Ljubljana Military District. He graduated from the M. V. Frunze Military Academy in Moscow and the JNA War School. He died while still in service in 1970.

MEŠTEROVIĆ ĐURO (Srpski Itebej, Banat, 1908), Yugoslav Army Medical Service captain and physician in the Navy, JNA colonel-general. From 1937 to 1939 he participated in the Spanish National Liberation War. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941 and, both during the war and throughout the decades of peace, held the highest appointments in the military medical service. He also served as president of the Yugoslav Red Cross. His active service in the JNA ended in 1968.

MILENKOVIĆ DOBROSAV (Stenjevac, Despotovac, 1874), Yugoslav Army divisional general, Yugoslav Army (JA) lieutenant-general. During the Balkan Wars he commanded a battalion and during the First World War the 19th Infantry Regiment. He joined the NOVJ in 1944 and retired two years later. He wrote several publications, including *Uloga i rad 19. pešadijskog puka u 1914. godini* [*The Role and Activities of the 19th Infantry Regiment in 1914*] (1926), *Kako se Šumadinci bore* [*How the Men of Šumadija Fight*] (1926) and *Šumadijska divizija prvog poziva 1915* [*The First-Call Šumadija Division in 1915*], in three volumes published between 1930 and 1936.

MILOJEVIĆ MILOJE (Ursule, Levač, 1912), military official of officer rank, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the uprising in central Serbia, serving as company commander in the Kragujevac Detachment, platoon commander and deputy commander of the Belgrade Battalion of the First Proletarian Brigade, at whose head he was seriously wounded in July 1942 during fighting against 2,000 Ustaše advancing from Kupres towards Duvno. Approximately 20 days later, in the battle for the liberation of Livno, he lost an eye. For proven heroism, he was among the first to be proclaimed a National Hero, on 6 September 1942, an award also reported by Allied radio stations and the press. After recovering, in November 1942 he was appointed deputy commander of the First Proletarian Brigade, at whose head, always in the foremost combat ranks, he survived the ordeals of the Neretva and Sutjeska. He sub-

sequently became deputy commander of the First Proletarian Division and, in November 1943, holding the rank of NOVJ colonel, was appointed a member of the Military Mission to the Allied Supreme Command in the Mediterranean. As the aircraft carrying the Mission took off from Glamočko polje for Cairo, Ivo Lola Ribar, a member of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters and head of the delegation, was killed, while Milojević was once again seriously wounded. After his wounds had healed in Allied military hospitals in Italy, he successfully completed the mission entrusted to him, particularly the gathering and dispatch to the fatherland of 100 Yugoslav Army officers who had until then been dispersed among Allied formations and military camps. Upon returning from the mission, in June 1944, he was appointed commander of the 21st Serbian Division, which rendered particularly distinguished service in the Belgrade Operation by completely destroying, from Boleč to Avala, Stettner's corps grouping of 20,000 Wehrmacht troops. On the Srem Front the division, surprised by a powerful German counter-attack launched on 3 January 1945 and deprived of more effective co-operation and protection, found itself in an extremely critical situation. Its commander, Major-General Miloje Milojević, lay down in the middle of the bridge over the Bosut and, firing an anti-tank rifle, destroyed the two leading tanks, thereby blocking the rapid advance of the German column. After the war, from the end of 1945 until 1950, he served as commander of the capital, then as commander of a corps in his native Kragujevac and of the First Army in Belgrade. From the latter post, in 1966, as a victim of ideological intolerance, he was prematurely retired and subjected to complete exclusion from public life. This grave injustice was partially redressed in 2001 with the publication in Belgrade of a book on Milojević's life and work by Colonel Slobodan Maksimović, which attracted considerable public attention. National Hero.

MILOSAVLJEVIĆ LAZAR (Belgrade, 1884), Yugoslav Army divisional general, Yugoslav Army (JA) lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1944, serving in the Main Staff of Vojvodina. After the war he headed the Training Section at the Military Academy of Democratic Federal Yugoslavia. His active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) ended in 1946.

MILOSAVLJEVIĆ MILISAV (Kamenovo, Požarevac, 1887), physician and Yugoslav Army brigadier-general, Yugoslav Army (JA) Medical Service major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1944, serving as director of several army mobile hospitals. After the war he was particularly engaged in the treatment and rehabilitation of the most seriously wounded. His active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) ended in 1946.

MILOŠEVSKI TIHOMIR Tićo (Bituše, Debar, 1915), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA major-general. The April War found him serving as company commander on the frontier with Bulgaria. He was seriously wounded during brief resistance to the German advance and was therefore unable to avoid capture. He was released from a camp in Bulgaria in 1942 and made his way to Skopje. He joined the organisation of the National

Liberation Movement, but was again arrested by the Bulgarian police and interned. His wartime appointments in the National Liberation War included commander of the Local Military Headquarters in Skopje, courier between clandestine Skopje and the Partisans on Skopska Crna Gora, company commander and battalion commander in the Tikveš Detachment "Dobri Daskalov," and, during the "February March," commander of a group of battalions sent on a march through eastern Macedonia towards the Kumanovo area. A Macedonian brigade was soon formed from these battalions, and he became its first commander. In the summer of 1944 he commanded the 41st Macedonian Division and in the autumn 15th Corps, which he led in the battles and engagements for the liberation of his native western Macedonia. During the final strategic offensive for the liberation of the country he commanded the 48th Division, which advanced from the Srem Front towards Zagreb. During this advance, in fighting around Dugo Selo, he was seriously wounded. After the war he commanded a division and training centre and served as chief of staff of a military district. He graduated from the M. V. Frunze Academy in Moscow and the JNA Higher Military Academy. He retired in 1962. National Hero.

MIRAŠEVIĆ ĐOKO (Doljani, Podgorica, 1895), Yugoslav Army lieutenant-colonel, JNA major-general. An NCO who received an officer's commission on the Salonika Front, he was awarded the Karađorđe Star with Swords and the Legion of Honour for demonstrated acts of heroism. In the Yugoslav Army he was twice prematurely retired and subsequently recalled to active service. He experienced the collapse of the Yugoslav Army in April on the front facing Shkodra. He participated in the July uprising and subsequently served as military adviser to the staffs of Partisan formations. For two years of the war he was a prisoner in a Chetnik prison in Kolašin, where he was tortured and humiliated, which he endured courageously and with dignity. From February 1944 he served as commander of a military area and simultaneously as deputy commander of the Second Assault Corps. He reached Victory Day holding the rank of Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. After the war he commanded the Quartermaster Officers' School, served as deputy commander of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Rear Services and as head of the Belgrade Military District. As a known Russophile, he was accused of allegedly supporting the Cominform Resolution and was consequently stripped of his rank and decorations and sent to the camps at Goli Otok and Bileća. There, for years, together with a group of Yugoslav Army (JA) generals and colonels who had risen from the ranks of the "former officers," he was subjected to severe torture and humiliation, which he endured courageously and with dignity. Events would soon demonstrate that, like hundreds of other officers of all ranks, he had been falsely accused and had suffered while innocent.

MRVOŠ RADE (Vojni Tuk, Ogulin, 1917), Yugoslav Navy NCO, JNA rear admiral. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving, among other posts, as deputy brigade commander. After the war he commanded a naval base and served as assistant commander of a military district. He graduated from the Higher Naval Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

NAĐ KONSTANTIN Kosta (Petrovaradin, Novi Sad, 1911), Yugoslav Army NCO, captain in the Spanish Republican Army, JNA army general. As a Yugoslav Army NCO, he was sentenced in 1935 to two years' rigorous imprisonment for revolutionary activity. He escaped and, from 1936 to 1939, participated in the Spanish National Liberation War, where he attained the rank of captain. After the defeat of the Republic, he spent two years in concentration camps in southern France and in forced labour in Germany, before making his way back to Yugoslavia in the insurgent year of 1941. After a brief period of fighting on insurgent Kordun, he transferred to eastern Bosnia and, following several successful armed actions, was appointed commander of the Operational Headquarters for Bosanska Krajina. "Bloody Krajina," wholly risen in the struggle for freedom, warmly received the courageous and experienced fighter, and the Krajina forces under Commander Kosta won a series of victories, including the liberation of Prijedor, Bihać and Jajce. Through his heroism and gifts as a military commander, he entered permanently into the epic poetry of this martial population. Further and increasingly senior appointments followed in recognition of his achievements, including command of the First Bosnian and then the Third Assault Corps, the Main Staff of Vojvodina and, towards the end of the war, the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Third Army, which, operating on the right wing of the strategic front and in co-operation with Red Army troops in Hungary, advanced deep into Austria. Before that army and its commander personally, in the final battle of the Second World War in Europe, Hitler's General Alexander Löhr surrendered with approximately 150,000 troops and around 100 generals. After the war Nađ commanded an army and an army area, headed the JNA Personnel Directorate and served as Assistant State Secretary for National Defence. Together with 11 Yugoslav Army (JA) generals, he belonged to the first class of students, in 1948, at the newly established Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1976. He published several books, including *Ratni susreti sa Titom* [*Wartime Encounters with Tito*] (1977), *Raporti vrhovnom komandanti* [*Reports to the Supreme Commander*] (1979), *Ratne uspomene* [*Wartime Memoirs*] (1977) and *Pobeda* [*Victory*] (1980). National Hero.

NEDELJKOVIĆ MIHAILO (Niš, 1888), Yugoslav Army brigadier-general and honorary Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. A distinguished Serbian officer, participant in the Balkan Wars and the First World War, and a hero of Cer and Kajmakčalan. During the April War, as infantry commander of the Vardar Division, he resolutely resisted German advances in the Debar area, where he was captured and taken to the Osnabrück camp together with thousands of officers and approximately 180 Yugoslav Army generals. In the camp, having been chosen to lead the organisation of the National Liberation Movement, he uncompromisingly condemned those Yugoslav Army officers who behaved in a defeatist and unpatriotic manner before the camp authorities, some of whom, operating covertly in the barracks, even worked for them. As a result of denunciations by such betrayers within the officer corps, he lost his prisoner-of-war status and, as punishment, was transferred to the Dachau concentration camp, where he was killed in early 1945, shortly before the Allied advance. The truth of his fate emerged from testimony given before Marshal Tito at a gathering of 500 officers and generals returned from wartime cap-

tivity on 16 October 1945, and from a report by Nikola Vujanović, leader of the National Liberation Movement organisation in the Osnabrück camp. A group of eight pre-war active Yugoslav Army officers, by then Yugoslav Army (JA) generals holding senior military posts — as recalled by General Velimir Terzić, head of the Military History Institute and author of a two-volume study of the April War — firmly supported the proposal that Yugoslav Army Brigadier-General Mihailo Nedeljković, a committed anti-fascist, proven hero and ardent patriot, be posthumously proclaimed an honorary major-general of the Yugoslav Army (JA). The proposal was adopted and, as far as is known, constituted a unique case in the history of the armed forces of the "Second Yugoslavia," although it appears to have left no written trace in the official records.

NIKOLIĆ MIHAJLO Kajle, Yugoslav Army Air Force fighter pilot and captain, second class, reserve major-general of the Army of Yugoslavia. During the April War he commanded a section of pilots in the celebrated 102nd Fighter Squadron, entrusted with defending the skies and honour of Belgrade. Taking off at dawn on 6 April alongside his squadron commander, Captain First Class Miloš Žunjić, he and his fellow pilots entered combat against the air armada of General Alexander Löhr, which outnumbered them by 10 to one. He later recalled in a television film on the defence of Belgrade that German aircraft flew in over Banat in formations so dense that they literally darkened the sky, and that, following Commander Žunjić with his comrades, he plunged into the mass and a terrifying clash ensued. Commander Žunjić shot down one German aircraft and was killed heroically; Captain Kajle emerged victorious from duels with two German pilots but soon afterwards, in a severely damaged aircraft, made a forced landing near the village of Baranda. Injured in the crash, he was admitted to hospital in Pančevo but soon left against the objections of the commander and physicians, on his own responsibility, in order to return to aerial combat. His final wartime sortie, the seventh, was flown from Veliki Radinci airfield in Srem, and he again emerged victorious in combat with a Luftwaffe pilot. Shortly afterwards he fell into German captivity. Throughout the war in the Osnabrück camp he conducted himself courageously, with dignity and patriotism, longing for the opportunity to participate in the war for the liberation of the fatherland. His wish was fulfilled: immediately after release from captivity he hurried home and, by a coincidence of war, took off from the same airfield from which he had flown during the April War, Veliki Radinci, now in a celebrated Red Army Yak-3 fighter. After the war, holding the rank of Yugoslav Army (JA) pilot colonel, he commanded a fighter regiment and division and, in the mid-1960s towards the end of his flying career, trained generations of young pilots to fly the most modern jet aircraft of the period. He retired with the rank of colonel but, at the end of 1999, in recognition of his service in the April War and contribution to the development of the Air Force, was promoted, together with his colleague Petar Radević, to reserve major-general. He died in Belgrade shortly afterwards.

NOVKOVIĆ MOMČILO (Pavlovac, Gospić, 1916), Yugoslav Navy sergeant, JNA vice-admiral. He avoided capture; an insurgent and guerrilla fighter, in the autumn of 1941 he became commander of the Assault Company of the "Velebit" Detachment. In

1942 he was the first commander of the "Pekiša Vuksan" Battalion. He later became deputy commander of the Third Lika Brigade, which he successfully commanded during the following year, particularly in battles throughout Lika against the Fourth Enemy Offensive. He consistently displayed and confirmed the finest qualities of a successful commander: skill in leadership, persistence, initiative, courage and decisiveness in combat. In 1944, in the 35th Division, he commanded a brigade and subsequently served as its Chief of Staff, ending the war as deputy commander of the Croatian People's Defence Division, with which, even after Victory Day, he continued fighting remnants of defeated Ustaša formations. During the decades of peace he commanded a division, a naval district and a Yugoslav Navy squadron, served as assistant commander of an army area and, after graduating from the War School, as head of the Higher Naval Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1974. National Hero.

OBERŠLIK KAREL (Třebíč, Czechoslovakia, 1888), Yugoslav Army colonel and physician, JNA Medical Service major-general. He joined the National Liberation War in 1943 and, until the end of the war, served as director of several hospitals treating wounded members of the NOVJ. During the first 10 post-war years he served as president of the JNA Main Military Medical Commission. He retired in 1956.

OBRADOVIĆ BRANKO (Skopje, 1907), Yugoslav Army artillery captain, first class, JNA lieutenant-general. Having avoided capture, he reached the lower Livanjsko polje through the organisation of the National Liberation Movement in Sinj and there joined the Serbian insurgent population in resisting Ustaša atrocities. In the Staff of the "Starac Vujadin" Partisan Battalion he served as "adjutant" to its commander, the local man Cvijo Pajčin Oraščić, a paviour by trade and known there as the "Dinaric Budyonny." That formation, under such a commander, oddly dressed and adorned with symbols of both monarchists and communists, appeared unusual, but what mattered was that it fought resolutely against the Ustaše and effectively protected the endangered Serbian population in the most difficult circumstances. After the group of proletarian brigades advanced into the Livno area, the Supreme Headquarters appointed "Adjutant" Obradović as organiser of the future artillery arm. Thus, during the Battle of the Neretva at the end of the winter of 1943, he commanded the legendary Howitzer Battalion of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters. After the Sutjeska he served as artillery commander and Assistant Chief of Staff of the Second Assault Corps. On Vis in the summer of 1944 he was assistant head of the Artillery Department of the Supreme Headquarters under Colonel Karel Levičnik, and in the autumn commanded the Central Base for Weapons and Military Equipment at Craiova in Romania, supplying the NOVJ. From there, in October 1944 and holding the rank of NOVJ major-general, he transferred to liberated Belgrade to assume command of the Artillery Command. During the final operations for the liberation of the country he commanded the Central Captured-Matériel Base in Zagreb, where an exceptionally rich quantity of war booty was assembled. He remained an example of personal courage, skill in the wartime employment of artillery and optimism even in the gravest circumstances. After the war he headed the Artillery School, headed

a directorate in the Air Force and, following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, became head of JNA Air Defence. He published several books, including *Vaspitanje i disciplina* [*Education and Discipline*] (1953), *Noć i noćna destva* [*Night and Night Operations*] (1954) and *Protivvazdušna odbrana* [*Air Defence*] (1958). His active service in the JNA ended in 1962.

OBRADOVIĆ MILOŠ (Gledić, Kraljevo, 1881), Yugoslav Army divisional general of the artillery-technical branch, JNA lieutenant-general. At the beginning of the twentieth century he graduated from the Lower School of the Military Academy, specialising in artillery, and subsequently obtained a degree in chemical engineering with "great distinction" from the University of Ghent in Belgium. At the "Obilićevo" powder works he worked on the production of black powder and later, as a battery commander, participated in both Balkan Wars. He returned from "Obilićevo" to active war service in the First World War and, in 1915, from the front in Kosovo, was assigned to a military mission in the United States for the procurement of ammunition. After successfully completing this wartime task, he proceeded to France, where for three years he directed the production of gunpowder at the "Ripault" works for the Salonika Front, for which he was awarded the Legion of Honour. In the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes he worked on the reconstruction of the military industry. While engaged in restarting production at the "Kamnik" powder works near Ljubljana, he invented the explosive "kamniktit." In 1925 he published the notable book *Balistika* [*Ballistics*]. For nine years, from 1927 to 1935, he directed the "Obilićevo" Military-Technical Institute in Kruševac, where he also established "Ravnjak," comprising 14 factories producing gunpowder and explosives, chemical warfare agents and protective equipment recognised throughout Europe. On the eve of the elections of 5 May 1935, he was ordered to ensure that the 3,500 people under his authority voted for the regime's candidate. He firmly refused, stating that he was responsible for their professional work during working hours and for producing the means necessary for the defence of the fatherland, whereas "political allegiance is each individual's personal choice, a matter for the afternoon." He was soon retired in the rank of divisional general he had attained, with two unprecedented measures taken against him: he received no decoration and was not transferred to the reserve. Deeply wounded, he withdrew into himself and was particularly distressed by the catastrophe of the state and its army in April 1941, when he was not called to the colours to defend the country. He spent the war years in his native Gledić and occupied Belgrade, retaining, as a senior military officer, a man and a patriot, an unblemished reputation and firm anti-fascist convictions, while remaining in contact throughout with the leadership of the National Liberation Movement organisation. He participated in the fighting for the liberation of Belgrade, in which his son Milorad was killed. During the first days of freedom he was admitted to the NOVJ as a lieutenant-general and appointed head of the Department of Gunnery Instruction and professor of ballistics at the Military Academy. Alongside his educational and pedagogical work, and in accordance with the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff plan, he became, as head of specialist teams, involved in assessing the condition of military-industrial plants. At the sites of "Obilićevo" and "Ravnjak," once industrial

giants and pillars of the kingdom's chemical industry, he found little more than scorched ruins, while "Kamnik" was in only slightly better condition. He signed commission reports documenting the state of these facilities and setting out clear proposals as to what had to be done and in what sequence. At the same time, he directed the dismantling and neutralisation of unexploded mines and shells delivered by the wagonload to the military factory at Barič near Obrenovac. He retired in 1946 but, as a permanent senior adviser employed on a fee basis by the ministries of the interior or defence, a renowned expert and speaker of four world languages, he continued to work in his profession and in science for another two decades. He lived to the age of 92. Much later, on the centenary of the "Obilićevo" powder works, he received a high posthumous tribute from a generation of young workers at what had by then become the "Miloje Zakić" industrial enterprise in Kruševac.

OKILJEVIĆ MILENKO (Platice, Gacko, 1914), Yugoslav Army artillery sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the June uprising in the Gacko area, serving as battalion and brigade commander. After the war he headed the Artillery NCO School and served as artillery chief of an army. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. He published the memoir *Kazivanje o mojoj generaciji* [*An Account of My Generation*] (1992). His active service in the JNA ended in 1966.

OROVIĆ SAVO (Lijeva Rijeka, Podgorica, 1888), Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA colonel-general. At the beginning of the previous century he graduated from the NCO School of the Montenegrin Army, then left the service and went to work in the quarries of South America. From there, in 1915, he volunteered to return and participate in the First World War and, in the tragic year of 1916, as a lieutenant and guerrilla fighter, continued the struggle against the occupiers. In the Yugoslav Army, after being retired twice, he held the rank of colonel, and the April War found him commanding a regiment assigned to the defence of the Bay of Kotor. Unable to reconcile himself to military defeat, during the uprising he went to Grahovo to join Sava Kovačević, a commander whom anyone could approach but under whom only the bravest could remain. Armed with a carbine, he became Kovačević's military adviser and soon afterwards his deputy as commander of the Nikšić Detachment. On 6 May 1942 the Supreme Headquarters appointed him one of its members. During the three-month summer offensive of the group of proletarian brigades towards Bosanska Krajina he served as military adviser in the Supreme Headquarters and, in the second attack on Kupres on 12 August 1942, together with Major Vojislav Đokić, commanded a force of 16 battalions. He was the first commandant of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters Military School, established at Donji Lapac on 4 November 1942, and after the Neretva and Sutjeska epics became Chief of the Main Staff of Vojvodina. During the "Vis period" from June to October 1944, he directed the work of wartime military education under the national Main Staffs and corps headquarters, while simultaneously preparing to become head of the NOVJ Military Mission in Washington, a posting he would never take up because of the political manoeuvring of the great powers. In liberated Belgrade, under exceptionally poor material and personnel conditions, he established the Military Academy with nearly 2,300

cadets. Around this institution he gathered a number of proven authorities on military art. In addition to dozens of instructional texts for the military education and patriotic formation of future officers, he wrote and published several works, including *Iznenađenje u ratu* [*Surprise in War*] (1954), *Moralno vaspitanje* [*Moral Education*] (1962) and *Ratni dnevnik 1941-1945* [*War Diary, 1941–1945*] (1972). His active service in the JNA ended in 1952.

ORHANOVIĆ MARKO (Oskorušno, Dubrovnik, 1920), Yugoslav Navy corvette lieutenant, JNA rear admiral. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1943, serving as chief of staff of a naval coastal sector. After the war he commanded a destroyer division and served as assistant head of the Naval Training Centre. He graduated from the Higher Naval Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

PAVIČIĆ MILE (Srebrenik, Tuzla, 1899), Yugoslav Army Air Force captain, first class, JNA Air Force major-general and pilot. During the April War he had several opportunities to avoid captivity by escaping from transit camps, but refused to abandon his Serbian officer comrades. Soon afterwards, as a Croat born in territory then incorporated into the NDH, he was offered release from the camp on condition that he report for service in the Home Guard air force, where he would receive a higher rank. He rejected this offer as well, declaring his solidarity "with my Serbian colleagues." Eventually, with a larger group of captured officers, he escaped and joined the insurgents around Kraljevo. After fighting in central Serbia, on 22 December 1941 he became a company commander in the original formation of the First Proletarian Brigade. In November 1942 he served as an instructor at the Supreme Headquarters Military School and subsequently as an officer responsible for military authority in the rear, military instructor on the Staff of the First Bosnian Corps, commander of the First Air Base at Livno and staff officer in the Supreme Headquarters Air Department. From April to December 1944, holding the rank of NOVJ colonel, he was a member of the NOVJ Military Mission in Moscow, responsible for co-operation with the Red Army "in aviation matters." While in that post he was promoted to major-general. Towards the end of the war he became Deputy Commander of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force, and died while still serving in that post in 1948.

PAVLOVIĆ MILAN (Kirin, Kordun, 1918), Yugoslav Army second lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as operations officer of the Banija National Liberation Partisan Detachment, deputy commander of the Eighth Kordun Brigade, Chief of Staff of the Eighth Kordun Division and, from January 1944, commander of the Seventh Banija Division. After the war he commanded an armoured division and mechanised corps, headed a directorate in the General Staff and the Technical Training Centre in Zagreb. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1976.

PETOVAR RUDI (Zagreb, 1916), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, fighting principally in eastern

Bosnia and serving as deputy battalion commander, Chief of Staff of the Sixth Eastern Bosnian and 15th Majevica Brigades, and subsequently of the 27th Division and Third Corps. After the war he served as chief of staff of an army, head of a directorate in the SSNO and Assistant Federal Secretary for National Defence for rear services. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. He wrote the monograph *Šesta proleterska istočnobosanska brigada* [*The Sixth Proletarian Eastern Bosnian Brigade*] (1951). His active service in the JNA ended in 1972.

PETROVIĆ DRAGOSLAV Gorski (Niš, 1919), Yugoslav Army second lieutenant, JNA colonel-general. In his occupied native city he became involved in the clandestine anti-fascist movement and, in November 1941, went to the Partisan-held Pasjača area. He was appointed platoon commander and, from 1 May of the following year, commanded the Rasina Detachment, with which he carried out several successful operations, and later the "Todor Milićević" Kopaonik Detachment. After two years commanding Partisan formations, he was appointed head of an Officers' Course in the village of Dobra Voda in Jablanica and subsequently commander of the Second South Morava Brigade. From his post as Chief of Staff of the South Morava Operational Zone he was appointed Chief of Staff of the 21st Assault Division and shortly afterwards of the 25th Division. The name of this courageous and militarily capable young officer, certainly one of the most successful commanders of the anti-fascist forces in southern Serbia, is associated with major victories won by the detachments, brigades and divisions he commanded against the Germans, Bulgarians and collaborators in that sector of the theatre. In recognition, from mid-October 1944, holding the rank of NOVJ colonel, he served as commander of the city of Niš and subsequently as deputy commander of the city of Belgrade under General Ljubodrag Đurić. After the war, having been promoted to general officer rank, he commanded the Yugoslav Army (JA) Cavalry, later headed the Military Geography Department at the Higher Military Academy and, towards the end of his career, the Military Geographical Institute. In addition to completing the highest military schools, he obtained a degree in geography as an external student at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Belgrade. His active service in the JNA ended in 1979. National Hero.

PETROVIĆ RADOVAN (Petrovac, Leskovac, 1908), Yugoslav Army captain, first class, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as chief of staff of a brigade, deputy commander of the South Morava Operational Zone, division commander and Chief of the Main Staff of Serbia. During the decades of peace he served as commander of the People's Militia of Serbia and, after graduating from the Higher Military Academy, as chief of staff of an army. His active service in the JNA ended in 1963.

PIRC FRANCE (Sodražica, Kočevje, 1899), Yugoslav Army Air Force colonel and pilot, JNA major-general. An infantry officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army, he became an air-force officer in the army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes after completing pilot training. During the April War he commanded the Second Fighter

Regiment, whose conduct in the face of the German aggression was notably poor. In the NDH he served as Chief of the Home Guard Air Force Command while simultaneously maintaining links with the National Liberation Movement organisation in Zagreb. Following the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters appeal of 9 November 1943 to Yugoslav Army airmen, he flew to liberated territory and, holding the rank of colonel, was appointed head of the Supreme Headquarters Air Force Department, whose task was to organise air bases, gather air-force personnel and send them for training at Allied centres, and establish airfields throughout the country. In this capacity, from April 1944, he was also a member of the NOVJ Military Mission to the Allied Supreme Command in the Mediterranean. Holding the rank of NOVJ major-general, he became the first commander of the Air Force, but soon after the war was appointed ambassador of the "Second Yugoslavia" to Argentina. He was shortly afterwards recalled to the country "because of the establishment of close relations with émigré Ustaše" and retired.

PLETILIĆ TEUFIK (Bosanska Gradiška, 1916), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, serving as deputy battalion commander and chief of staff of a brigade and division. After the war he served as chief of staff of a division and corps. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1972.

POGLAJEN FRANC Kranjc (Litija, Ljubljana, 1916), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA colonel-general. The April War found him serving as a commander in a bicycle company on the frontier with Bulgaria. During the retreat he was captured near Kruševac and imprisoned in Niš, but succeeded in escaping from the transit camp. In Ljubljana, then under Italian occupation, he established contact with the National Liberation Movement organisation and became active in the clandestine People's Defence. In May 1942, together with two of his brothers, he left for Partisan-held Lower Carniola and became a renowned light-machine-gunner in the Second Group of Detachments. At the same time, all 10 sons and four daughters of road worker Franc Poglajen were either with the Partisans or operating clandestinely, participating in the anti-fascist war. In July 1942 he became commander of a battalion which, under extremely difficult tactical and terrain conditions, carried out successful operations and became known after its commander as "Kranjc's Battalion." During the following months he fought with it under still harsher conditions throughout Styria, Carinthia and the Sava region, maintaining operational links between the areas. For months he commanded the Kamnik-Sava Detachment and subsequently became the first Chief of Staff of the "Šlander" Brigade and the 15th Division, then commander of the Styria Operational Zone. At the end of August 1944 he became Chief of Staff and, less than three months later, after the "southerners" Colonel Rajko Tanasković and Pero Popivoda, commander of the NOVJ Seventh Corps. Within the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Fourth Army, he participated with this corps in the final operations for the liberation of the country, fighting in central Slovenia. On 9 May 1945 his corps, together with the 29th Herzegovinian Division, liberated Ljubljana. After the war he commanded a division and, following two years of study at the M. V. Frunze Military

Academy in Moscow, held senior posts in the General Staff, the SSNO and the administrations of the highest military schools, concluding his military career as commander of the Seventh Army in Ljubljana. His active service in the JNA ended in 1976. National Hero.

POKRAJAC ĐURAĐ (Bruvno, Gračac, 1919), Yugoslav Army engineering sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as commander of a battalion and brigade and deputy division commander. After the war he served as commander of the engineering arm of an army, deputy head and later head of the Engineering Directorate in the General Staff. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and the War School. His active service in the JNA ended in 1977.

POLJANAC BRANKO (1908), Yugoslav Army construction-engineering major, Yugoslav Army (JA) lieutenant-general. The April War found him serving in the Main General Staff's Fortifications Section. He avoided German captivity and joined the National Liberation Movement organisation in Belgrade. A former university colleague, engineer Milentije Popović, helped him leave the occupied capital and join the Posavina Detachment commanded by Koča Popović — Pera Posavac — in which, within a short period, he carried out several acts of sabotage against occupation units and installations. With Koča's recommendation he reached liberated Užice, where, together with Captain First Class Sredoje Markićević, he performed basic staff duties in the Supreme Headquarters and served as deputy to Sreten Žujović, commander of the Main Staff of Serbia. He became the first Chief of Staff of the First Proletarian Brigade and, in the autumn of 1942, of the Operational Headquarters for Bosanska Krajina. After the Sutjeska he commanded the Fourth Krajina Division and, at Jajce in September 1943, holding the rank of major-general, became commandant of the Supreme Headquarters Officers' School. During the defence of the Supreme Headquarters at Drvar on 25 May 1944, at the most critical moment created by the German airborne assault, he, together with the School's commissar Vlado Dapčević and 126 students, played a notable and, alongside the Escort Battalion, decisive role until brigades of the Sixth Lika Division arrived. From the transfer of the Supreme Headquarters to Vis on 6 June 1944 until near the end of the war, he commanded the NOVJ Base at Bari in Italy, where he was responsible for establishing and maintaining liaison with the Allies and organising NOVJ supply from Allied military assistance, gathering and training personnel for reinforcement and the formation of new units, treating the wounded and sick and accommodating refugees. His final wartime appointment was deputy commander of the Main Staff of Serbia, holding the rank of lieutenant-general. In peacetime he served as Yugoslav Army (JA) representative in Moscow while simultaneously attending the K. E. Voroshilov General Staff Academy. In 1948 he allegedly declared support for the Cominform Resolution and was sentenced to several years' imprisonment, together with loss of rank and decorations. He served his sentence in the camps at Stara Gradiška, Sveti Grgur, Goli Otok and Bileća, enduring, alongside three other generals who were "former officers," severe humiliation and torture.

His memoirs of the National Liberation War remained in manuscript form, deposited in the Military History Institute.

POPARA MILAN (Chicago, USA, 1917), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as brigade commander and chief of staff of a division. After the war he mainly held senior staff appointments. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1968.

POPIVODA PERO (Bjelice, Cetinje, 1916), Yugoslav Navy military official of officer rank, Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941 and was one of the organisers of the uprising in the Bay of Kotor. He served as deputy commander of the Lovćen Battalion, deputy to Captain Pero Ćetković at the head of the Lovćen fighters in the Battle of Pljevlja, and chief quartermaster of the Supreme Headquarters during the Foča period of 1942. In November 1942 he was sent to Slovenia with 12 officers as cadre reinforcement, where he served as Chief of Staff of the "Tone Tomšič" Brigade and the 14th Assault Division, then as commander of an operational zone, the 15th Division and, holding the rank of NOVJ colonel, the Seventh Corps. After returning to Serbia in October 1944, he commanded the 22nd Assault Division, at whose head he ended the war. After the war, following two years of study in the Soviet Union, he served, as a major-general and pilot, as head of the Operations Directorate of the Air Force Command. From that post, at the end of July 1948, he fled the country by aircraft, thereby forfeiting his rank in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

POPOVIĆ BRANKO (Donji Lapac, 1897), Yugoslav Army General Staff cavalry lieutenant-colonel, JNA major-general. During the Second World War he was held in the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp, where he firmly aligned himself with the National Liberation War. He entered the JNA in 1945 and served as head of a department in the General Staff. His active service in the JNA ended in 1958.

POPOVIĆ TOMICA (Donji Lapac, 1915), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. He avoided capture during the April War and, in his native region, joined the armed resistance to Ustaša atrocities. From that point his entire family participated in the National Liberation War, in which his father, mother, sister and four brothers were killed. In the autumn of 1941 he commanded an insurgent company, in February 1942 became commander of the "Stojan Matić" Battalion and later commanded the Second Lika Brigade and then a Partisan detachment which, under his leadership and after a period of successful fighting throughout Dalmatia, developed into the First Knin, later Fifth Dalmatian, Brigade. In the spring of 1944 he became Chief of Staff and then commander of the 19th Dalmatian Division. In September of that year, by decision of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters, he was flown from Vis to Toplica, where he became the first commander of the 46th Division, at whose head he fought during the following months for the liberation of southern Serbia and, until the end of the war, Kosovo. After liberation he

was among the first Yugoslav Army (JA) officers to graduate from the M. V. Frunze Military Academy in Moscow, after which he commanded a division and, following graduation from the War School, served as chief of staff of an army area and commander of the Rijeka Military District. He died while still in service in 1972. National Hero.

PREDOJEVIĆ ĐURAĐ (Lušci Palanka, Sanski Most, 1915), Yugoslav Army artillery sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. He avoided capture in the April War and, from the beginning of the uprising, took part in armed clashes against the Ustaše, displaying courage and skill in combat. In the autumn of 1941 he commanded a company in the First Krajina Detachment and, at the beginning of the following year, became battalion commander. He subsequently served as deputy commander and commander of the Second Krajina Brigade, deputy commander of the 11th Division and commander of the 53rd Division, at whose head he ended the war, popular among the troops and celebrated in folk songs. During the National Liberation War he was seriously wounded three times and lost an arm. During the decades of peace he commanded a division in Podgorica and served as chief of staff of a corps. He graduated from the M. V. Frunze Military Academy in Moscow, the Higher Military Academy and the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1965. National Hero.

PRIMORAC RUDOLF Rudi (Sutomore, Bar, 1904), Yugoslav Army General Staff major, JNA colonel-general. During the April War he commanded the Second Battalion of the 85th Infantry Regiment, reinforced by an artillery battalion. The regiment disintegrated in the Metković area, but Major Primorac kept his unit intact and successfully engaged Ustaša forces in Mostar and towards Nevesinje. The fighting continued for days. He was captured by the Italians at Nevesinje and imprisoned in Rijeka, from where he was released in June because his birthplace lay within territory annexed by Italy. He reached Split and joined the National Liberation Movement organisation, for which, together with his wife, he spent a year carrying out special intelligence assignments. He was then sent from the Staff of the Fourth Operational Zone in Dalmatia to serve as military instructor to the headquarters of units in the Livno area. He became the first Chief of Staff of the First Dalmatian Brigade and later of the Third Assault Division. By general acknowledgement, he performed these duties with considerable success, particularly during the Neretva and Sutjeska epics and the counter-offensive in eastern Bosnia, by which time he held the rank of NOVJ colonel. From September 1943 until the end of July 1944, holding the rank of major-general, he served as Chief of Staff of the Second Assault Corps. Through skilful planning and persistent implementation of decisions adopted by the highest military leadership, he made a major contribution to the formation of new units in the Sandžak, Montenegro and Herzegovina, to the organisation and defence of liberated territory and to preparing troops for the advance into Serbia. In July 1944, by decision of the Supreme Headquarters, he was appointed Chief of the Main Staff of Serbia. Together with Commander General Koča Popović, he directed the operations of Serbian divisions and co-ordinated their co-operation with the Operational Group of Divisions commanded by General Peko Dapčević. In December 1944 he became one of the

Assistant Chiefs of the Supreme Headquarters and, from that post, co-ordinated on the ground the operations of NOVJ divisions in repelling two successive German counter-attacks in Srem in January 1945. From the middle of the final April of the war he served as head of the Yugoslav Military Mission in Moscow, with particular responsibilities for supplying the Yugoslav Army (JA) with military equipment. After the war he served as Assistant Chief of the General Staff and Chief Inspector of the JNA and, holding the rank of colonel-general, as commander of the Yugoslav Border Units. His active service in the JNA ended in 1960. National Hero.

RADAKOVIĆ LAZO (Mogorić, Gospić, 1913), Yugoslav Army artillery sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. On the eve of the April War he passed the final examination for his first officer rank, but the war intervened before he could receive it. Still wearing a sergeant's insignia, he set out from Smederevo for his wartime posting at Dugo Selo but was captured en route. He managed to avoid transport to Germany and by June had reached his native Mogorić. During the uprising he commanded a village company and later a battalion in the "Velebit" Lika Detachment, with which he conducted armed actions against Italian and Ustaša forces many times superior in strength, establishing a reputation as a daring fighter and skilful commander. Over the course of two wartime years, at different times, he commanded all three brigades of the "Nikola Tesla" Sixth Lika Division; with the Third Brigade he participated in the liberation of the capital and the advance through Srem, while in the final phase of the war, when the division reached Zagreb as part of the First Yugoslav Army's (JA) general offensive, he served as its Chief of Staff. He was seriously wounded near Slavonski Brod, for the third time during the National Liberation War. After the war he commanded a division and, following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, a corps. After completing the War School he held senior posts at the Centre for Advanced Military Schools. His active service in the JNA ended in 1971. National Hero.

RADEVIĆ PETAR (Rogami, Podgorica, 1918), Yugoslav Army second lieutenant and pilot, reserve major-general of the Army of Yugoslavia. He participated in the National Liberation War from 13 July 1941, initially becoming renowned as a light-machine-gunner and participating in the Battle of Pljevlja, while in the First Proletarian Brigade he commanded an escort platoon. He distinguished himself particularly during the attack to capture Livno on the night of 5 August 1942; charging decisively, he personally destroyed the Ustaša garrison in a strong concrete blockhouse, thereby enabling a further advance through the well-fortified town and entry into a prison filled with patriots, who were liberated and armed. This materially facilitated the capture of Livno. As deputy commander of the "Josip Jurčević" Battalion in the First Dalmatian Brigade, he performed notable feats on the approaches to the Neretva, particularly during the capture of Prozor, while at the Sutjeska he formed a battalion from fighters belonging to broken units and with it broke through into Herzegovina. As commander of the First Group of five assault battalions, he successfully fought throughout the Herzegovinian theatre and prevented the Chetniks from reaching the Adriatic. Later, holding the rank of captain,

he led a group of NOVJ airmen from Italy to Krasnodar in Russia for retraining and, from there, in the summer of 1945, returned as the Yugoslav Army's (JA) First Fighter Regiment, landing at Mostar airfield after eight intermediate landings. This group of 180 trained officers of all specialities, 74 of them fighter pilots, represented a significant reinforcement of the Air Force's professional cadre. After the war he commanded a fighter division and retired from that post in 1956, holding the rank of JNA pilot colonel, at the age of 37. In 1999, in recognition of his wartime exploits and post-war contribution to the development of the Air Force, he was promoted to reserve major-general in the Army of Yugoslavia. National Hero.

RANKOVIĆ ŽIVAN (Kutlovo, Kragujevac, 1880), Yugoslav Army General Staff colonel, Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general. As an officer of the Serbian Army he participated in both Balkan Wars and the First World War. Holding the rank of Yugoslav Army colonel, he was prematurely retired for political reasons and recalled to active service on the eve of the April War. From 1941 to 1945 he was held in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany, where he played a notable role in the clandestine organisation of the National Liberation Movement. After returning to the country he was recalled to active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) and, holding the rank of major-general, spent two years in instructional appointments. He retired in 1947.

RISTIĆ BORISAV (1884), Yugoslav Army divisional general, reportedly retired prematurely as an opponent of the Cvetković-Maček regime. During the April War he commanded the Mura Division. He was taken into German captivity, from which he was released at the beginning of 1942 because of serious illness. After returning to Belgrade he aligned himself with the National Liberation Movement. In the spring of 1944 he reached the Srem National Liberation Partisan Detachment through clandestine channels and, from there, with the approval of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters, was flown in July via Bari to Vis together with engineer Nikola Petrović, the elected representative of Vojvodina in the highest leadership of AVNOJ Yugoslavia. On Vis, his anti-fascist commitment and the fact that his three sons were serving in the NOVJ — one in central Serbia and two in Srem formations — were already well known. Following wider consultation, he was appointed delegate of the NKOJ to Dr. Ivan Šubašić's government in London, in which capacity he returned to the country in October 1944. He served as Minister of Defence in the government of Democratic Federal Yugoslavia from 11 September 1944 until 29 January 1945, when he resigned and, holding the rank of Yugoslav Army lieutenant-general, was transferred to the reserve.

RUSTJA FRANJO (Trieste, 1916), Yugoslav Navy corvette lieutenant, JNA vice-admiral. He participated in the National Liberation War from the autumn of 1943, serving as chief of staff of a brigade and division and, after Lieutenant-General Dušan Kveder, as commander of the city of Trieste. After the war he commanded a naval district, headed the Yugoslav Navy Training Centre and the Naval Armaments Institute and served as naval inspector in the JNA Main Inspectorate. He graduated from the Higher Naval

Military Academy in the Soviet Union. His active service in the JNA ended in 1974.

SIMOVIĆ MILAN Zeka (Vitkovac, Kraljevo, 1917), Yugoslav Army Air Force sergeant, JNA Air Force colonel-general and pilot. An early participant in the insurgent Kraljevo Battalion, he later served as deputy detachment commander and head of the Intelligence Section of the First Proletarian Division, then as deputy commander and commander of the First Air Base and, in October 1944, head of the Personnel Department of the NOVJ Air Force Staff. He personally played a major role in the gathering, during 1944, of hundreds of aviation specialists from the Mediterranean region and Africa and in their dispatch either to the Yugoslav theatre or for training with the British and in the Soviet Union, as well as in ensuring that the first two NOVJ squadrons were staffed with selected personnel. After the war he commanded an air division, served as chief of staff of an air corps, director of Yugoslav Airlines (JAT), Assistant Commander of the Air Force, and Chief of Staff and Commander of the Air Force and Air Defence. He graduated from the Higher Air Force Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1977.

SOLDATOVIĆ STOJADIN (Vranje, 1915), Yugoslav Army artillery lieutenant, JNA lieutenant-general. During the April War he commanded a platoon in the Bay of Kotor and remained in his place of service thereafter. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941. He was one of the organisers of the uprising in the Bay of Kotor, later commanding the Orjen Assault Battalion, serving as Chief of Staff of the Second and Fourth Proletarian Brigades and of the Second Proletarian and 22nd Serbian Assault Divisions, and as Assistant Chief of Staff of KNOJ. After the war he served as artillery commander of an army and, after graduating from the F. E. Dzerzhinsky Artillery Academy in the USSR, as head of the Artillery Officers' School. Following completion of the JNA Operational Art Course, he became head of the Artillery Department at the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1973.

STANIČIĆ MATE (Šibenik, 1920), Yugoslav Navy junior sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. He displayed exceptional courage, military ability and presence of mind during the April War, rescuing men and vessels of the war fleet in Šibenik harbour under Italian bombing. During the uprising he served as a military instructor and commander of an assault section, then fought for almost a year throughout Lika as a company commander and battalion commander in the First Dalmatian Brigade, always in the foremost combat ranks. With that brigade he reached the Sutjeska in June 1943, where he was seriously wounded for the second time and, supporting himself on two sticks, made his way to Partisan hospitals in eastern Bosnia. After recovering he became deputy commander of Bugojno and, following the capitulation of Italy, battalion commander in the Split Brigade, soon afterwards becoming its Chief of Staff. During the strategic offensive for the final liberation of the country he commanded the Third Dalmatian Assault Brigade. The chronicle of the units under his command records dozens of battles and engagements in which he participated courageously and decisively. In October 1942, for example, he

covered the withdrawal of his battalion from Šujica on the Livno-Duvno road. At one point he leapt onto an Italian tank, smashed its vision slit with the butt of his rifle and threw a grenade inside, destroying the crew. He did all this while under machine-gun fire from another tank and from infantry advancing under armoured protection. His action held the defence and forced the Italians to halt and assume defensive positions. During the amphibious operations of the Ninth Dalmatian Division against the islands of the Kvarner Gulf, he displayed great resourcefulness and courage both in combat at sea and while establishing a foothold ashore, qualities he again demonstrated during the capture of Trieste. After the war he served as Chief of Staff of the Southern Adriatic Command and then as commander of the Northern Adriatic. Following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, he headed a department in the army command at Skopje, then held posts in the General Staff and the army command in Sarajevo. After four years' service in Moscow as military attaché of the SFRY, he graduated from the War School and subsequently commanded the Split Military District. His active service in the JNA ended in 1977. National Hero.

SUBOTIĆ VUKAŠIN (Bijeljina, 1911), Yugoslav Army engineer captain, second class, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as Chief of Staff of the 17th Eastern Bosnian Division, Assistant Chief of Staff to Colonel Moma Đurić of the First Proletarian Corps, Chief of the Main Staff of Vojvodina and Chief of Staff of the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Third Army during the final offensive as far as Carinthia. After the war he served as chief of staff of an army and, following graduation from the Higher Military Academy, as head of the Engineering Training Centre. His active service in the JNA ended in 1964.

TANASKOVIĆ RAJKO (Preljina, Čačak, 1917), Yugoslav Army second lieutenant, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from the days of the uprising in the Čačak region, serving as company commander and deputy battalion commander in the Second Proletarian Brigade and, in Slovenia, as commander of the "Ivan Cankar" Brigade, the 15th Assault Division and, holding the rank of NOVJ colonel, the Seventh Corps, as well as head of the Operations Department of the Main Staff of Slovenia. During the final operations for the liberation of the country he served as Chief of Staff of the 23rd and 27th Divisions and as commander of the 25th Division, which, on the eve of Victory Day and as part of the Yugoslav Army's (JA) Second Army advancing from Karlovac, he led in street fighting for the liberation of Zagreb. After the war he served as chief of staff of an army, head of the General Staff Training Directorate and of the Centre for Advanced Military Schools, and commander of the Main Staff of the Territorial Defence of the Socialist Republic of Serbia. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and the JNA School of Operational Art. Alongside his successful professional work, he pursued the theory of military art intensively and obtained a doctorate in the field. This resulted in the publication of several works: *Sadejstvo* [*Co-operation in Combat*] (1957), *Pitanja partizanskog ratovanja* [*Questions of Partisan Warfare*] (1961), *Faktori izgradnje i organizacije oružanih snaga* [*Factors in the Development and Organisa-*

tion of Armed Forces] (1970), *Štabovi u ratu i miru* [*Staffs in War and Peace*] (1972), *Uvod u teoriju operacije opštenarodnog odbrambenog rata* [*Introduction to the Theory of Operations in a Total National Defence War*] (1977), as well as numerous studies, essays and articles on military theory. His active service in the JNA ended in 1977.

TARABIĆ JOCO (Tržić, Ogulin, 1916), Yugoslav Army pilot-sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. Captured during the April War, he succeeded in escaping from a transit camp in Zagreb. He was an organiser of the uprising against Ustaša atrocities committed against the Serbian population in the Slunj area. In Kordun formations he served as company commander, battalion commander, deputy brigade commander, chief of staff of a division and head of the Operations Department of the Fourth Corps and, finally, as commander of the Eighth Assault Division, with which, immediately before Victory Day, he took notable part in defeating the forces of the German 97th Corps in the Ilirska Bistrica area. He was seriously wounded three times during the war and a fourth time in the "war after the war," in August 1945, during his division's fighting against remnants of Ustaša forces, when he lost a leg. After the war he served, among other posts, as head of a department in the JNA Personnel Directorate, editor-in-chief of the journal *Vojni glasnik* and head of the Military Publishing Institute. His active service in the JNA ended in 1974. National Hero.

TERZIĆ VELIMIR (Srpska, Podgorica, 1908), Yugoslav Army captain, first class, JNA colonel-general. He avoided capture and participated in preparations for the July uprising in his native Zeta, from which point he was active in the National Liberation War. His wartime appointments included deputy commander of the Zeta Battalion in the Battle of Pljevlja, Chief of Staff of the Montenegrin-Sandžak Detachment and of the Main Staff of Montenegro, deputy commander of the Fifth Proletarian Brigade, Chief of Staff of the Fourth Operational Zone in Dalmatia, Deputy Chief of the Supreme Headquarters during the Neretva and Sutjeska epics and, holding the rank of major-general, Chief of the Main Staff of Croatia. From April 1944, holding the rank of lieutenant-general, he headed the Military Mission of the NOVJ in the Soviet Union and, from the end of that year, served as First Assistant Chief of the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff. After the war he was Assistant Minister of National Defence, army commander, first head of the Higher Military Academy from October 1948 and head of the Military History Institute. He published numerous studies and articles on military history and military art, including the two-volume work *The Collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941* (1984). His active service in the JNA ended in 1959.

TOMAC PETAR (Sušak, 1899), Yugoslav Army General Staff colonel, JNA major-general. Before the war he served, among other posts, as military attaché of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in Turkey. During the April War he was Chief of Staff of the Vardar Division. He joined the National Liberation War in 1944, having until then served as a colonel in staff appointments in the armed forces of the NDH while simultaneously remaining active in the National Liberation Movement organisation in Zagreb. His wartime

appointments in the NOVJ and Yugoslav Army (JA) included chief of staff of a division and head of the intelligence departments of the Eighth Corps, the Main Staff of Croatia and the Fourth Army during the Trieste Operation, where his broad education, experience in gathering information and ability to analyse the situation in the theatre were fully demonstrated. After the war, holding the rank of major-general, he served as head of the Intelligence Department at the Higher Military Academy, head of a department in the Military History Institute and deputy editor-in-chief of the first edition of the *Vojna enciklopedija* [*Military Encyclopaedia*]. He was an exceptionally prolific author in the fields of military history and operational and strategic military art. He wrote numerous works, above all encyclopaedia entries for the *Military Encyclopaedia*, each effectively a concise study in its own right, particularly in the fields of Partisan warfare and classical military thought. A great erudite, intellectually inquisitive, proficient in world languages, thorough in research and persistent in his work, he wrote and published numerous books, including *Četvrta neprijateljska ofanziva* [*The Fourth Enemy Offensive*] (1951), *Peta neprijateljska ofanziva* [*The Fifth Enemy Offensive*] (1953), *Vojna istorija* [*Military History*] (1959), *Francuski revolucionarni i Napoleonovi ratovi* [*The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars*] (1965), *Kosovska bitka* [*The Battle of Kosovo*] (1968), *Ratovi i armije XIX veka* [*Wars and Armies of the Nineteenth Century*] (1968) and *Prvi svetski rat* [*The First World War*] (1973). His active service in the JNA ended in 1959.

TOMŠIČ JANEZ (Postojna, 1909), Yugoslav Navy lieutenant commander, JNA rear admiral. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1943, serving as chief of staff and commander of a naval coastal sector. After the war he commanded the Yugoslav Navy fleet and rear services and later headed the Naval Training Centre. His active service in the JNA ended in 1964.

TRGOVČEVIĆ BOGDAN (Dereza, Pakrac, 1912), Yugoslav Army signals sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving, among other posts, as head of a corps signals section and commander of a signals brigade. After the war he served as commander of the signals arm of an army, head of the Signals Training Centre and head of a directorate in the JNA General Staff. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

TRNINIĆ MILAN (Komogovina, Kostajnica, 1918), Yugoslav Army sergeant, JNA major-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving, among other appointments, as battalion commander and chief of staff of a division. After the war he held senior posts in the commands of military districts and armies. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy. His active service in the JNA ended in 1969.

ĆETKOVIĆ PETAR Pero (Muževići, Cetinje, 1907), Yugoslav Army captain, first class, NOVJ major-general. At the beginning of his officer career he served, at his own request, in mountain units at Nevesinje. During the April War he commanded a mountain battalion in Gorski Kotar, where he was captured, but soon escaped from the transit

centre in Zagreb and reached his native region. During preparations for the uprising he served as a military instructor responsible for training young people. In the uprising he initially fought as an ordinary soldier and later became a military adviser. In the Montenegrin Detachment for Operations in the Sandžak he commanded the Lovćen Battalion of 341 fighters, with whom, during the night of 1 December 1941, he penetrated the headquarters of the Italian Alpine Division "Pusteria." Completely surrounded and subjected to machine-gun and artillery fire, he held out there for more than 24 hours, during which the Lovćen fighters and their commander displayed exceptional heroism and combat skill. At Rudo, on the day the First Proletarian Brigade was formed, he became commander of its First (Lovćen) Battalion, which he would lead for nine months. An experienced officer of mountain troops, unlike other commanders he preserved his men from freezing during the Igman March in January 1942, when temperatures fell to minus 32 degrees. As commander of the Durmitor forces, he successfully protected the withdrawal towards Zelengora of the main body of units under Supreme Headquarters command. His battalion played a key role in the capture of Livno on 5 August. As the first commander of the First Dalmatian Brigade he confirmed his outstanding personal and command qualities and, as the first commander of the Third Assault Division from 9 November 1942, achieved notable successes during the Battle of the Neretva, distinguishing himself through major victories over strong Italian forces at Prozor and the liberation of that town, the principal obstacle on the line of advance of the Operational Group of Divisions together with approximately 4,000 wounded and typhus patients. Fighting then followed in the Rama valley, on the Neretva and for Konjic, and a powerful counter-attack against the Germans near Gornji Vakuf, all undertaken to save the columns of wounded converging on the Prozor basin. During the counter-offensive eastwards from the Neretva, the division participated in defeating Italian and collaborationist forces, which, for its commander Pero Ćetković, culminated in the liberation of Nevesinje. Near this, the first garrison of his officer youth, he was mortally wounded on 28 March 1943 and soon died in the arms of his father and comrade Tomo and prominent Partisan commanders. For his major contribution to the development of the armed forces of the National Liberation Movement, he was posthumously promoted to NOVJ major-general. He remained a model of personal discipline, a courageous officer, an advocate of firm military discipline, a capable commander and a solicitous protector of the lives of his comrades. National Hero.

ĆURGUS LJUBIŠA (Risovac, Bosanski Petrovac, 1919), Yugoslav Army Air Force sergeant, JNA Air Force lieutenant-general and pilot. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving in commissarial posts from battalion level, through the First Air Base, to the 11th Fighter Division commanded by Arso Boljević. After the war he commanded an air division and corps and later became director of the Federal Civil Aviation Administration. He graduated from the Higher Air Force Military Academy and the War School. His active service in the JNA ended in 1977. His brother Mile, a Yugoslav Army Air Force captain, second class, spent the entire Second World War in prisoner-of-war camps in Germany, where he conducted himself courageously and patri-

otically and remained firmly committed to the National Liberation War. After the war he attained the rank of JNA pilot colonel.

UZELAC MILE (Crna Vlast, Karlovac, 1913), Yugoslav Army airborne-unit sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. During the April War he avoided capture and in his native region became the first commander of the "Ognjen Prica" Partisan Detachment. As a courageous and skilful commander, in November 1941 he became operations officer on the Staff of the Group of Detachments for Lika and later commander of the Second Brigade of the Sixth Lika Division. In May 1943 he became the division's Chief of Staff and 10 months later commander of the 20th Dalmatian Division. At the beginning of 1945 he became Chief of Staff of the 11th Corps, with which he participated in the final operations for the liberation of the country. After the war, following graduation from the M. V. Frunze Military Academy in the USSR, he commanded a Yugoslav Army (JA) division and corps and, after completing the Operational Art Course, served in the General Staff. His active service in the JNA ended in 1966. National Hero.

ULEPIČ ZDENKO (Ljubljana, 1906), Yugoslav Army Air Force major, JNA Air Force colonel-general and pilot. He participated in the National Liberation War from October 1943, having until then been held first in German and then in Italian captivity. Promoted to NOVJ lieutenant-colonel, he served as signals chief of the 31st Division and later as head of the Air Force Department of the Supreme Headquarters, from which post, in April 1944 and holding the rank of colonel, he was sent as a member of the NOVJ Military Mission to the USSR. After returning from Moscow he became Chief of Staff of the Group of Air Divisions. After the war he served as Chief of Staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force and as commander of the Air Force and Air Defence. He authored *Ratno vazduhoplovstva u Drugom svetskom ratu* [*The Air Force in the Second World War*] (1974). His active service in the JNA ended in 1966.

FILIPOVIĆ SULEJMAN (Glamoč, 1896), Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA major-general. An officer of the Austro-Hungarian Army, he was subsequently admitted to the army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. As a Home Guard colonel, from 1941 he co-operated with the leadership of the National Liberation Movement and, on the eve of the liberation of Tuzla at the beginning of October 1943, crossed over to the NOVJ with 10 officers and his entire unit, together with its weapons, an event reported to Moscow on 4 October. He received the rank of NOVJ general in recognition of services rendered to the National Liberation Movement. Otherwise, both during the National Liberation War and in the years of peace, he was engaged exclusively in the political life of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the "Second Yugoslavia."

HADŽI-POPOVIĆ LJUBIŠA (Prokuplje, 1884), Yugoslav Army engineer brigadier-general, Yugoslav Army major-general (JA). He spent the entire war in prisoner-of-war camps in Germany, for the longest period at Osnabrück, where, unlike the majority of the approximately 180 Yugoslav Army generals, he became active in the leadership of

the National Liberation Movement and maintained a militant and patriotic stance. After returning to the country, holding the rank of Yugoslav Army (JA) major-general, he headed a department in the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff. His active service ended in 1947.

HAMOVIĆ RADE (Stolac, 1916), Yugoslav Army lieutenant, JNA colonel-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as Chief of Staff of the Sarajevo Detachment, commander of the Kalinovik Detachment and an Operational Headquarters, Chief of Staff and then commander of the Tenth Herzegovinian Brigade, Chief of Staff of the 29th Division and, holding the rank of NOVJ major-general, of the Second Assault Corps, head of the Operations Department of the NOVJ General Staff and co-ordinator of the operations of the Yugoslav Army's (JA) First, Second and Third Armies during the final offensive for the liberation of the country, in operations extending from Podravina, Srem and Posavina to the Karawanks. From 6 May 1943 he was a member of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters and, during negotiations at the Red Army General Staff in January and February 1945 concerning the armament of 30 Yugoslav Army (JA) divisions, served as deputy head of the Military Delegation. After the war he headed a directorate in the General Staff and, holding the rank of Yugoslav Army (JA) colonel-general, commanded the Zagreb Army, served as Chief of the JNA General Staff from 1961 to 1967 and headed the Main Inspectorate of the Armed Forces of the SFRY. He completed the highest levels of military education. He published several works on military art and the history of the National Liberation War and directed the Yugoslav section of the editorial board responsible for the study Beogradska operacija [*The Belgrade Operation*] (Belgrade-Moscow, 1964). His active service in the JNA ended in 1969. National Hero.

ČELEBIĆ SAVO (Štitari, Cetinje, 1879), captain in the Montenegrin Army, JNA major-general. He participated in the 1941 uprising and served as military adviser to the Staff of the Lovćen National Liberation Partisan Detachment. Throughout 1942 and until October 1943 he was held captive in Italy, where he was one of the leaders of the National Liberation Movement organisation in the camps, subsequently becoming an organiser of efforts to gather supporters of the National Liberation War on Italian soil. From Italy he brought to the Yugoslav theatre the First of five Overseas Brigades, composed of Yugoslav Army personnel dispersed throughout the Mediterranean, prisoners of war and former Italian citizens originating from Istria and the Slovene Littoral. In recognition of his contribution to the development of the National Liberation War, he was promoted to NOVJ major-general. His active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) ended in 1946.

ČERNI JOSIP (Maribor, 1903), Yugoslav Navy corvette captain, JNA admiral. From 1941 until September 1943 he collaborated with the National Liberation Movement and thereafter participated in the National Liberation War as Chief of Staff of the Littoral Operational Zone of the Main Staff of Slovenia. Holding the rank of colonel and,

soon afterwards, major-general, he commanded the NOVJ Navy, alongside Commissar Colonel Dragiša Ivanović. He continued in that post during the first years of peace and subsequently served as Assistant Chief of the General Staff, commander of the Yugoslav Navy Squadron and head of the Naval Technical Institute. He completed the highest levels of military education. He authored *Uloga i zadaci savremene mornarice* [*The Role and Tasks of the Modern Navy*] (1949). His active service in the JNA ended in 1960.

ŠVARA DUŠAN (Rakitnik, Postojna, 1918), Yugoslav Navy sergeant, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1941 until the end of the war, serving as commander of a battalion, detachment, brigade and division. After the war he served as assistant commander of a military district, president of the Permanent Examination Commission for promotion to major and commander of an army's rear services. He graduated from the Higher Military Academy and completed the Operational Art Course. His active service in the JNA ended in 1970.

ŠKORPIK JOSIP (Třešť, Czechoslovakia, 1892), Yugoslav Army colonel, JNA lieutenant-general. He participated in the National Liberation War from 1942, serving as Chief of Staff of the Fourth Operational Zone and the Ninth Dalmatian Division, commandant of the Officers' School and subsequently commander of the rear services of the Main Staff of Croatia. He later headed the Mobilisation Department of the NOVJ Supreme Headquarters and subsequently of the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff. After the war he held senior appointments in the General Staff and Ministry of Defence. His active service in the JNA ended in 1955.

Part Three
HEROES OF THE APRIL WAR

The sixth of April 1941 — two weeks before Easter...

A day on which, at dawn, the sudden and brutal retaliatory aggression against the Kingdom of Yugoslavia began, carried out under Hitler's directive entitled "Undertaking 25." It was launched from every frontier except that with allied Greece, from the territories of six states, five of which, united in the Nazi-Fascist Tripartite Pact, had territorial claims against the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

From the north came the Wehrmacht's Second Army and from the east its Twelfth Army; from Albania came the Italian Ninth Army and from Istria the Italian Second Army, reinforced by forces brought from overseas; all were supported by Hungarian and Bulgarian operational formations.

Caught by surprise by the aggression, the Yugoslav Army, numbering approximately 800,000 officers, NCOs and soldiers, was organised into 28 infantry and three cavalry divisions, four air brigades and four torpedo divisions, accompanied by numerous supporting and auxiliary formations. Its largest component by far, the Land Forces, was entirely devoid of armoured and mechanised units and, to a considerable extent, of urgently needed air support. Alongside it, as reinforcement and support, stood the Air Force, which had been fully mobilised and ready for combat for a month, and the Navy, which was essentially unprepared for war. All these forces faced the assault of 52 of the aggressors' 83 prepared ground-force divisions, supported by 1,870 of the 2,236 aircraft prepared for the operation, including 940 bombers, 730 fighters, 200 reconnaissance aircraft and others, operating from airfields in Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and Italy. Yet this represented only a portion, albeit by far the largest, of the approximately two million troops and 2,500 tanks concentrated along the Yugoslav frontiers or in their immediate rear areas.

Given this balance of forces — 1:2 in ground-force divisions and 1:6 in aircraft (a comparison of aircraft quality would have been incomparably more unfavourable to the victim of the aggression) — even military forces vastly stronger than the Yugoslav Army, and states economically wealthier, better organised and more cohesive than the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, could not have withstood the aggression of what was then the world's most powerful armed force. They would not have endured even those 10 or so days of wartime agony. Indeed, long before this, neither Poland nor France had endured, to say nothing of another 10 or so smaller European states which the Wehrmacht, through the ruthless application of the principle of "Blitzkrieg," had crushed one after another before driving the British Expeditionary Force back across the English Channel and seriously threatening England with invasion.

German armoured and mechanised spearheads, advancing along two axes from Bulgaria into Macedonia and still receiving powerful air support, would spend the night of 7 April in Skopje and that of 9 April in Debar, while those advancing from the north would reach Zagreb on 10 April, Belgrade on 12 April, Sarajevo on 15 April and Podgorica on 17 April.

On the eleventh day of the wartime drama of the state and its army, the unconditional

capitulation of the victim of aggression was signed in Belgrade. The objectives of the aggression against the Kingdom of Yugoslavia had thereby been achieved: the country was occupied and its army shattered; the Serbian people were punished for 27 March; conditions were created for an advance into Greece and the expulsion of British forces from that country, thereby preventing the establishment of a new Salonika Front and destroying our southern neighbour, which had been successfully waging war against Italy.

As regards what occurred between 6 and 17 April — the kingdom's and its army's ten-day wartime Golgotha — seemingly everything has been said and, moreover, repeatedly written. Such accounts have invariably begun with the politically and sectarianly motivated, militarily unfounded judgements advanced by profoundly incompetent individuals as early as May 1941 in Zagreb, while wounds were still open and emotions still inflamed: allegations of unpreparedness and incompetence, capitulationism and treason, cowardice and the mass surrender of the Yugoslav Army officer corps to the occupier, particularly among officers of higher rank and above all the generals, even though, with two exceptions, the divisions were commanded by sons of the Serbian people, veterans of the Salonika Front.

More than six decades have passed, yet this assessment — in many respects unfounded and inaccurate, politically calculated and callous — has not been substantially revised on the basis of new research in domestic, Allied and enemy archives, at least not to the knowledge of the wider public. Testimonies have gone unheard, heroes unmentioned and the protagonists themselves have passed into memory. As a result — with the exception of the heroic exploits of some 20 pilots, almost exclusively defenders of Belgrade, 11 of whom gave their lives, and the heroic deed of two naval lieutenants in the Bay of Tivat — the courage and sacrifice for the freedom and honour of the fatherland of 135 aircrew and 576 other members of the Army Air Force, dozens of sailors and hundreds of members of the Land Forces have been consigned to silence. These were predominantly officers and NCOs who, amid that bloody maelstrom, courageously and responsibly did everything they could, as professional soldiers and patriots, under conditions of an all-out assault upon their country, giving their lives in determined armed resistance to the forces of oppression. Now — six decades later — only 29 from the long list of those who rightfully deserve a place in history, school readers and collective memory have received the highest decoration for wartime valour: two air-force generals, 26 serving officers and NCO pilots and one river-monitor commander. There remains hope that further decrees of the President of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro will follow, decorating the heroes of the April War. Such hope is also warranted by the fact that the Association for the Preservation of Aviation Traditions alone, acting with considerable dedication, submitted to the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia 118 well-substantiated candidates for decorations from the ranks of the Army Air Force, while the other two branches of the armed forces likewise have their exemplary heroes. In this way — albeit greatly belatedly and only partially — one of the greatest injustices in the 125-year history of the armed forces of the old European states of Serbia and Montenegro might be rectified. The reasons and explanation for this injustice may perhaps also lie in the fact that, in the intervening period, we lived in several different states and under several different regimes.

Winged Men over the Fatherland

The Army Air Force entered the April War with 1,349 serving officers and 430 aircraft of various types and purposes, of which 330 belonged to the Operational Air Force (142 fighters, 147 bombers and 11 long-range photographic reconnaissance and bombing aircraft), organised into four air brigades (one fighter, one bomber and two mixed brigades, comprising 30 combat squadrons in total), while 100 aircraft belonged to Army Aviation. The discussion here will concern only the Operational Air Force — justifiably also described as the "first-line combat aircraft" — which, during the 10 days of war, carried out 1,416 combat sorties (993 fighter and 423 bomber sorties). By contrast, the performance of Army Aviation, dispersed among eight reconnaissance groups assigned to the field armies and equipped with older aircraft intended primarily for reconnaissance and liaison duties, went largely unnoticed.

At the outbreak of war, Air Force personnel numbered approximately 50,000, including 2,000 pilots, predominantly serving officers and NCOs, and 20,700 members of other branches and services, while the remainder consisted of conscripts then performing their compulsory military service and mobilised reservists.

The Air Force was activated, mobilised and deployed to 23 wartime airfields on 12 March 1941 and, some 10 days later, placed on full alert, thereby being "positioned forward as the first shield in defence of the fatherland." This contrasted with the Land Forces and Navy which, under War Plan R-41, had not yet been mobilised, much less prepared for war. Moreover, part of the Air Force had effectively already been at war for several months. Thus, two squadrons of the Sixth Fighter Regiment, assigned to the defence of Belgrade, had spent five months on genuine combat duties, having been redeployed immediately after the Italian bombing of Bitola on 5 November 1940. One, equipped with Hurricanes, was stationed near Bakarno Gumno on the Prilep-Bitola road, while No. 102 Squadron, equipped with Me 109E aircraft, was based at Jasenice airfield near the source of the Buna outside Mostar. The latter — as the leader of its pilots, Captain Mihajlo Nikolić, put it — was "standing a death watch," charged with monitoring and protecting the coastal airspace from the Bay of Kotor to Split, while maintaining a permanent detachment of two aircraft at Ćemovsko Polje airfield near Podgorica. The squadron remained on this assignment until 5 April 1941 when — as circumstances would have it, only a day before the outbreak of war — it returned to Belgrade for the mandatory overhaul of its engines after 100 hours of operation. The fact that, amid the dramatic circumstances of war, their aircraft would never undergo this urgently needed overhaul did not prevent the pilots of the legendary No. 102 Squadron from entering a terrifying clash with Luftwaffe formations over Belgrade the very next day, thereby entering history, popular memory and legend.

In fact, the frontier battalions had begun to shed blood considerably earlier than the pilots — as much as two hours before the end of 5 April. They formed a specialised component of the Yugoslav Army comprising 309 officers and 7,922 NCOs and soldiers. The first to come under attack were the frontier guards at the Vič salient near Dravograd, where the vanguard of the Wehrmacht's Second Army, battle-hardened during the

conquest of France the previous year, launched its assault. At approximately the same time, the elite "Brandenburg" Regiment struck from Bulgarian territory between Kriva Palanka and Tsarevo Selo as the vanguard of the Twelfth Army. Resistance continued against a German surprise attack at Sip on the Danube and then, in succession, during the night preceding 6 April, at other positions along the 3,000-kilometre land frontier, with the exception of the border with allied Greece.

Correcting this misconception concerning the actual beginning of the April War — which has long and persistently been said to have caught the country by surprise at dawn on 6 April — would certainly not enhance the already high assessment of the frontier guards' courageous and resolute conduct on the borders of the fatherland, nor would it lessen the sorrow for the hundreds of casualties who fell before the official beginning of the war. Nor, certainly, would it diminish the glory of the airmen who, at first light on that Sunday morning, courageously confronted the aggressor head-on. There were, of course, exceptions, of which less will be said here.

At 4:45, the aerial battle began to protect the airfields in the Kumanovo and Skopje area, and at 6:30 the battle for the defence of the capital, Belgrade, commenced...

Thus began the German air operation "Punishment," conducted within the framework of Hitler's Directive "Undertaking 25" for the Wehrmacht's attack on the Kingdom of Yugoslavia without a declaration of war — intended "above all, to punish Serbia in exemplary fashion" for the coup of 27 March. Through this "act of insurrection," the Serbian people had repudiated the recently signed pact with the Axis powers, namely the Tripartite Pact, in which the Führer perceived "an act of humiliation of the great German nation" and of himself personally. He therefore ordered that "Yugoslavia be destroyed militarily and as a state." To that end, as already noted, he unleashed upon it 52 German, Mussolinian and Horthyist divisions, predominantly motorised and mechanised, supported by 1,870 aircraft operating from airfields at Graz, Szeged, Arad, Sofia, Shkodra, Foggia and Zadar, as well as by the powerful naval fleet of Yugoslavia's western neighbour.

The objectives of the German air operations were the destruction of Belgrade and several other cities, the destruction of Yugoslav Army aircraft on their airfields and support for Wehrmacht divisions advancing deep into the country. It should be stated at once that these objectives were achieved, even more rapidly and successfully than Hitler had expected, wary as he was of the heirs of the renowned Serbian Army of the battles at the beginning of the First World War and on the Salonika Front.

Upon receiving news that a dense Luftwaffe formation had crossed the frontier from Bulgaria, 13 fighters of the 36th Group of the Fifth Fighter Regiment took off from the wartime airfield at Režanovačka Kosa near Kumanovo, which had been occupied on 12 March following their transfer from Niš. Flying Hawker Fury fighters, the pilots resolutely entered combat with what proved to be 21 German Messerschmitt aircraft of the latest series. Thus began the first aerial engagement over Yugoslav territory in the Second World War.

The heroes were the pilots of the 111th and 112th Fighter Squadrons, led by their commanders, Captains First Class Vojislav Popović and Konstantin Jermakov. Each squadron had seven aircraft. Following their commanders into the air were Lieutenants

Milorad Tanasić and Žika Stepanović, Second Lieutenants Oleg Kurganski and Milutin Perović and Sergeants Milorad Radević, Ratomir Rale Milojević, Veroljub Stojadinović, Jefta Arsić, Vojislav Milutinović and Svetozar Janjušević...

Most of the pilots, in their haste to get into their aircraft and enter battle against the "Messers" as quickly as possible, did not even have time to dress and equip themselves properly. They simply climbed into their aircraft and took off.

A determined battle developed to repel the attack and, in particular, to protect 30 Dornier Do 17 Ka bombers of the Third Air Regiment at Petrovac airfield near Skopje, which, through the betrayal of their commander Colonel Zdenko Gorjup, had been abandoned to the worst possible wartime fate.

In that aerial duel over Režanovačka Kosa, which certainly lasted no more than 20 minutes, eight fighter pilots were killed, including the commanders of both fighter squadrons, Captains Popović and Jermakov, each of whom shot down a Messerschmitt. Survivors at the scene later related how Captain Vojislav Popović, having exhausted his ammunition, hurled himself at a massive Me 110, the twin-engined fighter known as the "Destroyer," and rammed it at full force, an action known in air-force terminology as "aircraft-to-aircraft ramming involving deliberate self-sacrifice." Inspired by his commander's example, Lieutenant Milorad Tanasić, after shooting down one aircraft and likewise exhausting his ammunition, directed his Fury into an enemy aircraft, and in the horrific collision both pilots and aircraft were destroyed. Fighter pilots Popović and Tanasić, while carrying out their first wartime mission, consciously sacrificed themselves in order to maximise their combat effect. Both have now, by the decree already mentioned, been proclaimed knights in the defence of the fatherland's skies.

In addition to Captains Popović and Jermakov and Lieutenant Tanasić, the following pilots of the 36th Fighter Group were killed in defence of the wider Kumanovo area: Second Lieutenant Milutin Perović and Sergeants Jefta Arsić, Ratomir Rale Milojević and Veroljub Stojadinović, while Milorad Radević, shot down and seriously wounded over Režanovačka Kosa, later died in hospital at Gnjilane.

Six pilots and only one aircraft survived the fierce aerial engagement over Režanovačka Kosa — that of the group commander, Major Drago Brezovšek, who reached the scene of the wartime catastrophe that had befallen the personnel of the two squadrons under his command three hours later, having been visiting his wife in Niš.

The surviving pilots could testify to the heroism of their comrades, who had shot down four German aircraft but lost 12 of their own. Two of the survivors, to their regret, had been unable to take off and could only watch their comrades' ordeal in the air from the ground: the aircraft of Reserve Second Lieutenant Pilot Stanislav Džodžović caught fire before take-off and burned on the runway, while Sergeant Bogdan Rašić's aircraft happened to be undergoing routine overhaul in Niš. Fifty-five years later, Džodžović would provide a faithful account of the bloody mêlée over Režanovačka Kosa in his book *Na krilima* [*On Wings*].

In addition to Džodžović and Rašić, five other pilots from those two squadrons survived the terrible clash over Režanovačka Kosa and towards Bujanovac: Lieutenant Žika Stepanović, who, after serving in the JNA Air Force, died in Belgrade; Reserve Second

Lieutenant Oleg Kurganski, wounded in an aerial engagement near Bujanovac and later a medical graduate in emigration; Sergeant Vojislav Milutinović, who crashed during the battle over the airfield and broke both arms, then reached relatives in Skopje, where he recovered, and later joined the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland, in whose ranks he was killed in 1944; Sergeant Svetozar Janjušević, who landed by parachute, although nothing further was learned of his fate; and Sergeant Stevan Ladar, who was badly injured in the fire that followed his forced landing but survived and "died of natural causes long after the end of the war." Pilots Džodžović and Rašić both lived to old age, the latter graduating in archaeology and becoming a respected curator at the Military Museum on Kalemegdan.

From the Fifth Fighter Regiment, Captain First Class fighter pilot Oto Sep, commander of the 110th Squadron in the 35th Group, was also killed on a combat mission while flying from Kosančić towards Kraljevo. He fell on 9 April during a "combat encounter" with an Me 109 near the village of Dulane close to Rekovac, where he found his final resting place.

The remains of the airmen killed in the south-eastern theatre were buried in a common grave on the outskirts of Kumanovo, with a prominent inscription on the white-marble monument stating that they had fallen "in the struggle against the German fascist invader" in the area of that city and its "immediate surroundings." The common monument, erected "in recognition of their selfless struggle," bears the names of the courageous comrades-in-arms: Colonel Ferdo Gradišnik, Captains First Class Vojislav Popović and Konstantin Jermakov, Lieutenants Živomir Petrović, Milorad Tanasić, Janićije Korać and Rastislav Pešić, Second Lieutenant Milutin Perović and Sergeants Ratomir Milojević, Veroljub Stojadinović and Jefta Arsić. The monument to these airmen — killed there on the first and following three days of the war in defence of the fatherland and the honour of the air force, and thereafter remaining forever on guard over freedom — was erected by "members of the Skopje Air Garrison and the Kumanovo Association of Veterans of the National Liberation War."

And the commander of the 36th Air Group, Major fighter pilot Drago Brezovšek, who did not share the fate of his subordinates over Režanovačka Kosa, met the end in 1942 that might alone have been expected of him — as a pilot of a Luftwaffe Stuka, in combat against the forces of the anti-fascist coalition in North Africa, under the command of Hitler's Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, known as the "Desert Fox."

Meanwhile, a strong enemy bomber formation, escorted by fighters, approached Petrovac airfield near Skopje and within moments destroyed 26 Dornier aircraft of the Third Bomber Regiment on the ground. Only one man was killed: a reserve second lieutenant observer from Kruševac, whose name has thus far remained unknown.

Upon receiving word that dense German air formations, flying over Banat, were approaching Belgrade, the 51st Group of the Sixth Fighter Regiment took off from Zemun airfield to intercept them at 6:30. The squadrons did so on the orders of the regimental commander, Lieutenant-Colonel pilot Božidar Kostić, who would direct the defence of Belgrade throughout and, during the afternoon of the first day of the war, personally enter the aerial fighting, shooting down two German aircraft that day and the next. Thus the 51st Air Group took off on its first wartime mission, the defence of the capital. Its

commander was Major Romeo Adum, who would shortly afterwards, at the gravest moment, betray his comrades and dishonour his officer's oath.

The 102nd, 161st and 162nd Fighter Squadrons took off immediately, led by their commanders, Captains First Class Miloš Žunjić, Todor Gogić and Savo Poljanec, with their wingmen Sergeants Đorđe Stojanović, Milisav Semiz and Dušan Vujičić, followed, as each could reach his aircraft, by pilots Dušan Borčić, Mihajlo Nikolić and Vladimir Puzić, with wingmen Edo Banfić, Miodrag Bošković and Vukadin Jelić...

Squadron commander Žunjić, setting a powerful example to his pilots during the aerial fighting to protect the skies over Belgrade, shot down a Heinkel He 111, but was himself forced to bail out. While descending beneath his parachute canopy, he was cowardly shot by the Germans and fell into the River Tamiš in Banat. Captain Savo Poljanec — who in the mid-1930s had been a member of the celebrated aerobatic team that also included Ercigonja and Lekić — likewise proved himself in combat and confirmed his standing as an ace, but was seriously wounded. Captain Second Class Mihajlo Nikolić Kajle, the squadron's chief pilot, shot down two aircraft but was wounded; after receiving medical treatment, despite the objections of his commander and doctors, he rejoined the defenders of the capital.

The 32nd Group of the Sixth Fighter Regiment also entered the battle for the defence of Belgrade from Prnjavor airfield near Krušedol. It was commanded by Major Danilo Đorđević, who was among the first to enter combat, intercepting with his fighters the aggressor's aircraft approaching from Hungary down the Danube. The commanders of the 103rd, 104th and 142nd Squadrons also took off: Captains First Class Ilija Vlajić, Borivoje Marković and Milutin Grozdanović, the latter with his wingman Miodrag Aleksić, followed by Captain Milisav Velikić with his wingman Ivo Rahak. They were followed by Captains Krsto Lakićević, Svetozar Konstantinović and Radoslav Stamenković, and Lieutenants Vasa Kolarov and Jovan Kapešić. With them were Lieutenants Otmar Lajh and Vojan Presečnik, and Sergeants Vladimir Gorup and Dragoljub Milošević. They intercepted the German squadrons over Inđija and blocked their route towards Belgrade.

On 6 April alone, the 32nd Fighter Group flew 90 sorties and lost five pilots and 12 of its own 30 aircraft, while shooting down 17 German aircraft. Six decades later, from this air group — alongside regimental commander Božidar Kostić and most of the pilots of the 51st Group, which included the legendary 102nd Squadron — the following were proclaimed knights of the defence of the fatherland: Captain First Class Milutin Grozdanović, who was seriously wounded on landing after two officially confirmed victories, survived the war and died in Belgrade in 1995, and Lieutenants Vasa Kolarov, Jovan Kapešić and Miodrag Aleksić, all of whom were killed on that mission.

Captain Second Class Živica Mitrović, a fighter pilot of the 101st Squadron commanded by Captain First Class Kosta Lekić and belonging to the Second Fighter Regiment deployed to wartime airfields in the heart of Šumadija, also joined the defence of Belgrade. Having replaced a colleague, he was leading a fighter pair assigned to reconnaissance and the interception of German spy aircraft when, on seeing the aerial battle over the capital, he and his wingman plunged unbidden into a formation of some 30 German aircraft. He soon lost his wingman, Reserve Lieutenant pilot Dragutin Bojović,

who, though seriously wounded, managed to bail out of his burning aircraft and land on the slopes of Bežanijska Kosa. Captain Živica Mitrović, the renowned leading graduate of the First Fighter School in Pančevo, instead of disengaging from the battle after being left alone, as the rules of aerial combat required, continued fighting. He faced some 10 Stukas and their Messerschmitt escorts under extremely difficult circumstances. He shot down one Stuka and two Messerschmitts before meeting a heroic death above Krčedin in Srem. In the President's decree, Captain Mitrović now stands first — first among equals. Such, too, he had been in life. His wingman Dragutin Bojović, nephew of Field Marshal Petar Bojović, a reserve lieutenant and aeronautical engineer, was also decorated, having shot down one German aircraft before resorting to his parachute.

Let us repeat it so that it may be remembered longer: from the two groups of the Sixth Fighter Regiment, 10 pilots were killed in the Belgrade air-defence zone: Miloš Žunjić, Dušan Borčić, Miho Klavora, Milutin Petrović, Dobrica Novaković, Karlo Štrbenk, Milivoje Bošković, Jovan Kapešić, Branislav Todorović and Vladimir Gorup, while Živica Mitrović was killed from the Second Fighter Regiment. Wherever they fell in the districts of Srem, Banat and Bačka, their remains were generally buried there, in clearly marked graves preserved with respect. The same applies to the final resting places of their comrades at the New Cemetery and other cemeteries in Belgrade. There can be little doubt that it was due to their efforts, and those of their surviving comrades, that Belgrade did not suffer even greater casualties and destruction, although what occurred was itself horrific: in 10 bombing raids carried out over three days of war, 620 bombers escorted by 300 fighters dropped 440 tonnes of high-explosive bombs on the city, including 1,000-kilogram parachute-retarded aerial mines, then one of Germany's secret weapons. It is estimated, however, that the "winged men" over Belgrade, as members of an "energetic, self-sacrificing and courageous defence," prevented Marshal Göring's aerial raiders from dropping at least another 40 tonnes of high-explosive bombs on the capital.

In the fighting for the defence of Belgrade, the Sixth Fighter Regiment lost 12 of its own aircraft on 6 April alone, but shot down 17 German aircraft. Following the figures given in the citations accompanying the names in the decree awarding the Order of the Knightly Sword, First Class, we record how many aircraft each decorated pilot of that regiment shot down — mainly on 6 April — "in the Belgrade air-defence zone": Lieutenant-Colonel Božidar Kostić, two; Captains First Class Miloš Žunjić and Milutin Grozdanović, one each; Todor Gogić and Miho Klavora, two each; Captain First Class Mihajlo Nikolić, two; Lieutenants Vasa Kolarov and Miodrag Aleksić, two each; Second Lieutenants Dušan Borčić, Miodrag Bošković and Jovan Kapešić, two each; Reserve Lieutenant Dragutin Bojović, one; Sergeants Milisav Semiz, four, Đorđe Stojanović, three, and Vukadin Jelić, one. Of those decorated, the following survived the Battle of Belgrade: Božidar Kostić, who died in Switzerland in 1982; Milutin Grozdanović, who survived the severe injuries sustained on 7 April and died in Belgrade in 1995; Miodrag Bošković, who lives in Australia; Miodrag Aleksić, killed in 1943 while attempting to escape from a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy; Todor Gogić, killed in 1945 as a colonel of the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland; Mihajlo Nikolić, who died in 1999 holding the rank of reserve major-general of the Yugoslav Army; Milisav Semiz, killed after the war

in a traffic accident; Đorđe Stojanović, who died in Belgrade in 2001; Vukadin Jelić, who lives in the United States; and Vasa Kolarov, killed at the end of 1944 as a captain of the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland.

We should also record the names of pilots of the Sixth Fighter Regiment who "did not come up for" decoration, although each shot down one aircraft: Edo Banfić, Milisav Velikić, Vladimir Gorup, Ilija Vlajić, Milan Žunić, Đorđe Kešeljević, Stevan Krajinović, Borivoje Marković, Dobrica Novaković, Savo Poljanec, Bojan Presečnik, Milan Stojanović...

Like their comrades from Režanovačka Kosa, all demonstrated a high level of professional preparation for aerial combat in pairs, in contrast to German pilots, whose advantage lay in their training for collective formation tactics.

So much for the fighter pilots who defended Belgrade.

On 6 April, Colonel pilot Petar Vukčević, commander of the Fourth Bomber Brigade, personally led a group of five Savoia-Marchetti bombers of the 66th Group of the Seventh Bomber Regiment from Pranjani airfield near Čačak to attack targets in the Shkodra area. A recipient of the Obilić Medal and the Order of the Karađorđe Star for his service in the wars of 1912–1918, he was, in the words of Petar Bosnić, "an honourable man and a brilliant officer." Not only was he under no obligation to fly combat missions; under the rules of combat, as so senior a commander, he was not even supposed to do so. The same, "except in exceptional situations," applied to regimental commanders, so their very decision to enter combat by air was in itself an act of heroism. During the bombing of the airfield in the Shkodra area, Colonel Vukčević conducted himself heroically, as he did the following day while bombing German columns hurrying towards Kačanik. On 13 April, by order of Army General Dušan Simović, he assumed temporary command of the Air Force because General Borivoje Mirković had flown to Nikšić to establish an "air bridge" with Greece. Assisted by the exemplary operations officer, Air Force General Staff Lieutenant-Colonel Andrija Pavlović, he assembled pilots and aircraft at Mostar and transferred them to Kapino Polje near Nikšić, from where he directed the evacuation of the government, politicians and coup participants and dispatched aircraft crews towards Greece. In this way he carried out the operation known as the "Air Bridge." It should also not be forgotten that Colonel Vukčević, together with Field Marshal Petar Bojović and Prince Đorđe Karađorđević, was one of the only men who resolutely refused the proposal that he too leave the fatherland by aircraft. Sharing the fate of thousands of Yugoslav Army officers, he, together with some 30,000 other Air Force personnel, fell into German captivity.

In German prison camps he conducted himself courageously and patriotically, and at the end of the war, by personal choice, remained in emigration in Switzerland, where he died in Zurich in 1976, remaining inwardly loyal to the fatherland throughout his life. His personal choice — his refusal to live under communist rule — resulted in his being deprived of citizenship, like other "officers and NCOs of the former Yugoslav Army who refuse to return to the fatherland." This was presumably also why his name went unmentioned for decades except in occasional publications by airmen. At last, however, by decree of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and 61 years after the war in which

he had been one of those who made history, he posthumously received the recognition he deserved from the fatherland: the Order of the Knightly Sword, First Class.

From Belgrade, more precisely from the Air Force Base at Zemun, some 60 volunteers went to war on the day before the massacre of the capital — pupils from Belgrade secondary schools, most of them final-year grammar-school students and qualified pilots trained in aero clubs. Organised into the Volunteer Youth Air Battalion, modelled on the legendary Serbian student corporals, they went straight from their school desks to the aircraft and, dressed in Air Force uniforms bearing corporal's insignia, climbed into Breguet 19s, Potez 25s and light liaison and training aircraft, flying to an auxiliary airfield near Lazarevac. There, on 7 April, they were "visited" by a group of some 50 Stukas, which destroyed all their aircraft except a single Bücker biplane. After this dramatic baptism of fire they set out southwards on foot, sustained by the hope that they would soon be given better aircraft and enjoy greater fortune in war. They reached Bileća, where the capitulation of the army and an "order to disperse" overtook them. Some, after being captured several times along the way, returned to their school desks, while many others became prisoners of war. Some 20 of them, after the liberation of Belgrade, would fly genuine combat aircraft, Yaks and Shturmoviks, and take part in supporting the final offensive for the definitive liberation of the country. Most of the others entered military aviation schools and later became an important factor in the development of the Air Force.

On the eve of the April War, Belgrade was also left by the passenger fleet of Aeroput, which included 10 then-modern Lockheed Electra A airliners. Under War Plan R-41, the fleet had important tasks and was therefore redeployed to Divci airfield near Valjevo. During the transfer, a number of Lockheeds were destroyed, while several were burned at Divci or crashed during flights to Greece. Thus only two Lockheeds, which happened to be abroad at the time, survived that wartime ordeal; from there they would fly to the Middle East and serve in a RAF formation.

During the April War, parachute escape from damaged or burning aircraft was employed in dozens of critical situations in the air. In fact, the very limited documentation and the research findings of Stojan Jović indicate 24 cases of successful rescue by parachute, amounting to slightly more than 18 per cent of the number of aircrew killed. Among those who landed by parachute were Captains Miloš Žunjić and Danilo Grbić, Lieutenant Dragutin Bojović and the crew of a Blenheim returning from a mission over Hungary — Captains Radomir Lazarević and Milutin Petrović and Sergeant Ilija Marković.

On the first day of the war, the pilots of the Independent Fighter Squadron also entered aerial combat. Operating from Kosor airfield near Mostar and Ćemovsko Polje near Podgorica, and equipped with three Me 109 E-3s, two Hurricane Mk Is and two BH-33s, the squadron opposed enemy aircraft flying from airfields in southern Italy. Its commander, Captain Second Class Danilo Grbić, leading a Hurricane patrol, and his wingman Milan Delić severely damaged a bomber in their first engagement. The next day, after sighting a bomber formation flying over Mostar towards Sarajevo, Grbić "took off in pursuit" without orders. Alone in his Hurricane, he engaged two German pilots escorting the bombers. The encounter took place above Boračko Lake. In this unequal battle

he was mortally wounded. He bailed out of his riddled and burning aircraft and died on his native soil above Trnovo. Surviving German records show that he was shot down by Lieutenant Hans Beisswenger.

On 6 April, while defending Podgorica from the air and flying as wingman to Second Lieutenant Milenko Milivojević, Sergeant Đorđe Cvetković Ciga fired bursts from his BH-33 at the pilots of the attacking formations. Residents of Podgorica watched Lieutenant Milivojević fall in his stricken aircraft, while the sergeant reportedly destroyed a Messerschmitt in a head-on collision. Budimir Potočan wrote of this in a serial published in *Politika* in April 2001: "When he could see no other way out, Ciga chose a direct collision between his BH-33 and the enemy aircraft, thereby deliberately sacrificing himself and choosing a heroic death." The accounts of Podgorica residents cannot in every respect be confirmed by wartime archival records, but Sergeant Cvetković was a hero by virtue of the very fact that he took off in his completely obsolete BH-33 fighter and entered combat against the enemy's latest-generation aircraft. The remains of both these heroes, Second Lieutenant Milivojević and Sergeant Cvetković, rest in the cemetery of the city on the Ribnica.

From Davidovac airfield near Paraćin, the 61st Group of the First Bomber Regiment took off with 11 aircraft and, under the leadership of the regimental commander, Colonel Ferdo Gradišnik, attacked Wehrmacht troops advancing towards Kriva Palanka and then German airfields around Sofia, while the 62nd Group, also comprising 11 aircraft and operating from an airfield near Bijeljina, bombed columns advancing from Romania. The following day both groups attacked German columns along the Kyustendil-Kriva Palanka-Kumanovo axis and, at dawn on the third day of the war, surprised a German column near Stracin "some 10 kilometres long." Commander Gradišnik flew in Blenheims accompanied by pilot Captains First Class Branko Glumac and Đorđe Stefanović. During a very low-level bombing attack, his aircraft was hit and disabled, while Gradišnik, acting as observer, was mortally wounded. He nevertheless managed to signal to the pilot to direct the aircraft, at the last moment, into German tanks. The regimental commander's exploit was matched by Captain First Class Nikola Ivančević, commander of the regiment's 204th Bomber Squadron. Other airmen likewise attacked until their last bomb or final drop of fuel was expended. Among those killed were Sergeant Major Živan Jovanović, pilot of Gradišnik's bomber, Fourth Class military official and pilot Vasilije Mirović, pilots and observers Lieutenant Đorđe Stefanović and Vladimir Kinka, and Junior Sergeant Slobodan Đorđević...

After three days of war, only 12 serviceable aircraft remained from the entire First Bomber Regiment. Following Colonel Gradišnik's death, command of the regiment was assumed by Major Krsto Lozić, commander of the 62nd Group. Unfortunately, the regiment's wartime fate remained harsh to the end: on the sixth day of the war, owing to losses in combat and especially on the ground, only two Blenheims took off for Podgorica, and both were destroyed during that transfer flight.

From the beginning of the war, the 64th Group of the Third Bomber Regiment, commanded by Major Branko Fanedl and comprising the 208th, 209th and 210th Squadrons, conducted highly successful bombing attacks against a German column sev-

eral kilometres long advancing from Kyustendil towards Kriva Palanka. The squadrons were led on these missions by their commanders, Captains First Class Simo Mijušković, Dušan Milojević and Vojislav Grujić. On 12 April we find this bomber group at the reserve airfield at Dobrić near Užička Požega, to which it had transferred from Uroševac. That day, on its final wartime mission and with only eight aircraft still serviceable, it bombed German columns along the Jagodina-Kragujevac axis, losing its fearless commander, Major Fanedl, as well as Captain First Class Nikola Teofilov and mechanic Sergeant Franjo Ribić.

That same day, Captain First Class fighter pilot Velimir Veličković, an intelligence officer from the staff of the Fifth Fighter Regiment, and Captain Second Class Petar Todorović, a pilot of the Third Bomber Regiment, took off from Kraljevo airfield on their own initiative. After preparing and arming a Dornier Do 17K bomber themselves, they took off carrying 100 bombs of 12 kilograms each, intended for attacks on personnel targets. Instead of the prescribed three-man crew, only the two of them were aboard, with Captain Veličković assuming the role of bomber pilot. During their attack on German columns on the Ćuprija-Jagodina road, and despite the incomplete crew, they skilfully and courageously co-ordinated the required procedures and established a form of "dual control" that has remained unique in the history of world aviation. It functioned until the last bomb had been dropped, and the Germans suffered heavy losses. As Professor Radmila Tonković notes, "this unique exploit was also the final wartime mission of a Do 17K aircraft in the April War." For this feat, Captains Veličković and Todorović were awarded the Order of the Knightly Sword, First Class, six decades later, both posthumously, having died after the war in the United States.

The Independent 11th Air Group for Long-Range Reconnaissance, operating from Veliki Radinci airfield near Ruma, lost nine aircrew on 6 April while bombing German airfields in the Timișoara area. Among those killed was Captain Second Class pilot Borivoje Milovanović, whose remains, in recognition of his conduct in battle, rest in the Alley of Heroes at the cemetery in Timișoara, where four of his comrades are also buried, while three others lie at Šajkaš. Lieutenant observer Jovan Petrović also fought over Timișoara that day, courageously opposing German fighters, and in April 2002 — while still living in Belgrade — was awarded the Order of the Knightly Sword, First Class. Then, on 8 April, during an attack on German armoured units on the Kumanovo-Preševo road, the group lost another five men, among them Captain First Class Živomir Petrović. These losses were so severe that the group was never again capable of further operations. It was commanded by Major Dragomir Lazarević, while the 21st and 22nd Squadrons were commanded by Captains First Class Živojin Ristić and Ljubomir Jančić.

Ahead of the planned attack by the Adriatic Division on the Italian garrison at Zadar, the city was bombed by the Independent 81st Bomber Group, led by its commander Major Milutin Dostanić, while the 261st and 262nd Squadrons were commanded by Captain Second Class Sergije Frantov and Lieutenant Raja Nedeljković respectively (the previous commander, Captain Second Class Branko Drakulić, had been killed in a Bücker accident on 4 April). Equipped with Savoia-Marchetti aircraft, the squadrons had been transferred from Pančevo to Blagaj airfield near Mostar under War Plan R-41. During

the attack on Zadar, fuel and ammunition depots were set ablaze and ships in the harbour were also attacked. Over the next two days, Durrës, Vlora, Ancona, Bari and Brindisi were bombed. On 9 April, however, so much snow fell on the runways — as Lieutenant pilot Evgenije Ženja Rupnik, later resident in Buenos Aires, recalled — that the aircraft were unable to take off.

Pilots of the Third Fighter School also operated from the airfield near Mostar. One of them, Lieutenant Milan Marjanović, shot down two Italian aircraft in the area of the city on the Neretva on 6 April, survived those battles and lived in the fatherland after the war, where he was posthumously awarded the Order of the Knightly Sword, First Class, together with a group of his comrades.

The Eighth Bomber Regiment operated from Rovine airfield. Its commander was Colonel Stanko Diklić, while Majors Lazar Donović and Dobrosav Tešić commanded the 68th and 69th Groups. The pilots literally competed for combat assignments — to bomb railway communications in Austria and German airfields in Hungary and Romania. During the bombing of German airfields near Pécs on 7 April, Major Tešić was killed, while in the Szeged area Major Donović and the commanders of his 215th and 216th Squadrons, Captains First Class Vladimir Jovičić and Sergije Voinov, were killed together with crews that included observer Lieutenants Ivan Pandža and Petar Kikić, pilot Lieutenants Radomir Lazarević and Andrija Pozder, observer Second Lieutenant Mirko Jovanović and Sergeants Mirko Tošković, Ilija Mićković and Dragutin Veseljko.

A total of six aircraft and 18 aircrew were lost in the Pécs and Szeged areas, while three aircraft were severely damaged.

The high morale of the aircrew of the Eighth Bomber Regiment, as well as the scale of its losses, is further demonstrated by the fact that, for the bombing of the airfields near Timişoara and Arad — from which German squadrons were taking off to bomb Belgrade — literally every crew volunteered, although only four had been planned for the mission. Lots therefore had to be drawn to determine who would go, and only one aircraft returned from the operation.

Captain First Class Dragiša Milijević, commander of the 106th Squadron of the Fourth Fighter Regiment, also distinguished himself and was killed in combat while defending the airfield of the Eighth Bomber Regiment near Nova Topola, north of Banja Luka. The commanders of the regiment's 33rd and 34th Groups, Majors Nikola Nikolić and Arso Boljević, likewise achieved notable results on combat missions. On 6 April, when the alarm was sounded, Major Boljević could not resist his ever-present "fighter instinct" and, wishing to set an example to his pilots, took off first. In his Hurricane he engaged a Messerschmitt in combat, an encounter repeated the following day, although the enemy pilots, when faced with mortal danger, quickly disengaged. When orders were later issued to burn the aircraft on the runways to prevent them from falling into German hands, he refused to comply and even attempted to "steal" his own Hurricane. To the major's dismay, however, it became bogged down in the mud of a ploughed field while taxiing. Thus even this gifted fighter pilot, who in the 1930s had advocated the ambitious idea that the Kingdom of Yugoslavia should organise a round-the-world flight in which he, naturally, intended to participate, was forced to proceed towards Bileća on foot.

The strength of the Air Force increased rapidly after the secret mobilisation of 12 March 1941, so that, as already noted, it entered the April War with approximately 50,000 personnel. Its organisation was such that units deployed across the 23 airfields designated under War Plan R-41 were combat-ready and capable of taking off on missions at very short notice: fighters within 20 minutes and bombers within 30. Under the circumstances imposed by the war, this standard was achieved with varying success, but between 6 and 15 April the airmen nevertheless managed to fly 1,416 combat sorties, of which 993 were by fighter aircraft and 423 by bombers. In addition to enemy attacks on the airfields, the principal reason why only about 50 per cent of all planned combat tasks were carried out was the exceptionally poor weather for the time of year, with dense fog and even snow. In such difficult combat and climatic conditions, 711 airmen were killed, including 135 aircrew, of whom 74 were pilots — a tragically high loss rate even for much larger air forces operating under wartime conditions.

The Yugoslav Army Air Force lost 75 per cent of all its combat aircraft in the April War: 154 bombers, 124 fighters and 11 reconnaissance aircraft. Of these losses, 30 per cent occurred in aerial combat and 45 per cent on the airfields. On the first day of the war alone, 115 aircraft were lost — 10 per cent in the air and 77 on the ground — so that by the end of 6 April the aggressor, having lost 21 aircraft that day, had already established control of Yugoslav airspace.

The misfortune of the Third Bomber Regiment was, in many respects, characteristic of the fate of the Yugoslav Army Air Force in the April War. Of all the aircraft belonging to its 63rd and 64th Groups — each equipped with 32 Do 17 bombers and commanded by Majors Branislav Đorđević and Branko Fanedl — 46 were hit and destroyed on the ground, including 36 on 6 April alone at the Petrovac and Priština airfields, while altogether 62 aircraft were disabled or shot down. Only two crews succeeded in reaching British airfields in North Africa. Three crews, however, refused Colonel Gorjup's order to burn their aircraft at Požega airfield so that they would not fall into German hands and, with a total of 20 airmen, attempted to find a way out by flying towards Russia and Mostar. Despite severe weather, Second Lieutenant Milenko Tošić set out for Odessa in the Soviet Union but crashed in the Carpathians in Romania, killing all nine airmen aboard. The aircraft of junior military official Ivan Pavelić came close to reaching Soviet territory but, after running out of fuel, was forced to land in the Hungarian border zone, where the crew was captured and the aircraft incorporated into the air force of that Hitler-allied state. The third aircraft, piloted by Captain First Class Momčilo Petrović, reached Mostar airfield but was soon disabled there. The following day, the crew boarded the Savoia-Marchetti 79 of Captain First Class pilot Jefta Bošnjak and set out for Russia, but the aircraft crashed near the village of Zabrđe in Serbia, killing all seven airmen. Six aircraft of the regiment took off from Kapino Polje towards Greece carrying fighter pilots, but five were burned by Italian fighters at Paramythia airfield. Only Captain Second Class Petar Todorović continued towards Athens and, via Cyprus, reached Heliopolis airfield near Cairo, where the aircraft was handed over to the British. The only other crew to survive the ordeal of this bomber regiment was that of Captain First Class Dušan Milojević, which transported a consignment of state gold to the Allies. Of the disabled aircraft left

behind on the airfields, six were repaired and used by the Bulgarians, while as many as 11 were taken into service by the Air Force of the NDH.

The aggressor also suffered losses. At first the enemy spoke of losing "30 to 40 aircraft," but later research showed that this figure could refer only to losses in the Belgrade air-defence zone. Their total losses amounted to 94 aircraft, ranging from 57 shot down on 6 April to one on the final day of the war, whereas the total based on Yugoslav claims was 119. There are no figures for the losses of the German Eighth Air Corps, which operated from airfields in Bulgaria, but neither is there sound reason to believe that it fared significantly better, particularly in its encounters with the fighter pilots from Režanovačka Kosa. Italian sources state that their air force lost 22 aircraft "in all operations during the April War of 1941."

The total number of enemy airmen killed over Yugoslavia was, according to Ljubiša Đorđević, 181: 135 Germans, 20 Italians, 25 Hungarians — including 22 paratroopers killed in an accident — and one Bulgarian, an officer flying aboard a German aircraft.

During the 11 days of war, 135 aircrew "were killed in their aircraft," in addition to 576 Air Force personnel killed on the ground, drawn from the 1,349 active officers and at least as many NCOs, as well as other members of the active and reserve establishments. The total number of dead also included servicemen from the peacetime contingent of 15,000 young men and approximately 2,700 civilian employees. The memory of the fallen aircrew has been preserved in books and in the hearts of those who cultivate the rich traditions of military aviation. The most comprehensive publication is Petar Bosnić's *Naše nebo* [*Our Sky*], which, for each of the 128 identified individuals, provides information on unit, aircraft type, date of death and place of burial. The names of seven fallen airmen remain unknown, as do the burial places of 27, although there is hope that these questions too will ultimately be resolved. In any event, it may be said that the number of Air Force fatalities has been established with almost impeccable precision, something that will never be possible in the case of the Army and Navy.

Probably the most significant, and certainly the earliest authoritative, recognition of the Yugoslav Army Air Force came from General and historian Velimir Terzić, who wrote in his two-volume study *The Collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941*: "Offering admirable resistance, Yugoslav pilots and their crews were for the most part killed in unequal combat against a vastly superior enemy, while the Air Force, within the limits of its capabilities, fulfilled its patriotic duty."

A high assessment of the Yugoslav Army Air Force was also given by Hitler's General Alexander Löhr, who stated at his trial in Belgrade in 1947: "The resistance of the Yugoslav Air Force was skilful and extremely courageous and disrupted the cohesion of our attack, so that during the first day we lost 10 per cent of our aircraft, while a further 10 per cent were damaged. In the days that followed, the Yugoslav airmen continued to offer strong resistance. They were very skilfully led and, despite overwhelming German superiority, repeatedly succeeded in regrouping at auxiliary airfields." The general did not mention that, in the air battle for Belgrade alone, he had lost "at least 40 aircraft," of which the 32nd Group of the Sixth Fighter Regiment alone shot down 17 on 6 April.

Despite the effectiveness of the aggressor and extraordinarily severe weather, the air-

men continued to operate day after day on several fronts, in some areas until nightfall on 12 April. Admittedly, their operations became progressively less intensive as pilots were killed and their aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground. Genuine confusion arose on 10 April, when news arrived of the proclamation of the NDH. Several commanders originating from the "western regions" then turned their backs on their units and betrayed the fatherland, among them Colonels Rupčić, Pirc and Gorjup and Majors Adum, Džal and Brezovšek...

In any event, throughout the war, and certainly until approximately 13 April, the Air Force operated in a considerably more organised manner than was claimed in accounts written and repeated for decades afterwards. To the extent that circumstances permitted, it was commanded by General and fighter pilot Borivoje Mirković, assisted by the highly capable staff officer Lieutenant Colonel Andrija Pavlović, wartime chief of the Operations Staff of Air Force Command. The defence of Belgrade was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Božidar Kostić, the dependable commander of the Sixth Fighter Regiment. All three have now, on behalf of the fatherland, been decorated "for the courage and determination displayed in the defence of Yugoslav airspace."

It is noteworthy that General Borivoje Mirković — as attested by a principal participant, Lieutenant Colonel Pavlović — repeatedly issued both oral and written orders requiring brigade and regimental commanders, at the end of each day of the war, to submit to the Staff of Operational Air Force Command reports on the exploits of units and individuals who had particularly distinguished themselves, as well as on all Air Force personnel killed or wounded. The Staff was then to forward this information to the Adjutant Department. The purpose of the order was that fallen aircrew should be recommended for the Order of the Karađorđe Star with Swords, fallen non-flying personnel for the Gold Medal for Bravery, wounded aircrew for the Order of the White Eagle with Swords and wounded non-flying personnel for the Silver Medal for Bravery. He also ordered that daily recommendations be submitted to Supreme Command Headquarters for the award of the Order of the Karađorđe Star with Swords to those commanders of air brigades and regiments who had flown combat missions at the head of their units, as well as to group and squadron commanders "who personally led their units in the execution of combat missions." Unfortunately, the lightning pace of the war, together with a certain degree of negligence on the part of the Adjutant Department, had its consequences: "not a single commendation order or recommendation for the decoration of fallen and wounded Air Force personnel was written, nor were any prepared for those units and airmen who had particularly distinguished themselves during the war." Had that order been pursued consistently, the injustice done to these heroes would long ago have been at least partly redressed, their acts of heroism would have become better known, the incentive to further acts of valour stronger, the tradition of military aviation richer and collective memory more influential upon subsequent generations. The author of this recollection, Lieutenant Colonel Pavlović, was "the only commanding officer who refused to accept capitulation on behalf of the Air Force on 17 April 1941." Having also declined evacuation to Greece, he shared the fate of approximately 30,000 comrades from Air Force units who became prisoners of war. Before their capture, they had assembled at Sjenica, at Rajlovac and But-

mir near Sarajevo, at Mostar and at Nikšić. From there, operating as infantry formations, they marched towards the Adriatic with the intention, under the war plan, of assuming command over the Bay of Kotor and then continuing the war alongside the remnants of the Navy while establishing contact with the Allies. By then, however, it was already too late because of the unconditional capitulation of the armed forces signed in Belgrade on 17 April. Most of the surviving Air Force personnel consequently became prisoners of war, where — it should be stated at once — the majority of officers and NCOs conducted themselves honourably and courageously.

This is also the appropriate point to say somewhat more about Air Force General Bora J. Mirković, one of the organisers of the coup of 27 March and commander of the Air Force. He was among the last to fly to Greece, deeply convinced that the struggle for the liberation of the fatherland would continue from there alongside the Allies, from a revived Salonika Front on which he himself had once fought. Tragically, during a forced landing at an improvised airfield near Salonika, both his legs and arms were broken. At this gravest of moments, he thus suffered a repetition of the dramatic accident of 1938, when, while testing a new Dornier, he had crashed and sustained an injury that left one leg permanently stiff.

His body once again shattered by injury, he was transferred to Amman and from there to Cairo, where, after recovering, he worked to assemble Yugoslav Army Air Force personnel, particularly pilots, and to train and integrate them into Allied wartime formations. He continued in this role until January 1942, when the new government headed by Dr. Slobodan Jovanović dismissed him and, soon afterwards, retired him. Aware of the intrigues involved, he vigorously opposed this decision, but politics took its ruthless course, in which, as a rule, the most deserving soldiers fare the worst. He subsequently joined the British Army and served the Allied cause faithfully until his retirement in 1948. Thereafter he lived in London, where he died in 1969.

His contribution to the March coup was acknowledged, his work as Air Force commander under those circumstances recognised and his service to the Allied cause respected, yet the communist regime simply could not forgive his decision to remain in emigration and consequently stripped both him and his wife Vesna of their citizenship. Only now has he, like his principal operations officer Andrija Pavlović, received posthumous recognition for his services both in the March coup and in the April War.

It is not difficult to answer the question of why, over the course of 60 years, a regime characterised by ideological uniformity and sectarian practice, whose powerful figures determined the fate of both the living and the dead, never "found the time" to decorate the genuine heroes of the April War. It did not do so because that event — naturally linked to the coup of 27 March — was not recognised as the beginning of the anti-fascist war. Instead, the accepted narrative began with the communist-led uprising in July. It was therefore possible for nine members of the Yugoslav Army Air Force to be proclaimed National Heroes for their indisputable achievements in the National Liberation War, without a single hero of the April War — the actual beginning of the Serbian people's armed resistance to nazi-fascism — being among them. The fatherland was thus compelled, fully six decades later, to make amends and discharge a major generational debt by

decorating 13 of the 135 airmen who had fallen and 15 who had survived, ranging in rank from army general to sergeant.

Of the 28 members of the Yugoslav Army Air Force, predominantly fighter pilots, who were awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class, by decree of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in April 2002 "for courage and determination displayed in the defence of Yugoslav airspace," the following gave their lives for the fatherland during the April War, most of them as early as 6 April: Colonel Ferdo Gradišnik, Major Branko Fanedl, Captains First Class Miloš Žunjić, Vojislav Popović and Miho Klavora, Captain Second Class Živica Mitrović, Lieutenants Milorad Tanasić and Dušan Borčić and Second Lieutenant Jovan Kapešić. The reader will find further information on each of them individually in the section of this book entitled "Killed on Wartime Duty."

As for those decorated airmen who survived the April War and spent the ensuing decades of peace either in the country or in emigration, receiving this high distinction for courage and patriotism either during their lifetimes or posthumously, only a few further details need be added to what has already been stated about them in this chapter.

Enough has already been said about Generals Dušan Simović and Borivoje Mirković, Colonel Petar Vukčević and Air Force General Staff Lieutenant Colonel Andrija Pavlović to ensure that, at least in death, they stand on equal terms with their comrades-in-arms.

ALEKSIĆ MIODRAG, second lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and fighter pilot of the 142nd Squadron, 32nd Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment, shot down two German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone on 6 April. He was killed in 1943 while attempting to escape from an Italian prisoner-of-war camp.

BOJOVIĆ DRAGUTIN, reserve lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force (later captain second class), graduate mechanical engineer and fighter pilot of the 101st Squadron, 31st Group, Second Fighter Regiment, shot down one German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone on 6 April. He was killed at Aranđelovac in the autumn of 1944 while serving as a captain in the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland.

BOŠKOVIĆ MIODRAG, second lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and fighter pilot of the 102nd Squadron, 51st Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment. On 6 April he shot down two German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone. Wounded in combat, he nevertheless succeeded in making a forced landing with his severely damaged aircraft near Ugrinovci. He lives in Australia.

VELIČKOVIĆ VELIMIR, captain first class in the Yugoslav Army Air Force, fighter pilot and intelligence officer on the staff of the Fifth Fighter Regiment. He particularly distinguished himself on 12 April when, together with pilot Petar Todorović, he took off on his own initiative in a Dornier Do 17K and attacked German columns on the Ćuprija-Jagodina road with 12-kg bombs. After the war he lived and died in the United States.

GOGIĆ TODOR, captain first class in the Yugoslav Army Air Force, fighter pilot

and commander of the 161st Squadron, 51st Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment, shot down two German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone on 6 and 7 April. He was killed in 1945 while serving as a colonel in the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland.

GROZDANOVIĆ MILUTIN, captain first class in the Yugoslav Army Air Force, fighter pilot and commander of the 142nd Squadron, 32nd Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment. On 6 April he shot down two German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone. On 7 April, while flying to the airfield at Veliki Radinci, he crashed and was seriously injured. He died in Belgrade in 1995.

JELIĆ VUKADIN, sergeant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and fighter pilot of the 102nd Squadron, 51st Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment. On 6 April he shot down one German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone. Wounded in combat. Lives in the United States.

KOLAROV VASA, lieutenant in the Air Force and fighter pilot of the 104th Squadron, Sixth Fighter Regiment. On 6 April he shot down one aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone. Seriously wounded in combat. Killed in late 1944 while serving as a captain in the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland. Awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

MARJANOVIĆ MILAN, captain second class, lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and flying instructor at the Third Fighter Pilot School. On 6 April he shot down two Italian aircraft in the Mostar area. Died after the war.

NIKOLIĆ MIHAJLO Kajle, captain second class, has already been introduced to the reader in the chapter "JNA Generals."

PETROVIĆ JOVAN, lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and reconnaissance observer with the 11th Independent Reconnaissance Group, distinguished himself by exceptional courage on 6 April during an attack on a German airfield near Timișoara and in combat against enemy fighters. Lives in Belgrade.

SEMIZ MILISAV, sergeant in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and fighter pilot of the 161st Squadron, 51st Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment. In combat between 6 and 11 April, he shot down four German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone. After the war, he served as an officer in the JNA and became a well-known JAT pilot. Killed in a road accident.

STOJANOVIĆ ĐORĐE, sergeant (later second lieutenant) in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and fighter pilot of the 102nd Squadron, 51st Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment. On 6 April he shot down three German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone. Wounded in combat. Died in Belgrade in 2001.

TODOROVIĆ PETAR, captain second class in the Yugoslav Army Air Force and pilot of the Third Bomber Regiment. Together with Captain Velimir Veličković, he took off from Kraljevo airfield on his own initiative in a Do 17K loaded with 12-kg bombs, which they employed to the last against German personnel targets on the Ćuprija-Jagodina road. Because the bomber lacked a full crew, during the mission they devised a system of "dual control" that earned them a place in the annals of world military aviation. He died after the war in the United States.

Only 101 officers, together with 83 NCOs and 36 airmen, succeeded in reaching Allied countries, chiefly in the Middle East. Initially assembled in Yemen, they continued the struggle in Allied formations, predominantly in the RAF. A number of those who remained in the country, whether voluntarily or through mobilisation, joined the Air Force of the NDH, where they flew many of the 125 aircraft possessed by that quisling entity in the summer of 1942. As the war progressed, however, they too began, individually and in groups, to establish links with the organisation of the National Liberation Movement and, chiefly from late 1943 onwards, to transfer to the air arm of the NOVJ. It is estimated that 155 active officers and NCOs of the Yugoslav Army Air Force fought in the ranks of the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland across the breadth of the theatre of war. A substantial number of them were executed by the victors between the autumn of 1944 and Victory Day, mostly without trial or judicial proceedings. Among them were four of those who, in 2002, were awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

As already noted, some 30,000 members of the Air Force were taken prisoner and spent four long years of war in Oflags for officers and Stalags for NCOs and enlisted men.

It is recorded that 22 aircrew and several aviation personnel of other specialities from the Seventh Bomber Regiment independently set out for the Soviet Union on 10 and 11 April, attempting to reach Soviet airfields in nine bombers. Taking off from the airfield at Mostar were the crews of Lieutenants Milan Prodanović, Uroš Đerić, Živko Milojković and Miloš Jelić, as well as Sergeant Hinko Šoić and others. Regrettably, many never returned from those flights: nine lie buried in the cemetery of the village of Zarožje near Rogačica in Serbia, the remains of nine who died in the Carpathians rest in Timişoara and three members of Lieutenant Prodanović's crew are buried in Constanţa. Most therefore perished on this long and uncertain flight, chiefly over Romania, primarily as a result of crashes, fuel shortages and German flak. Of the nine Savoia-Marchetti aircraft that embarked upon this highly uncertain flight, only five succeeded in reaching airfields at Constanţa in Romania, Chişinău and Sarat in Bessarabia, with one aircraft each reaching the Ukraine and Russia. Their crews were subsequently transferred from Russia, via Iran, to the Middle East, where they joined their comrades.

The crew of a four-seat Caudron also succeeded in reaching an airfield near Chişinău. The aircraft belonged to the French legation and had been undergoing overhaul and modification at the Rogožarski Aircraft Factory in Belgrade. On 10 April, two military pilots, accompanied by inspector and foreman Stojimir Ilijević, set out ostensibly to test the aircraft before its formal handover to its owner. Instead of conducting a test flight over Bežanijska Kosa, however, they embarked upon a journey of approximately 700 km. Evad-

ing German anti-aircraft artillery and the hazards of the unpredictable Carpathians, they crossed Romania and, after a full four hours in the air, landed in a field near Chișinău. Regarded with suspicion pending verification of their account, they were imprisoned until 22 June, after which the pilots, under "Russian auspices," set out for the Middle East. Their companion Ilijević, however, was assigned to the Red Army's armoured forces and fought with them until Victory Day, serving as an officer in the Kursk operation and, for a substantial period, in the Yugoslav theatre of war.

A total of 65 aircraft, including 18 bombers, flew to Greece. Of these, 44 were destroyed by German fighters, chiefly at Greek and British airfields around Ioannina, leaving only 20 to continue to the British in the Middle East. There they were joined by the pilots of two seaplane squadrons, who had arrived in their own aircraft from the Bay of Kotor in mid-April 1941. More will be said about them in the section "Captains Go Down with Their Ships" later in this chapter.

Fighting alongside the Allies, predominantly in RAF formations, Yugoslav Army aircrew — courageous combatants, skilled pilots and consummate professionals — continued to fight for as long as their lives and aircraft endured. In these engagements, 46 Yugoslav Army pilots were killed.

The wartime ordeal of Vukadin Vule Jelić, a sergeant fighter pilot who, on 6 April, defended the dignity of his profession and the honour and freedom of Belgrade by shooting down a German Dornier Do 17 bomber from his Me 109E, exemplifies the wartime fate of the majority of active Yugoslav Army officers, particularly pilots, who found themselves outside the fatherland after the April War. As a pilot of the celebrated 102nd Squadron, he entered the aerial battles wherever the fighting was fiercest. While attempting to break through towards Nikšić, he was captured in Sarajevo and, together with Sergeant Pilot Milan Matić, interned in Camp C-5 near Baden-Baden. After three and a half months, they escaped and, wandering through Germany, crossed the swollen Rhine. Following a prolonged journey in which they overcame circumstances possible only in wartime, they eventually reached Marseille, headquarters of the French Resistance high command. There, at the Yugoslav consulate and on General Simović's orders, they were issued diplomatic passports, after which they travelled by train to Lisbon and, via Gibraltar, reached London. In the city on the Thames, King Petar II awarded them the Gold Medal for Bravery and promoted them to the rank of second lieutenant in recognition of their wartime service in the defence of Belgrade and their successful escape from captivity. Jelić was soon sent with a group of Yugoslav Army officers to the United States, where he trained to fly heavy Liberator bombers. He was subsequently reassigned to the Mediterranean to protect Allied convoys, before being sent to Johannesburg, in the far south of Africa, as an instructor at a military flying school. After the war he settled in California. He arrived in a wheelchair to receive the decoration he had earned in the April War.

Besides Jelić, two other members of the celebrated 102nd Squadron, Miodrag Bošković and Đorđe Stojanović, were still living abroad 60 years after they had helped make history. Stojanović returned to the fatherland shortly before the end of his life, in August 2001, and died only a month later. In April of the following year, on the recommendation of the Association for the Preservation of Aviation Traditions, he was deco-

rated for his valiant conduct in the April War. At the very end of the twentieth century, Mihajlo Nikolić Kajle, for decades the only surviving pilot of the 102nd Squadron living in the country, died in Belgrade with the rank of reserve major general of the Yugoslav Army. All four have now received the highest distinction for wartime valour, some posthumously and others towards the end of their lives. Of those decorated, Jovan Petrović lives in Belgrade.

The wartime fate of Army General Dušan T. Simović is equally illustrative. As a 30-year-old officer, he had distinguished himself in the wars of 1912–1918. From his position as commander of the Yugoslav Army Air Force, in which his own speciality had been reconnaissance, he was appointed Chief of the Main General Staff. In 1940, Prince Paul removed him from that post, undoubtedly for political reasons, and placed him in an "honorary armchair," far removed from decision-making. Following the coup of 27 March, of which he was one of the principal organisers, he once again assumed the country's most influential military position and was simultaneously appointed Prime Minister.

During the April War he served as Chief of Staff of the Supreme Command. Following the departure from the country of the under-age King Petar II and the decision of his deputy, the 84-year-old Field Marshal Petar Bojović, not to make the journey, Simović was appointed "Supreme Commander of all the armed forces" while retaining his position as Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

In exile, he remained Prime Minister of the Yugoslav government until January 1942. Throughout the war, while residing in London, he remained committed to the struggle against fascism. From the spring of 1944, both Churchill and Tito considered him in their plans for the command of a warring and divided Serbia, an issue that would acquire renewed relevance with Peter II's order of 12 September that year placing all armed forces in the country under Marshal Tito's command. In May 1945, Simović returned to the fatherland. He wrote two substantial volumes of memoirs, preserved in the manuscript collection of the Military History Institute. He died in Belgrade in 1962 and has now, on an equal footing with his 28 comrades from the March coup and the April War, been awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

Defenders of the Land Forces

In the interests of historical accuracy and as an explanation for the wartime catastrophe and rapid collapse of the Yugoslav Army, in which the Land Forces had traditionally been regarded as the principal bulwark of the country's defence, only a few facts need be presented here.

The Land Forces, numbering approximately 750,000 officers, NCOs and soldiers, entered the war organised into 31 divisions: 28 infantry and three cavalry. Deprived of effective air support and reinforcement by armoured and motorised formations, these divisions were formidable only in terms of numerical strength — that is, on paper. An infantry division with horse-drawn transport, for example, comprised 27,000 men and 11,200 animals, while one employing pack transport had as many as 28,500 men and

13,200 animals. They were consequently cumbersome and slow-moving and, moreover, had been trained and equipped almost exclusively for conventional frontal warfare.

The war found the army equipped with only 110 tanks, of which 60 were models that had been in use a quarter of a century earlier, during the First World War. The backbone of its extremely limited and obsolete motor transport consisted of 1,000 lorries purchased in the United States. Petrol reserves, entirely dependent on imports, were sufficient for 45 days of war, provided that all stocks could be preserved — something rendered impossible by destructive bombing and the rapid abandonment of storage areas.

The armament of the Land Forces comprised one million rifles of relatively modern types, 19,000 machine guns, 2,460 artillery pieces of various calibres, origins and purposes and 1,600 81-mm mortars. Ammunition reserves were sufficient for no more than 60 days, provided they could be preserved during the withdrawal of units, which proved impossible from the very first days of the war.

The bulk of the Land Forces' officer corps — as, indeed, was also the case in the Air Force — consisted largely of relatively young officers, approximately two-thirds of them sons of the Serbian people. All had been educated and formed in the rich traditions of the Serbian and Montenegrin national armies and taught loyalty to the fatherland and devotion to the officer's vocation as the most highly esteemed profession among the Serbs.

Assessments of enemy strength anticipated that this officer corps would confront the German military power and, within it, a substantial number of officers possessing combat experience from the conquest of Europe that had begun on 1 September 1939 with the invasion of Poland, many of whom were still imbued with bitter revanchism towards the Serbs over grievances dating from the First World War. At the same time, almost all Yugoslav Army generals and a considerable proportion of its senior officers possessed extensive combat experience of their own from the two Balkan Wars and the First World War, particularly from the battles of Cer, Kolubara and Mojkovac and the fighting associated with the breakthrough of the Salonika Front. The younger generations, who commanded tactical units at various levels, had been trained on the basis of those experiences. They possessed a sound knowledge of national history, understood the Yugoslav theatre of operations and the conduct of war and adhered to the Serbian art of war as both a science and a practice, while holding its martial traditions in high regard. These were rightly regarded as significant advantages. In short, it was understood that Yugoslavia would be attacked by a force before which no European country had thus far remained standing, yet the sons of the Serbian people did not consider themselves entitled either to stand aside or to bow before it. Hitler, leader of the Third Reich, likewise took this into account, remembering Germany's bitter experience in the war against Serbia in 1914–1918, and would later express astonishment that his troops had encountered no stronger resistance in central Serbia.

Under the unforgivably belated R-41 war plan, the Yugoslav Army was supposed to enter the war with 1.2 million personnel in the operational forces and a further 500,000 in the reserve, its transport relying on approximately 900,000 pack and draught animals. In reality, it entered the conflict with fewer than 800,000 soldiers and officers, including nearly 400,000 men, chiefly in the Land Forces, whose combat training was incomplete.

Indeed, when Yugoslavia was attacked, military mobilisation had only just begun and the concentration of forces — the most important and demanding strategic undertaking — remained merely planned, while a considerable number of key figures, including commanders and chiefs of staff of major formations, were only then making their way to their wartime posts. The war thus found the Yugoslav Army at scarcely half its projected strength, a clear indication of its lack of preparedness for the defence of the country.

Measures to block the frontier with Bulgaria, from which the principal, initial and exceptionally powerful German thrust would be launched, had merely been envisaged, while the defence of the country from the north, regarded in assessments as the most threatened direction, was wholly unreliable, more for political than military reasons. The basic concept for conducting the war envisaged a linear deployment and resistance along all frontier sectors, followed by the defence of successive positions and a gradual withdrawal towards the central regions of the country. Offensive operations were envisaged only towards the south, through Macedonia and Albania, in order to preserve the possibility of operational co-operation between the main forces and the Allies, in something resembling a renewed Salonika Front. Defence in the central, predominantly hilly and mountainous regions of Serbia, Montenegro, Herzegovina and Bosnia was to involve extensive use of guerrilla warfare. For an army deployed in a cordon, trained almost exclusively for frontal warfare, cumbersome and slow-moving and, moreover, inadequately organised, armed and supported, this concept would prove untenable.

The wartime catastrophe of the Land Forces would thus last fewer than 11 days. Yet the framework for judging the conduct of its 200 generals and 10,554 active officers during the conflict — a judgement applied equally to the Air Force and the Navy — was established by the leadership of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia only a month after the war had swept past, at its May Consultation in Zagreb. The entire "generals' clique" was accused of treason, cowardice, incompetence and selfishness, as well as sabotage and irresponsibility. Of the middle-ranking officers, only some were said to have been "equal to the task," while a substantial proportion of junior officers, down to company, battery and squadron commanders, were judged to have conducted themselves well. For decades, this assessment was repeatedly reproduced and retold.

Once the dust of war had largely settled and ideological exclusivism had subsided, and once domestic, Allied and enemy archives had been examined carefully and without prejudice, it became clear that a considerable number of generals had also demonstrated personal courage, courage in command and patriotism. They had displayed the military skill in commanding troops that they had acquired and demonstrated in the battles of Kumanovo, Cer and Kolubara and on the Salonika Front, doing what could be done under the exceptionally complex and dramatic circumstances of the war. Their task was extraordinarily difficult, for both the people and the army, subjected to the severest of trials, were engulfed by confusion and chaos, disorder and disorganisation, followed by pervasive despair and defeatism.

It would be most accurate to say that, under such harsh circumstances and amid the severest test of loyalty to the fatherland inherent in the officer's vocation, there were indeed, at every rank and in all three branches of the armed forces, instances of treason

and traitors, fifth-columnists and spies, cowards and egoists and even the inevitable wartime profiteers, but there were also many courageous and stout-hearted men. Indeed, very many. Historians of the Yugoslav Army Air Force, for example, estimate that barely five per cent of active officers deservedly bore the stigma of traitors.

In his study *The Collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941* (1984), General and historian Velimir Terzić states that "a considerably larger number of units" belonging to the Šumadija, Bregalnica, Morava, Toplica, Drina, Timok, Danube, Cer, Una, Drava, Zeta, Herzegovina and Kosovo Divisions, as well as the Second and Third Cavalry Divisions, "conducted themselves well." That amounts to 15 divisions, or almost half of the total. Yet the art of war, as both science and practice, teaches that units cannot perform well in war unless, at least in principle, the same can also be said of their commanders. Their names should therefore be recorded: Divisional Generals Kosta Adamović, Dragutin Živanović, Lazar Tonić, Vladislav Kostić, Kosta Đorđević, Antonije Stošić, Petar Ljubičić, Milorad Majstorović, Gavrilo Marinković, Čedomir Stanojlović, Milenko Varjačić, Vojislav Petrović, Milutin Milenković, Dimitrije Predić and Žarko Majstorović.

Among the generals who emerged from history with their honour intact, having done what could be done under the circumstances imposed upon them and having been prepared to share the fate of their troops to the end, the following are remembered: Divisional General Milutin Nikolić, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Supreme Command; Army General Jovan Naumović, commander of the Third Army District (Macedonia); Army General Petar Nedeljković, commander of the Fourth Army (Slovenia and part of Croatia); Divisional General Radivoje Zlatanović, who organised the defence of Kragujevac with military units and workers; General Staff Brigadier General Milan Zelenika, Chief of Staff of the Third Army; Brigadier General Mihailo Nedeljković, commander of the infantry of the Vardar Division; and Brigadier Generals Ljubo Novaković and Sveto Popović, commanders of the Kom and Skadar Detachments, which penetrated deeply into Italian-annexed Albania...

Particularly worthy of respect are the hitherto unpublished facts that the following generals were killed during or in connection with combat operations: Divisional General Jovan Jovanović and Brigadier Generals Mihajlo Golubović, Ilija Dimitrijević and Mihael Lukanc. Brigadier General of Artillery Milo Đukanović was likewise killed in the line of duty, albeit somewhat later. He had escaped Italian capture in the Bay of Kotor, where he had directed the defence of the fortified area, aboard the submarine *Nebojša*, only to be killed shortly afterwards while carrying out a military assignment in the open Atlantic. Those wounded during combat operations included Divisional General Dragiša Pandurović, commander of the Triglav Division, during the bombing of Novo Mesto; General Staff Brigadier General Milan Zelenika, Chief of Staff of the Third Army, in fighting in Albania; and Brigadier General of Artillery Franc Pogačnik, commander of the artillery of the Sava Division, in the fighting on the Drava.

German military newspapers described the defence of Yugoslavia's northern frontier as involving "madly audacious exploits." Frontier and garrison units on the Maribor axis held up the aggressor for two days, strongly supported by operational formations of the Drava Division, which stubbornly defended the Drava crossings along the Ptuj-Maribor

sector. In this connection, German reports recorded that a "mad officer on the frontier destroyed two tunnels and all the culverts and bridges over the Drava and in Maribor."

During resistance to the invading fascist units advancing from Bezdan towards southern Bačka, Engineer Lieutenant Božidar Žugić, a platoon commander in the Tenth Garrison Regiment, particularly distinguished himself. Near the village of Gložane on 12 April, having refused an order to surrender his unit, he shot and killed both his own commander and the Hungarian commander while they were negotiating, before himself being killed on the spot. Local inhabitants subsequently found his body mangled by tank tracks and buried him in the village cemetery, where he remains at rest.

On one such assignment — while preparing, under the most dramatic circumstances, to demolish the bridge over the Tisza near Senta — Lieutenant Nikola Martinović was captured by the Hungarian fascists. Through a fortunate combination of circumstances, he would subsequently escape captivity.

Equally "mad" were all those courageous engineer officers who, together with their men and in order to slow the advance of German armoured spearheads, demolished almost every major bridge, tunnel and viaduct — not only in the frontier zone but also throughout the depth of the northern theatre of operations, most often despite the determined efforts of German agents and saboteurs to preserve these structures for the Wehrmacht.

Along the frontier with Bulgaria, from where the principal axis of the initial German assault was launched, Captain First Class Sreten Popović, commander of a frontier company, particularly distinguished himself. He was killed heroically after he and his men had held up the Germans for several hours.

Captain Second Class Mirčeta Pulević likewise resolutely defended the passes across Suva Planina with his company of frontier troops. Refusing to yield before the aggressor, he was killed in position together with several of his NCOs and soldiers, leaving behind an exemplary record as a fighter in defence of the fatherland.

In checking the advance of armoured and motorised formations towards Stracin and inflicting heavy losses upon them, Major Nikola Đorđević, Lieutenants Milivoje Ćipović and Imre Šrajer and Sergeant Milutin Tatić distinguished themselves through both courage and skilful leadership of their units. They were officers and NCOs of the Morava Division, whose units fought tenaciously throughout the first day of the war and into the following night against the Wehrmacht's Ninth Panzer Division, in conjunction with elements of the Ibar Division brought forward from reserve. Yugoslav military historiography records these engagements collectively as the Battle of Stracin.

Here, in the absence of the divisional commander, who had been caught at the mobilisation assembly area, the troops of the Morava Division were commanded with skill and courage by Brigadier General Petar Petrović, commander of the divisional infantry and one of the celebrated heroes of Jakovljević's *Srpska trilogija* [*Serbian Trilogy*] — a hero of the fighting in the bend of the Crna River in 1916 and a recipient of the Order of the Karađorđe Star. The ferocity of the Battle of Stracin is further illustrated by the fact that a major general commanding a Wehrmacht SS armoured division was also killed during the fighting.

Blocking the Nišava axis, the Toplica Division resolutely absorbed the first blows of a German armoured group comprising three divisions and strongly supported by aircraft. It held them up for half a day, but in the ensuing bloodshed was itself completely shattered, with most of its personnel taken prisoner.

For two days, the infantry and artillery units of the Šumadija, Bregalnica and Morava Divisions, rapidly and skilfully occupying successive positions, attempted to halt the advance of German units along both principal axes of the German thrust from Bulgaria into Macedonia.

Among the officers of units stationed in the frontier zone between Macedonia and Albania, Colonel Risto Vučinić particularly distinguished himself. A renowned veteran of both Balkan Wars and the First World War, and a recipient of the Obilić Gold Medal and the Order of the Karađorđe Star, he was serving here as commander of the 46th Infantry Regiment. Without awaiting any order from his superiors, as soon as he heard that Belgrade had been bombed, he led his units into the attack along the Struga-Qafë Thana axis.

At the Bukovik Pass, between Kičevo and Gostivar, the 47th Infantry Regiment of the Vardar Division conducted a fighting withdrawal for three days in the face of German columns hastening to link up with the Italians in Albania.

Having promptly blocked the axis towards Peshkopi, the 50th Infantry Regiment refused an order to surrender to the Italians and successfully defended its positions until the Germans unexpectedly struck it from the rear.

Colonel Velibor Pavlović, commander of the 48th Infantry Regiment and another renowned veteran of the Salonika Front, during his unit's determined advance as part of the Kom Detachment from Gusinje towards the Shala Valley, pinned his own Order of the Karađorđe Star to the chest of Veljko Keković, the bravest soldier — so that it might "shine there until the hero receives his own through the regular procedure."

The right-hand column of the Kosovo Division, entirely without communications with its superior command, continued advancing through Albania and fighting the Italians until 20 April. Only when it had reached the immediate approaches to Shkodra was it informed that the Yugoslav Army had capitulated.

The battalions and squadrons of the Second Cavalry Division successfully prevented German forces from crossing to the left bank of the South Morava at Mramor, Đunis and Stalać for three days. They then conducted delaying operations for a further three days along the Prokuplje-Jošanička Banja and Stalać-Kraljevo axes.

The Cer Division fought defensive engagements in central Šumadija for five days. On 14 and 15 April, its infantry and artillery units, together with the Infantry NCO School and forces grouped around the 63rd Infantry Regiment, stubbornly defended Užice against German columns with the assistance of local civilians. In the fighting, 118 officers, soldiers and civilians were killed. Among the casualties were members of the Youth Battalion, composed of Belgrade secondary-school pupils whose courageous but largely inexperienced fighters confronted tanks with rifles and hand grenades between Sevojno and Užice. One German tank was destroyed at the entrance to the town on its northern approaches, an event also commemorated by a monument erected at Sarića Osoje.

A sentry outside the Military District barracks killed a German soldier, while Dragomir Nikolić Šiparac, an engine driver employed at the locomotive depot, knocked several arrogant enemy soldiers from their motorcycles outside the Hotel Zlatibor. As historian Jovan Radovanović records in his book *67 dana Užičke republike* [*67 Days of the Užice Republic*], the 118 defenders killed at Užice included 57 soldiers, four NCOs, six officers and 41 civilian combatants. Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Mile Vučković was also killed. The Germans subsequently devoted an entire chapter of the book *Tenkovi na Balkanu* [*Tanks in the Balkans*] to their fighting for the capture of Užice in mid-April 1941.

Supported by a battalion of the Una Division, the 18th Infantry Regiment of the Danube Division held up attacks by the German 11th Panzer Division near Markovac for almost two days.

Near the village of Jovac, in the Ćuprija area, cadets of the Artillery NCO School held up a powerful enemy armoured column advancing towards Belgrade for several hours, suffering heavy casualties in the process.

In the engagement near Ralja, the 57th Infantry Regiment and the Second Cavalry Brigade particularly distinguished themselves. In the bitter fighting against an enemy many times stronger, the Fifth Cavalry Regiment was destroyed.

Engaging vastly superior German tank forces that suddenly penetrated Topola on 11 April, a tank company and an anti-aircraft battery resisted until they were completely destroyed. In this fierce engagement, Major Dušan Radović and Captain First Class Miodrag Milošević were killed heroically alongside their comrades.

In a determined attempt to prevent an armoured column of the Wehrmacht's 11th Division from entering Kragujevac, Sergeant Veselin Divac was killed in action on 11 April. He continued firing at the German tanks until one of them ran him over.

At the southern entrance to Mladenovac (present-day "Selters"), the motorised battery of Captain First Class Momčilo Marković, which he had just brought from Slavonska Požega, successfully held up a column of a German armoured division on 12 April, destroying seven of its tanks. The courageous commander, gravely wounded amid his fallen soldiers, was captured and later became one of the 80,000 victims executed at the Jajinci killing ground beneath Avala. On the eastern approach to Mladenovac, Second Lieutenant Bajtagić and his platoon held up the advance of German mechanised units for several hours, and he was killed heroically in the engagement.

The men of the 81st Workers' Battalion, composed of reservists from the Gjilane district, shot down a German aircraft and destroyed 20 lorries near Čačak.

The Fourth Cavalry Regiment, together with infantry elements that joined it in combat while retreating through Banat, held up a motorised column of the elite "Reich" Division outside Alibunar for several days, until 11 April, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Petrov. As a result, the division fell behind schedule in its planned advance on Belgrade. A German major was also killed in the fighting. In retaliation, as contemporary records attest, the Germans executed the exemplary cavalry commander, the courageous Banat native Petrov, together with 10 officers who had taken part in the engagement and their soldiers, as well as local inhabitants according to the ratio of "one hundred for one." Thus the Germans, together with their compatriots from Banat, highly practised in an-

nihilating the enemies of the Reich, executed "several hundred people, chiefly Serbian civilians and members of the Yugoslav Army."

Because of this determined resistance at the entrance to Alibunar, it was not until the evening of 12 April that the "Grossdeutschland" Motorised Regiment, part of the "Reich" Motorised Division of the 41st Motorised Corps, belatedly reached the Banat bank of the Danube opposite Dorćol. From there, Captain Klingenberg crossed Europe's greatest river in a single boat with four soldiers, following yet another, and final, attack on Belgrade by 12 Stuka dive-bombers. The writer and war correspondent Curzio Malaparte would faithfully describe this "exploit" by the Wehrmacht captain in his reports from the front and subsequently in his novel *Kaputt*.

Following the prescribed script, the captain first raised the flag over the eerily deserted building of the Ministry of the Army and Navy, then over the headquarters of the German military mission and finally over the dome of the National Assembly at the beginning of King Aleksandar Street. As a symbol of the Wehrmacht's victory, everything was filmed, described and broadcast directly from the scene.

At positions in the village of Čelić in Podravina, the 42nd Infantry Regiment and the 126th Anti-Tank Company offered strong resistance to the German advance and were destroyed in the fighting. At the same time, the Sixth Cavalry Regiment fought extremely difficult engagements for two days across the wider Varaždin area against German armoured units that had previously crossed the Drava over the bridge at Barcs, which had not been demolished as planned.

On the front of the Yugoslav Army's completely shattered Fourth Army, the Cadet Battalion, which had arrived from Maribor, and the Barutana Battalion resolutely entered the fighting along the Ključ-Jajce axis, particularly in the Mrkonjić Grad area, against elements of the German 14th Panzer Division, whose heavily armoured troops were pressing arrogantly forward from Banja Luka towards Sarajevo. The fighting continued until 14 April, when the courageous defenders were forced to yield under attacks by aircraft and tanks. From there, Captain Second Class Milovan Šaranović hurriedly led the cadets towards Travnik. In that area, together with General Staff Captain First Class Arso Jovanović, likewise at the head of a Cadet Battalion from Sarajevo, he successfully broke up elements of German units and Maček's "Protection" formations. Yet there too they were ultimately compelled to yield before superior force, as Sarajevo had already been occupied.

In four days of fighting against the Ustaše, who were attacking the headquarters of the Littoral Army District in Mostar, units under the command of General Staff Major Rudolf Primorac and Captain Brane Kisić particularly distinguished themselves. The battalion of the Reserve Infantry Officers' School also rendered especially valuable service in saving the headquarters of the Army District from capture and liquidation by the Ustaše. More generally, the cadet-sergeants of the Reserve Infantry Officers' School, displaced by the war from their battalion bases in Bileća, Goražde, Sarajevo and Maribor, fought courageously, with many killed or wounded. General Terzić's study records that they "particularly distinguished themselves." The same may justifiably be said of the cadets of the infantry and artillery NCO schools.

Nor should the heroic counter-attack by the First Army's Assault Battalion across the open ground of the airfield near Bijeljina be forgotten — an action that ended in the battalion's complete destruction in a bloody struggle with German airborne troops. The battalion's attack was so fierce that the German paratroopers faced the prospect of complete annihilation had armoured forces not arrived, literally at the last moment, to assist them. The Yugoslav soldiers, down to the last man, were crushed beneath tank tracks on the open airfield. The only conceivable explanation for the prolonged silence surrounding this act of sacrifice is that the formation was one of eight "Chetnik units" of battalion strength, organised and trained for guerrilla operations. The First Assault (Chetnik) Battalion demonstrated its readiness and ability to perform combat missions with heroism and patriotism, through no fault of its own leaving, in the history of the April War, a "blank space" where the account it deserves ought to stand. For the sake of historical accuracy, it should be noted that, immediately before the April War, these units — which had for years borne that name and been trained for combat in accordance with the illustrious traditions of the former Chetniks — were officially redesignated and organisationally classified as assault battalions. This was done under political pressure from influential Croatian circles, which were supposedly less irritated by the new designation. It is interesting in this connection that the commander of one such battalion in Skopje — which no one in the city on the Vardar ever called anything other than the Chetnik Battalion — was himself a Croat. Yet on the morning of 6 April, upon hearing that war had begun, rather than leading his unit to the front, he absconded without authorisation towards his native region.

During the defence of Zvornik against the advance of the German 16th Motorised Division, a battery commanded by Major Milovan Todorović inflicted heavy losses on enemy tanks and other motorised elements.

In the Bratunac area on 14 April, some 30 soldiers under the command of a sergeant held up until nightfall a German motorised column hurrying towards Sarajevo. Almost all were killed heroically alongside their courageous commander, chiefly by air attack. Enraged by the losses they had sustained and by the delay in reaching their march objective, the Germans ordered the inhabitants of Bratunac to throw the bodies into the Drina. These men belonged to an Assault Battalion drawn from the final reserve of the Supreme Command Headquarters.

A similar episode occurred near Zvornik. On 15 April, Major Crnojević and his battalion awaited a belated enemy motorised column and destroyed four tanks and seven armoured vehicles with artillery fire, leaving some 50 German soldiers dead at the scene of the engagement. The Germans were compelled to raise the white flag, and it was not until the morning of 16 April — when a Yugoslav Army general arrived with orders that, because "an armistice had been reached with the Germans, no further firing was permitted" — that the courageous major's guns fell silent and the surviving Germans escaped with their lives.

Some Yugoslav Army unit commanders, unable as professional soldiers and patriots to endure the collapse and disintegration of the army, responded by taking their own lives. They paid for the mistakes of others.

Before his assembled troops, Colonel Bogosav David Mažuranić, commander of the 90th Infantry Regiment, turned his pistol upon himself. It should be noted that he was a descendant of the old and distinguished family of poets and generals originating from Novi Vinodolski. On the day preceding this chivalrous act, this honourable and courageous professional soldier, standing before his assembled regiment and blessing his soldiers and officers beneath the unfurled colours, had declared: "May all cowards and traitors be damned!"

Colonel Živko Otašević, commander of the 13th Infantry Regiment of the Timok Division, likewise chose an act of heroic self-condemnation when he was unable to prevent this unit, distinguished by its illustrious name and rich history, from being disarmed and surrendered to the Germans. The events immediately preceding his chivalrous act merit somewhat fuller description.

Surrounded in the Sokobanja area, the Timok Division attempted in separate groups to break through towards Aleksinac. On 13 April, in the Bovan Gorge, its 20th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Milo Radunović, fought for several hours, capturing 25 German soldiers and seizing two tanks and two guns, an achievement that inspired a measure of optimism among the other troops. Unfortunately, towards evening Colonel Radunović was killed together with several of his officers and soldiers. According to another account, he was gravely wounded and subsequently took his own life in hospital rather than fall into German hands.

Conditions became increasingly difficult, and the divisional commander ordered his units to cross the South Morava during the night and proceed towards Jastrebac. The situation, however, deteriorated rapidly. During the night he summoned the regimental commanders and ordered them to surrender their units' weapons to the president of the municipality of Lipovac near Aleksinac and then dismiss the men to return to their homes. Several officers protested, while the commander of the 13th Regiment, Colonel Živko Otašević, a veteran of the wars of 1912–1918, vehemently opposed the order. Refusing to carry out the general's command, he returned to his headquarters, kissed the regimental colours and saluted them while standing at attention, then ordered that they be burned so that they would not fall into German hands. He then drew his pistol and took his own life before his comrades.

Six decades later, JNA Colonel Aleksandar Jelenković would write that Živko Otašević "was one of those officers of the Yugoslav Army who, out of human dignity and officerly honour, took their own lives."

Infantry Brigadier-General of the Yugoslav Army Mirko Rajh, commander of the infantry of the Osijek Division, likewise took his own life (on 11 or 12 April), refusing to report to and surrender himself to the Germans.

Divisional General Vojislav Petrović, commander of the Herzegovina Division, sat weeping by the roadside between Shkodra and Podgorica as he watched elements of the Italian "Centauro" Armoured Division arrogantly pass through the dispositions of his units pursuant to the order for the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army. Brigadier-General Sveta Popović, commander of the Skadar Detachment, and other comrades who remembered this scene for the rest of their lives and recounted it for decades never regarded

that moment of emotion on the part of the commander of the division of courageous Herzegovinians as an expression of cowardice, but rather as the helplessness and shame of a leader of resolute soldiers and officers in the face of such an inglorious conclusion to the offensive that his troops, together with the Zeta Division, had successfully launched through Albania.

In peacetime, of course, and particularly from the distance of six decades, one may debate the moral dimension of suicide and the tears of a battle-hardened warrior, especially a commander of troops. These examples, too, should therefore be left to the judgement of history, with the proviso that their nobility must not be denied. In any event, even without them there are numerous examples of heroic conduct among the active officers of the Army, only some of which have been cited here.

Captains Go Down with Their Ships

The Navy entered the April War with 742 active and 146 reserve officers and 10,666 non-commissioned officers and sailors, organised into a Fleet comprising four torpedo divisions, a Submarine Flotilla and three sectors of the Naval Coastal Command, together with the River Flotilla. Its armament comprised one cruiser and four destroyers, three large and six smaller torpedo boats, four submarines, 150 combat and 30 training seaplanes for reconnaissance and bombing, as well as a considerable number of smaller vessels. Most of this equipment was relatively old and of foreign manufacture, as illustrated by the destroyer *Durmitor*: built in Britain, with its main guns from Czechoslovakia, anti-aircraft weapons from Sweden, British torpedo equipment, Dutch gunnery equipment and radio equipment from Belgium...

The River Flotilla — operationally "in communication" with Supreme Command Headquarters during the war — possessed, in addition to tugboats and barges, four monitors on the Drava and Danube and two patrol boats on Lake Ohrid. During the first five days of the war, this component of the Navy carried out the bulk of its assigned wartime tasks on the rivers: minelaying, obstruction, defence and the demolition of designated structures.

The crews of the monitors *Drava*, *Vardar*, *Morava* and *Sava* offered vigorous resistance to the aggressor on the rivers and along their courses. For five days and as many nights, continuously and with unwavering courage, they repelled attacks from land, river and, above all, the air — from the frontier all the way to Belgrade. Thus, at the very beginning of the war, the monitor *Morava*, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Božidar Aranđelović, shot down a German aircraft and captured the colonel commanding a bomber group after he had been forced to land.

During the first six days of the war, the crew of the monitor *Drava* offered fierce resistance to the aggressor while subjected to intense attacks from the riverbanks, the river itself and the air — by German pilots, Hungarian vessels and Volksdeutsche spies. Among other achievements, the crew shot down seven aircraft, chiefly with the ship's guns. Finally, on 12 April, German bombers severely damaged and completely disabled the vessel near Čelarevo. At that point, her commander, Lieutenant Commander Alek-

sandar Berić, left with only 13 of his original crew of 67, decided not to abandon the sinking ship. Standing at attention, he saluted the bullet-riddled naval ensign and disappeared beneath the waters of the Danube together with his ship. Through this heroic act, he entered directly into history as an exemplar of military courage, honourable service to the fatherland and fidelity to his profession.

By a decree of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued in April 2002, the commander of the monitor *Drava*, Lieutenant Commander Aleksandar Berić, was awarded the Medal of Honour. In doing so, the state finally rectified a grave injustice and fulfilled an inescapable obligation owed by the fatherland. It is appropriate to note here that Boško Antić, a gifted officer of the JNA Navy, now a retired rear admiral and also an established author, repeatedly wrote throughout his professional career about Lieutenant Berić's heroic feat whenever he was able to secure space in a publication, advocating that the fatherland accord him the recognition he deserved. More fittingly still, Admiral Antić's book on this feat, "the like of which history has never recorded," is now awaiting publication by the Military Publishing Institute. From it, readers in this country will learn for the first time — with a curious and inexcusable delay — that King Petar II, by Supreme Command Decree No. 745 of 1 July 1942, awarded this wartime hero and his deputies, Lieutenant Commander Bruno Šegvić and Lieutenant Sulejman Šehović, the Order of the Karađorđe Star, Fourth Class.

The remaining monitors entered the port of the capital on the evening of 11 April. It was decided there that, because the high water level made it impossible for them to pass beneath the railway bridge, they should be scuttled at the confluence of the Sava and the Danube. The decision was carried out the following day. During the preceding night, engineers had demolished the "suspension bridge" named after King Aleksandar (on the site of the present-day "Branko's Bridge") and then the railway bridge. On that occasion, 110 surviving sailors boarded the vessel *Tanasko Rajić*. During the voyage towards Obrenovac, just as the vessel was passing beneath the previously demolished second bridge, whose remains were still smouldering, fatefully, part of the structure suddenly collapsed upon it. The accident claimed the lives of 95 sailors who had survived all the horrors of warfare on the rivers during the preceding six days and nights.

A composite detachment comprising the surviving sailors from all the monitor crews assembled at Obrenovac. Numbering approximately 450 men, it was divided into two groups and set out southwards. One reached the Bay of Cattaro as planned, while the other reached Sarajevo, where it was overtaken by the capitulation.

The naval detachment from Ohrid, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Bata Begić and Lieutenant Commander Boško Jelisavčić, scuttled the patrol boats with which they had until then defended the water frontier from Sveti Naum to Struga. They undertook this final naval act to prevent the boats from falling into the hands of the occupiers.

The surviving "Ohrid sailors," together with elements of the shattered Vardar and Bregalnica Divisions, broke through into Greek territory. From there, at the end of May, they were embarked as German prisoners aboard the vessel *Helena Kanavarioti*. There were 505 people aboard. After three days at sea, during which those on board were de-

prived of even a morsel of food or a drop of water, the ship struck a mine and sank on 27 May near Nea Michaniona. Some 250 "passengers" disappeared beneath the waves of the Aegean Sea, at least half of them officers or soldiers of the Yugoslav Army, including Generals Jovan Jovanović and Ilija Dimitrijević. Most of the naval border guards from Ohrid were among those who perished. Admiral Antić rightly describes their final resting place in this singular odyssey as "the second Blue Tomb."

The naval forces — largely "because of the treachery, cowardice and indecision of the senior officer corps" — saw little action during the April War, apart from occasional operations by submarines, naval aviation and coastal vessels...

On 11 April, Captain Mirko Plajvajs, commander of the Northern Coastal Sector, ordered the coastal vessels in Soline Bay on the island of Krk to be scuttled so that they would not fall into Italian hands. Shortly afterwards, he ordered the minelayer *Malinska* to be sunk virtually under the aggressor's nose, while its crew set out across the Velebit mountains to join units of the Army.

Under the command of Captain Ivan Kern, commander of the Third Torpedo Division, the guns of the torpedo boat *Kajmakčalan* shot down two Italian aircraft. At the time of the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army's formations, this officer would courageously and resolutely sail with part of the fleet to join the Allies. Serving alongside them in Allied convoys throughout the war — for a period also as acting commander of the Royal Yugoslav Navy — he remained steadfastly committed to the anti-fascist cause. In 1945, he transferred his men and ships into the service of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Navy and, in recognition of these services, was awarded the rank of rear admiral in the "Second Yugoslavia."

On 16 April, the submarine *Nebojša* sailed from the Bay of Cattaro and headed towards Crete and the British. Her crew, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Đorđe Mitrović, had refused to surrender to the Italians. Her navigation officers were Lieutenant Đorđe Đorđević, Lieutenant Ivan Pažin and Lieutenant Commander Ivan Mišković.

Naval aviation was the most active component of the Navy. On the eve of the April War, it possessed 74 seaplanes organised into 10 seaplane squadrons. The aircraft were considerably outdated, unlike those of the opposing Italian forces, which were both substantially more numerous and more modern. Fortunately, the dispersal of these units averted catastrophe at the end of the very first day of the war, when all ports and seaplane bases were attacked. From 6 April onwards, the enemy achieved complete air superiority and retained it until the end of the war, with only exceptionally adverse weather conditions preventing it from fully exploiting this major advantage. Naval aviation personnel, together with most of their aircraft, assembled in the wider Bay of Cattaro area. From there, on 6 and 8 April, Lieutenant Ratko Jovanović attempted in a PVT training seaplane to intercept formations of Italian bombers and other aircraft that were considerably faster and more heavily armed. As part of the defence of the Bay of Cattaro, the 20th Seaplane Squadron, equipped with DO-22 aircraft, flew 13 combat missions over Italian territory, including five bombing raids. Thus, on 9 April, one seaplane reconnoitred the area around the port of Brindisi and bombed destroyers at their moorings, while another

attacked an Italian convoy of transport ships escorted by destroyers on the Brindisi-Durrës route. That same evening, three DO-22s bombed ships in the port of Durrës. During a reconnaissance mission over the Bari area, a tanker was attacked while under way and brought to a halt after sustaining severe damage. The seaplanes also protected the laying of minefields off Budva and detected Italian sailing vessels, preventing them from carrying out their wartime missions.

On 16 and 17 April, amid the complete disintegration of forces in the Bay of Cattaro, 19 seaplanes of the 20th and 25th Seaplane Squadrons set out to join the British under the command of Lieutenant Commanders Vladeta Petrović and Alojz Gvošelj. The pilots voluntarily chose this highly uncertain journey towards Allied Greece in order to continue the struggle against fascism. Owing to extremely poor weather, mechanical failures and enemy action, only 10 of 14 seaplanes reached Greek bases. The journey was marked by genuine dramas in which several men died or were killed. From there they flew approximately 2,000 km in five stages, eventually reaching the British seaplane base on the Aboukir Peninsula, east of Alexandria in Egypt. From 7 May 1941 until 23 April 1942, they fought as part of RAF No. 201 Group under the official designation "No. 2 Yugoslav Squadron." They completed 812 combat missions, all under extremely difficult conditions, without spare parts, with their aircraft subjected to severe mechanical strain and amid considerable danger from attacks both at sea and from the air. Among other duties, they reconnoitred a 300-km stretch of the Egyptian coast and waters extending up to 200 km offshore, conducted anti-submarine patrols and searched for the crews of Allied aircraft that had gone down. Sergeants Šimun Pišek and Kamenko Petrović lost their lives on these missions, while Lieutenant Boleslav Ivković and Sergeant Jovo Kokanović were seriously wounded. Three seaplanes were lost in combat. The squadron was commended on several occasions by the British command. Ivković would later rally Yugoslav pilots around the platform of the National Liberation Movement and assist missions of the NOVJ to the Allies in Egypt and Algeria. In November 1943, the pilots of these seaplanes became the first members of the "Yugoslav Army Outside the Fatherland" to declare their readiness to join the NOVJ. They would form the nucleus of the flying personnel of the First Squadron which, from the summer of 1944 until Victory Day, operated within the RAF in support of the Yugoslav theatre of war.

Some active naval officers returned to their home regions after the April War and, in time, once they had come to understand the alignment of forces in the conflict, joined the anti-fascist war. One such officer was Lieutenant Commander Josip Černi, whom we find at the beginning of 1943 serving as chief of staff of the Coastal Operational Zone of the National Liberation Army and, in November of that year, as a colonel commanding the Navy of the NOVJ. In the post-war years, as an exemplary military professional and patriot, he would attain the rank of admiral.

Among the active naval officers who participated in the National Liberation War from July 1941 onwards were Gligorije Gligo Mandić, Momčilo Novković, Dušan Brstina and Josip Grubelić, all of whom would become generals of the Yugoslav Army (JA). During the National Liberation War, Mandić rose to command a corps and Novković a division, and both were proclaimed National Heroes. The same highest distinction for

wartime service was awarded to Sub-Lieutenant Velimir Škorpik, the first commander of the Partisan Navy, who was killed in 1943 and posthumously promoted to the rank of major in the NOVJ.

Numerous "ordinary" active officers and non-commissioned officers of the pre-war Navy likewise joined its ranks, particularly after the capitulation of Italy. They came from towns where they had been active within the organisation of the National Liberation Movement, from prisoner-of-war camps where they had conducted themselves courageously and patriotically, from Allied fronts and from Partisan units. Gathered under the Navy's ensign, these approximately 260 "former" officers and non-commissioned officers constituted the nucleus of this highly technical branch of the armed forces, forged under the harsh conditions of warfare at sea.

At the age of 90, Admiral J. Černi recalled with profound respect his earliest comrades in the creation of the Navy of the NOVJ — men who had been officers of the Yugoslav Navy until April 1941 — stating that they comprised "134 naval officers, 29 specialist officers and engineers of all disciplines and 30 non-commissioned officers."

Captain Karel Levičnik, an artillery officer in the Navy, was an activist in the Liberation Front in Ljubljana until the capitulation of Italy and subsequently, at Drvar and on Vis, became the most senior officer in his specialist field at Supreme Headquarters. After the war, he held the highest staff appointments in the artillery of the JNA.

Similar wartime careers were followed by Lieutenant Marko Orhanović, Janez Tomšič, Franjo Rustja and Juraj Bonači, who held senior command positions during the National Liberation War and subsequently rose to the rank of admiral in the Yugoslav Navy.

These few examples alone demonstrate the one-sided and inaccurate nature of claims that the "bulk of the officer corps" of the Royal Yugoslav Navy behaved treacherously and cowardly during the April War and subsequently continued fighting in the service of the occupiers and collaborationist regimes. More precisely, such an assessment may apply to part of the senior command, but certainly not to the great majority of the Navy's 742 officers.

Finally, and very briefly, there is the well-known account of the heroic deed of Lieutenants Milan Spasić and Sergej Mašera. On 17 April, having refused Captain Nikola Krizomali's order to abandon their ship so that it could be surrendered to the Italians, they blew up the destroyer *Zagreb* and, sparing neither their own lives nor the honour of naval officers, heroically went to the seabed together with the remains of their vessel. In doing so, they entered history, legend and naval encyclopaedias, where the British, the most distinguished of seafaring nations, accorded them a place of honour.

Both were fully justified in being proclaimed National Heroes. Yet the grave injustice inflicted for six decades upon their colleague from the Danube, Aleksandar Berić, has only now been rectified. It should also be noted that King Petar II decorated him in 1942, a fact about which his family remained silent for 60 years, itself a telling reflection of that era and its attitude towards "former officers." There was also room in their company for other participants in the April War drawn from the active officers and non-commissioned officers of the other two branches of the Yugoslav Army. As this account

demonstrates, there were indeed many such men. It is both deeply regrettable and a grave injustice that over these six decades we did not speak more loudly and clearly about them or record, alongside the heroes Spasić and Mašera in histories and encyclopaedias, the example of those pilots who chose honourable and heroic self-sacrifice in the execution of their missions as the manner of their death, determined to defend the fatherland and the honour of officers of the national army even at the cost of their lives.

The Tragic Fate of the Army and the State

To understand more readily the dramatic course and outcome of the April War, which lasted some 10 days, it is necessary to add a few observations concerning the fundamental conceptions underlying Hitler's plan "Operation 25" for the conquest of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which was directly linked to the "Marita" war plan — the operation for the invasion of Greece.

Under that war plan, the German 12th Army was intended to advance southwards from Bulgaria and engage the British and Greeks, and was accordingly provided with substantial armoured and mechanised forces and supported by aviation. However, following developments in Yugoslavia after the coup of 27 March, it was assigned the preliminary task of penetrating the southern Yugoslav theatre, cutting the Yugoslav Army in two and linking up with the forces of the Italian Ninth Army in Albania, before capturing Salonika — all in a single sweep. Hence its powerful and rapid advance, in accordance with the principles of "Blitzkrieg," along three axes leading westwards into Macedonia. By the night of the second day of the war it had reached Kumanovo and Skopje, before immediately and inexorably continuing westwards. The strategic objective was thus achieved in only three days of fighting: the essential purpose was to prevent the Yugoslav and Allied armies from joining forces. Macedonia was cut off from Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Army was divided and the port of Salonika captured.

The Wehrmacht's Second Army was tasked with advancing from the north to conquer and occupy the central part of Yugoslavia. Its advance was impeded by determined resistance from Yugoslav Army formations along its axes of penetration, and in any event it was in no particular haste until the victim of aggression had been cut off from the south. Thus, only on the fourth day of the war, 10 April, did its divisions enter Zagreb, where they were received triumphantly, before shifting the front south of the Sava. On 12 April they entered an empty Belgrade and, by entering Sarajevo on 15 April, had conquered the central part of the state, with extensive support from the Ustaše and Maček's "Protection" organisation. This marked the culmination and conclusion of the army's agony. From Pale, the Supreme Command assessed that "any further military resistance is impossible" and that it "could lead only to unnecessary bloodshed without any prospect of success."

The speed of the advance prevented the Yugoslav Army from fulfilling the unequivocal requirement laid down in war plan R-41: to occupy the Bojana-Durmitor-Prenj-Neretva line and, from this broad bridgehead, accept the decisive battle while awaiting the assistance repeatedly requested from the Allies. A directive ordering the urgent concen-

tration of the Yugoslav Army's operational formations in this manner was issued to the troops as early as 13 April, but it was already too late. On the basis of its latest assessment of the gravity of the situation, Supreme Command therefore decided to conclude an "honourable armistice" with the enemy "so that the troops might rest and gain time" and "alleviate for the army and the people the consequences of this unwanted war." In the meantime, the headquarters of several armies, acting independently of Supreme Command and beyond their constitutional authority, attempted to negotiate separate cessations of hostilities. The Germans rejected these approaches and instead demanded the capitulation of the entire armed forces, bearing the signature of the army's leading authority — King Petar II Karađorđević, or his deputy, Field Marshal Petar Bojović, or, in their absence from the country, the Prime Minister and Chief of the Supreme Command Staff, Army General Dušan Simović.

Instead of the provisions of a treaty "for an honourable armistice," the authorised representatives of the Yugoslav Supreme Command were presented at the headquarters of the German Second Army in Belgrade on 17 April — two days after the Supreme Commander had left the country by air — with the harsh terms of unconditional capitulation, not merely of the army but of the state itself. The terms were dictated by the arrogant Field Marshal Maximilian von Weichs, whose army had previously participated in the defeat of France. What was signed in the name of the army and the state would have enduring and incalculable consequences. Among other things, throughout the remainder of the war the occupying power would declare every form of resistance to its system in Yugoslavia to be contrary to the provisions of the Geneva Convention and punish it all the more ruthlessly on that basis, refusing to recognise the NOVJ as a lawful and legitimate belligerent.

Meanwhile, the Italians — advancing through the Ljubljana Gap, across the sea and from Albania — penetrated Slovenia, Dalmatia and Montenegro. Three Hungarian divisions occupied Baranja and Bačka, while Bulgaria severed diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia, and three days later its troops marched into what it regarded as "its" territory in Serbia and Macedonia.

Under the order of unconditional capitulation, all units of the Yugoslav Army were required to assemble by noon on 18 April in one of 15 designated concentration areas and surrender to the occupying forces "at full strength and with all their armaments." Only isolated individuals succeeded in evading this imposed obligation.

The state disintegrated, the Serbian lands were occupied, the armed forces were shattered and the greater part of them was taken into captivity. According to the first German report published on the matter, 6,298 officers and 337,864 non-commissioned officers and soldiers were captured, with the explicit note: "all Serbs." In the second edition of his two-volume *The Collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941*, General Velimir Terzić rounds this figure to "approximately 350,000 men, of whom 30,000 were captured by the Italians," adding the estimate that, "after the release of various categories of men," the number fell "to 200,000 prisoners of war in Germany and 10,000 in Italy," and that "90 per cent of them were Serbs." In his study *Četnici u Drugom svetskom ratu* [*The Chetniks in the Second World War*] (1979), the historian Jozo Tomašević accepts the second German figure to be published, dated 21 June 1941, probably compiled after

"settling accounts" with the Italians and "releasing the sick and those regarded as having rendered services to the Third Reich." It recorded 181,258 non-commissioned officers and soldiers and 13,559 active and reserve officers, out of a total of 21,158 recorded on 20 March 1941, while in subsequent months "Croats and members of minority groups were released" from this body of prisoners. From the Osnabrück camp alone, 227 Croats and 321 Bunjevci were released. The first American report, by contrast, gives a figure of 254,000 "Yugoslav soldiers and officers," excluding "those who were not from Serbia." The researcher Mišo Leković, in his notes to volume 9 of Broz's *Sabrana djela* [*Collected Works*] (1982), states that "the German occupiers took into captivity 4,376 officers and 264,029 non-commissioned officers and soldiers of Serbian and Slovenian nationality," adding that "Croats, Macedonians, Montenegrins and members of national minorities were spared captivity because the occupation authorities counted upon their loyalty." It should immediately be added that a considerable number of those thus "spared," refusing to accept the terms of the proclaimed loyalty, subsequently ended up in camps, while some paid for such "ingratitude" with their lives.

A brutal war, imposed through military aggression and lasting 11 days, swept across Yugoslavia. Its results were tragic and its consequences catastrophic. Much has been written about this in our historiography, in studies and textbooks, monographs and memoirs, encyclopaedia entries and lexicons, in which the officer corps, particularly those of higher rank, was indiscriminately accused of treason, while examples of patriotism and courage among younger and lower-ranking officers were insufficiently emphasised or were treated in such general terms that neither the names of the heroes nor their deeds remained in public memory. For that reason, 60 years later, and on the basis of surviving documentation and the recollections of principal participants, this account has sought — with a degree of openly acknowledged partiality — to speak of the courage and resourcefulness displayed in those dramatic wartime events. There were indeed instances of treason and traitors, fifth-columnists and spies, cowards and egoists, as well as the inevitable war profiteers, but there were also genuine heroes — and, as has been demonstrated, by no means a small number of them.

4,626 "Former Officers" in the JNA

No more than 1,100 active officers, and probably somewhat fewer non-commissioned officers, returned principally to areas with a Serbian majority population. Of these, approximately 900 participated in the June and July uprisings, especially in Herzegovina, Montenegro, eastern Bosnia, Bosanska Krajina, Kninska Krajina, Banija and Kordun. During the subsequent ebb of the uprising, and still more during the acute polarisation of the anti-fascist movement between Chetniks and Partisans, the number who remained loyal to the uprising fell to approximately 350. It was largely from this body of active Yugoslav Army officers, mockingly labelled "former officers," who remained within the Partisan forces that the wartime generals and commanders of the largest formations of the NOVJ were "recruited," as were National Heroes and, after the war, generals of the JNA.

By the capitulation of Italy, the NOVJ included approximately 700 active officers

and non-commissioned officers of the former Yugoslav Army, most of them holding command posts at various levels, and this number continued to increase until Victory Day. The influx became particularly substantial from the summer of 1944, following the general amnesty proclaimed by the Supreme Headquarters in August and King Petar II's September appeal to all officers to leave the ranks of the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland and join the NOVJ.

On the eve of the final offensive for the liberation of the country, the number of officers of the National Liberation Army belonging to this category stood at 2,680. Since the return of prisoners from POW camps added another 1,946, the total had risen by the spring of 1946 to 4,626. This represented approximately 17 per cent of the total number of Yugoslav Army (JA) personnel occupying officer posts.

Towards the end of the war and during the first year of peace, 1,963 officers of the Croatian Home Guard were accepted into the Yugoslav Army (JA), many of them belonging to the group of 559 officers and military officials whom the Yugoslav government in London had, in 1942 — as Ivan Košutić records them by name — stripped of rank and declared deserters: five generals and seven admirals, 33 colonels and 36 ship-of-the-line captains, 55 lieutenant-colonels and six frigate captains, 53 majors and five corvette captains, 66 captains first class and so forth, down to 34 second lieutenants. At the same time, 727 officers were accepted from the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland, that is, Draža Mihailović's units, together with 17 from Egypt, 683 from the armed forces of European states that had served nazism and fascism during the war and 2,016 former prisoners of war, including 12 generals.

Alongside 28 holders of the 1941 Partisan Commemorative Medal, the first months of peace saw nine generals accepted during the final operations and another 12 who had previously been prisoners of war. This amounted to a total of 49 "former officers" holding general rank, or approximately 60 per cent of the entire general officer corps of the Yugoslav Army (JA) at that time — a fact that has hitherto either been passed over in silence or treated dismissively.

From the uprising onwards, and particularly after the establishment of the NOVJ in November 1942, these "former officers," as proven military professionals, committed patriots and loyal anti-fascists, were for entirely pragmatic reasons appointed to senior military positions, predominantly staff posts. During preparations for the strategic offensive for the final liberation of the country, former active officers of the Yugoslav Army who were by then generals of the Yugoslav Army (JA) occupied the following senior posts: Arso R. Jovanović was Chief of the General Staff, Velimir Terzić his deputy, while Rade Hamović, Mihailo Apostolski, Rudolf Primorac, Branko Poljanac and Josip Škorpik served as assistants; Branko Obradović, Mitar Vujović and Vjekoslav Klišanić headed major sections; Savo Orović and Kosta Nađ commanded the Military Academy and the Third Army respectively; Nikica Knežević and Đoko Mirašević commanded the Main Staffs of Serbia and Montenegro; corps commanders included Radivoje Jovanović Bradonja, Jovan Vukotić, Gligorije Gligo Mandić and Franc Poglajen, together with Colonels Tihomir Miloševski and Vladimir Matetić; Generals Ljubo Vučković and Pavle Ilić and Colonel Vukašin Subotić served as army chiefs of staff; Generals France Pirc

and Josip Černi commanded the Air Force and Navy respectively, while Božo Lazarević commanded the Group of Air Divisions. Corps chiefs of staff included Colonels Milutin Dapčević, Rudi Petovar and Velimir Knežević.

The commanders of 24 Yugoslav Army (JA) divisions were "former officers," by then mostly colonels: Vaso Jovanović, Rajko Tanasković, Miloje Milojević, Pero Popivoda, Joco Tarabić, Tomica Popović, Petar Kleut, Gedeon Geca Bogdanović, Petar V. Brajović, Žarko Vidović, Dušan Vlajisavljević, Mihajlo Vojnović, Petar Vojnović, Savo Vukelić, Čedomir Drulović, Obrad Egić, Radoslav Miško Jović, Radovan Knežević Tihi, Milan Pavlović, Radovan Petrović, Đurađ Predojević and Mile Uzelac, together with the commanders of the air divisions, Colonels and pilots Arso Boljević and Jevrem Bjelica.

In the final offensive for the complete liberation of the country, a significant contribution was made by hundreds of Yugoslav Army officers who, during its preparations, arrived from prisoner-of-war camps and, at their express request, were assigned to wartime duties at the front or in the rear. This will be discussed in greater detail in the following chapter.

Part Four
FIGHTERS ABROAD

There were Yugoslav Army airmen serving in RAF and USAAF formations, chiefly across the wider Mediterranean region; there were naval officers and sailors in Allied convoys in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and on all the seas washing the shores of Europe's anti-fascist countries; there were officers of the branches and services of the Land Forces serving in units of the "Yugoslav Army Outside the Fatherland" in North Africa and the Middle East, on Italian, French and Greek islands and in resistance movements ranging from General de Gaulle's to the Slovak. And members of all three groups — that is, of all three services — were also to be found in prisoner-of-war camps, in labour camps opened after the capitulation of Italy (9 September 1943) and in the Soviet Union after the Battle of Stalingrad (early 1943). Everywhere, an ever-growing number of them in that foreign world aligned themselves with the National Liberation War in the fatherland and, as circumstances permitted, worked on its behalf.

They returned to the fatherland as soon as the most essential conditions for doing so had been created, participated in the strategic offensive for the final liberation of the country and subsequently joined the efforts to place the Yugoslav Army (JA) on a peacetime footing, improve its professional capabilities and involve it in the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

This section concerns those Yugoslav Army officers "in dispersion," their wartime endeavours and their contribution to Victory...

Active Yugoslav Army officers who participated in the National Liberation War and arrived from abroad during 1944 and early 1945 were "recruited" from two large groups driven into foreign lands by the April War. The first consisted of personnel serving in Allied military formations in the Middle East, the Mediterranean and North Africa, chiefly Yugoslav Army airmen and sailors, together with men arriving from the Soviet Union from the ranks of the Croatian Legion. The second consisted of men from some 10 prisoner-of-war camps in Germany, above all Osnabrück. It should be noted that officers held in Italian captivity began arriving, individually and in groups, from September 1943, while those from the territory of the Third Reich began returning in larger numbers and in an organised manner from the beginning of March 1945. Those who managed to escape, individually or in groups, from camps in either country arrived at different times, fighting their way across occupied Europe, mostly through Slovenia.

Having succeeded in avoiding capture during the April War, 101 officers, 43 non-commissioned officers and 36 soldiers reached the Middle East and Allied air bases, and their number continued to increase as individuals and groups arrived from other parts of the world. Their ranks were also augmented by the personnel of two seaplane squadrons, with 19 aircraft, which reached Egypt from Boka Kotorska and included approximately 20 outstanding pilots. After the capitulation of Italy, they were joined by airmen from prisoner-of-war camps on the Apennine Peninsula, as well as Slovenes and Istrians from

the air force of that defeated country.

Most of the airmen served within the "Yugoslav Army Outside the Fatherland" and in Allied formations. Among them were the pilots Vladimir Simić, Kosta Lekić and Miloš Maksimović, who demanded that they be transferred immediately to Yugoslavia and incorporated into the NOVJ. The government-in-exile condemned the gathering of these men and their open declaration of support for the National Liberation War as a mutiny and, at the beginning of 1944, confined the most outspoken groups in camps along the Suez Canal, stripping some of their rank as a warning. The pilots nevertheless remained resolute, and when the First Fighter Squadron was formed on 22 April and the Second Fighter-Bomber Squadron on 1 July 1944 — both of which remained part of the BAF until the final day of the war and operated over the national theatre — these men formed their core. In fact, when these first two squadrons of the NOVJ were established, 80 per cent of their personnel consisted of officers who had previously served in the Royal Yugoslav Air Force in the Middle East, while 20 per cent were airmen from the First Air Base of the NOVJ. In both cases, they had formerly been active Yugoslav Army personnel. For a clearer sense of scale, it should be borne in mind that each squadron comprised between 200 and 250 men, including approximately 20 active Yugoslav Army officers, all of them pilots.

To begin with, 37 officer-pilots from the two squadrons made a considerable effort to retrain on Spitfire fighters and Hurricane fighter-bombers so as to qualify for the important forthcoming missions over the national theatre, a process that involved substantial risks and dangers. Thus Captain First Class Aleksandar Marković, formerly of a seaplane squadron, and Sergeant Pilot Salih Islamović were killed in a mid-air collision during combat training. Still more were killed while carrying out operational missions over Yugoslavia, including Majors Mileta Protić, Arkadije Popov and Ratko Jovanović, Captain First Class Aleksandar Cenić, Second Lieutenant Nikola Vemić and Sergeant Jovan Pešić. Major Franjo Kluz, who had arrived from Yugoslavia and served as political commissar of the First Squadron, was likewise killed on an operational mission. In all, by Victory Day 15 pilots of the First and Second Squadrons had been killed on missions, most of them former active officers of the Yugoslav Army who had firmly committed themselves to the NOVJ. All were gifted pilots and courageous men, potential commanders of air divisions and regiments in the new army. They will be discussed in greater detail in the concluding chapter of this book.

In the spring of 1944, groups of airmen, mostly active officers, from the First Air Base of the NOVJ also reached the Allied bases in the Mediterranean and North Africa, where hundreds of Yugoslav Army officers had already assembled. In April, 150 airmen had reached the First Air Base from the national theatre via Vis. Most had responded to the Supreme Headquarters' appeal of November 1943 and declared themselves in favour of the National Liberation War. They were subsequently joined by a substantial part of a group of 250 airmen assembled from the eastern sector of the theatre at the Headquarters of the Second Shock Corps. Their colleague Captain Pilot Božo Lazarević, by then a colonel in the NOVJ, led this group from Kolašin to Drvar.

Upon assuming his post as a member of the Military Mission of the NOVJ to the Supreme Allied Command in the Mediterranean, Lazarević found 250 airmen at the First

Air Base, of whom 60 were pilots and 28 observers, while the remainder were specialists of various kinds. They were commanded there by former Yugoslav Army non-commissioned officers, by then Captains Milan Simović and Ljubiša Ćurgus of the NOVJ. At the same time, approximately 1,500 aviation specialists of various profiles had assembled in Algeria for training on modern equipment, most of them natives of Istria and the Julian March and former members of the Italian armed forces, but also including approximately 300 Yugoslav Army airmen.

At the end of August 1944, approximately 130 former airmen were flown to the Soviet Union for retraining. They were subsequently joined by a Youth Battalion of approximately 420 men arriving by ship from Ismailia. The battalion was led by Mirko Šćepanović, formerly a Yugoslav Army sergeant-pilot and by then a major in the NOVJ. The contingent also included approximately 100 "former officers" whom the British had for months promised to retrain at centres in Rhodesia, only to postpone the undertaking repeatedly. They would now train at Red Army Air Force instructional bases, particularly at the training centres in Grozny and Krasnodar, as fighter pilots and bomber pilots on the latest Soviet aircraft, as well as in other specialities. By the autumn of 1945, they would constitute the key cadre of two Yugoslav Army (JA) air regiments.

At Grozny, 233 pilots and other specialists were trained for ground-attack aviation; at Krasnodar, 180 airmen of all specialities, from staff officers to armourers, including 74 fighter pilots; and at Engels, 43 bomber pilots. In brief, at the beginning of 1945, 1,122 airmen were undergoing training in the Soviet Union, at least one in four of whom had been an active professional member of the pre-war Yugoslav Army.

At the beginning of 1944, and particularly after the Tito-Šubašić Agreement on Vis in June of that year, dozens of active Yugoslav Army officers and non-commissioned officers who had hitherto served in the royal armed forces abroad entered Allied training centres for tank crews and artillerymen scattered across North Africa and the Middle East, as well as around the shores and islands of the Mediterranean. Having aligned themselves with the NOVJ, they became platoon and unit commanders, instructors and trainers, while others reached headquarters throughout the country via Vis.

The first two squadrons of the NOVJ would fight until Victory Day as part of RAF 281 Wing, flying missions over Yugoslav territory from the airfields at Canne in Italy, Vis and Škabrnje near Zadar. The First Squadron carried out 364 combat missions and the Second 227.

They returned to the country and came under the command of Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force Headquarters as early as 16 May 1945. At the head of fighter and ground-attack regiments and headquarters at every level in two air divisions they encountered their former fellow officer-pilots, or immediately "loaned" them those men who, combining the training received at good pre-war flying schools with wartime experience, were already mature enough for senior command appointments.

By the autumn of 1944, the liberated part of the country was already engaged in the creation of the technical services and branches of the NOVJ, including its air force. From Vis operated the Supreme Headquarters Liaison Squadron, which from mid-October possessed 10 aircraft and was transferred to Zemun on 11 November.

Under the order establishing the Air Force Headquarters of the NOVJ, dated 29 October 1944, every one of the 15 leading figures in this principal command institution of the air force had formerly been a Yugoslav Army officer-pilot and now held ranks ranging from lieutenant to general. Arriving from the national and Allied theatres, all received higher ranks and senior appointments: Major General Franjo Pirc as commander and Colonel Božo Lazarević as his deputy, Colonel Miodrag Lozić as Chief of Staff and Major Ladislav Zabundžija as his deputy, while departmental chiefs and deputy chiefs included Major Milan Simović, Colonel Zdenko Ulepič, Major Hubert Jeločnik, Lieutenant Colonel Dušan Lučić, Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Hubmajer, Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Bubanj, Lieutenant Colonel Janez-Ivan Svetlin, Colonel Jevrem Bjelica, Major Vladimir Simić, Lieutenant Colonel Eduard Pikl and Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Perhinac. Together with the Red Army's Vitruk Group, preparations were made for the Air Force of the NOVJ to receive 299 Soviet ground-attack aircraft and fighters, for whose acceptance and operational employment in the final campaigns for the liberation of the country hundreds of "former officers" of the Yugoslav Army Air Force were already prepared.

By order of the Ministry of National Defence of Democratic Federal Yugoslavia dated 15 March 1945, the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Division Group was formed. By mid-April 1945, its headquarters, units and establishments employed 6,635 aviation specialists who, with few exceptions, had previously served in the Yugoslav Army, chiefly as active officers and non-commissioned officers assembled from the operational formations of the NOVJ on the national theatre, from Allied operational formations and from among former prisoners of war. The commander and Chief of Staff were Major General Božo Lazarević and Colonel Zdenko Ulepič, while the commanders of the 42nd Ground-Attack Division and the 11th Fighter Division were Jevrem Bjelica and Arso Boljević. Regimental commanders included Blažo Kovačević, Savo Poljanec, Ljubomir Popadić, Milan Malnarić, Đuro Ivanišević, Miljenko Lipovšćak and others. They commanded air formations which, during the final operations for the liberation of the country, flew from 15 airfields extending from Novi Sad to Rajlovac. Some of these pilots, who had only recently arrived from Allied units and prisoner-of-war camps, were killed in the fighting for the final liberation of the country. One such example was Major Milan Malnarić, who had commanded a seaplane squadron during the April War and now commanded the 423rd Ground-Attack Regiment. From the end of 1944 until the end of September 1945, they were joined by dozens of active air-force officers returning to the country, individually and in groups, after having spent the entire Second World War in German camps, most as prominent activists of the National Liberation Movement. Larger contingents returned from these camps in March, April and May. These hundreds of active Yugoslav Army officers, assembled from the Yugoslav and Allied theatres and now serving as officers of the Yugoslav Army (JA), were the planners and instructors, the nucleus and mainstay of this modern service of the armed forces of the "Second Yugoslavia," which commanded respect even by European standards.

Officers of the Royal Yugoslav Navy would join the Yugoslav Army (JA) — with the exception of those who, individually or in groups, had already declared themselves for the NOVJ through its bases at Bari and Monopoli — only after the end of the war, once

the British, following protracted negotiations and agreements, consented to the incorporation of Yugoslav personnel and Yugoslav vessels into the Yugoslav Navy. Their arrival made a significant contribution to the development of this service of the armed forces. They came under the command of the former Ship-of-the-Line Captain Ivan Kern. At least half of the 250 senior and junior active officers among their colleagues, out of a pre-war total of 742, who in April 1941 had entered the Navy of the NDH, either voluntarily or under threats and coercion, would respond to the appeal of Supreme Headquarters and join the Navy of the NOVJ. The latter had been founded and led by a group of Royal Yugoslav Navy officers, including both its first and last wartime commanders: Second Lieutenant Velimir Škorpik, who was killed in 1943 while serving as Chief of Staff of the Third Dalmatian Brigade with the rank of major in the NOVJ and was subsequently proclaimed a National Hero, and Corvette Captain Josip Černi, a wartime general who commanded the Navy during the National Liberation War and for decades thereafter in peacetime, ultimately attaining the highest naval rank, Admiral of the Fleet. Janez Tomšič likewise progressed from Ship-of-the-Line Captain in the Royal Yugoslav Navy to general in the Yugoslav Army (JA), while the senior naval artillery officer Ship-of-the-Line Captain Karel Levičnik, who joined the National Liberation War in 1943 and became a prominent commander of artillery units, was also promoted to general in the Yugoslav Army (JA). Some naval personnel, including military official Gligo Mandić and Sergeants Momčilo Novković and Dušan Brstina, attained general rank in the Land Forces. Ship-of-the-Line Captain Ivan Kern, whose work with the British furthered the cause of the new Yugoslavia, likewise deservedly received the first rank of admiral in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

Figures for the number of active and reserve Yugoslav Army officers held in prisoner-of-war camps vary considerably, probably with good reason, for who, in wartime, could accurately count the "heads" scattered among camps across Germany, Poland and France — Osnabrück, Strij, Schokken, Nuremberg, Hammelburg, Heunfels, Hammerstein, Strasbourg and Barkenbrügge — or throughout Italy, from Ponza on its isolated fortress-island in the Tyrrhenian Sea to Klos in Albania and Bar in Montenegro, which had been annexed by the fascist empire and kingdom? German, Italian, American and Yugoslav archives preserve figures from 1941 that differ substantially regarding the number of active Yugoslav Army officers in captivity. Some of these figures were cited in Chapter Three. Here, however, it is worth repeating the estimate given by Ambassador Nikola Vujanović, who wrote in *Front u žicama* [*The Front Behind Barbed Wire*] (1979) that approximately 12,000 active and reserve officers and some 190 generals were held in German camps. Among those generals there was certainly a substantial majority of the 165 who had been on active service in 1938, together with approximately 50 more who had been recalled to active duty on the eve of the April War from among the 443 Yugoslav Army generals and admirals who had been retired on various grounds.

Nikola Vujanović, a pre-war intellectual and Yugoslav Army reserve lieutenant who became a prisoner of war and, throughout the conflict, headed the organisation of the National Liberation Movement in the Osnabrück camp, estimated that active officers constituted one-third of all inmates, which would amount to approximately 4,000.

Accepting this estimate, while remaining convinced that the exact figure will never be established, the discussion that follows will use the Osnabrück camp as an example to examine the notable, and certainly courageous and patriotic, activities of a substantial proportion of active Yugoslav Army officers in captivity. From among them, together with their colleagues from approximately 10 other camps, came the 2,028 officers and generals admitted into the Yugoslav Army (JA) in 1945 and the following year, primarily in recognition of their conduct during the Second World War on the "fronts behind barbed wire."

At Osnabrück, the largest and most heavily used prisoner-of-war camp in the Third Reich, approximately 5,000 officers were held for varying periods during the Second World War. Of these, around one-third, or "no fewer than 1,500" — according to surviving evidence and entirely reliable recollections of participants recorded in 1945 — were "prominent activists of the National Liberation Movement," while one-third of this group consisted of active officers of all ranks, predominantly the youngest. The list — compiled immediately after the war following extensive consultation of original documents and testimony and published as an appendix to Vujanović's *The Front Behind Barbed Wire* — contains the names of 526 active officers and 13 generals of the Yugoslav Army who, organised within sections of the Cultural Committee, the camp's legal leadership body, and the Anti-Fascist Council, its clandestine leadership, were notably engaged in a range of activities "in support of the National Liberation Movement": from conducting courses in various academic disciplines and organising cultural, educational and sporting groups to training for combat operations under different circumstances within the camp. The list includes 166 second lieutenants, 151 lieutenants, 148 captains first and second class, 26 majors, 14 lieutenant colonels, eight colonels and 13 generals, ranging from brigadier general to army general. Of all those named, 17 were General Staff officers, with ranks ranging from captain to brigadier general. According to their particular abilities, and more conscious than others of the principle that there can be no action without organisation, they served as instructors, editors, organisers of social activities, leaders of sports teams and entertainment groups, lecturers on the art of war and instructors in weapons handling.

Among the generals "whose conduct was courageous and patriotic" were General Staff Brigadier General Milan Zelenika; Brigadier Generals Mihajlo Nedeljković of the infantry, Jovan Aćimović and Vuko Lepetić of the artillery, Đorđe Jovanović of the air force and Dimitrije Šapinac of the military judiciary, as well as Ljubiša Hadži-Popović and Milan Kragujević; Divisional Generals Milan Anđelić, Vladimir Lukić, Đorđe Lukić and Vladislav Kostić; and Army Generals Milan Radenković and Jovan Naumović — the latter commander of the Gendarmerie, who was held there together with his two sons, Lieutenants Dušan and Nikola.

Among the active Yugoslav Army officers mentioned are several dozen who, after returning to the country, would be accepted as officers of the Yugoslav Army:

➢ colonels — General Staff officers Vekoslav Kolb and Milan Kaluđerčić, engineer officers Stevan Radović and Ilija Đuknić, infantry officer Milorad Maksimović and military judicial officer Milan Barjaktarević;

➢ lieutenant colonels — General Staff officers Jefto Jovanović and Maks Makovec and cavalry officer Branko Popović;

➢ majors — General Staff officers Milisav Perišić, Stojadin Katić, Milutin Mijušković and Dragoslav Simonić, engineer officer Milenko Filipović, artillery officers Marko Prlja and Boško Stanisavljević, and Đorđe Ganović, Žarko Čobanski, Momčilo Đerasimović, Luka Kandić, Mihailo Nikolić, Borivoje Rockov and Dušan Gačić;

➢ captains first and second class — Blažo Kovačević, Dragić Gajović, Milutin Šušović, Novo Čukić, Božidar Stevanović, Tihomir Stevanović, Jovan Delić, Mihailo Jovanović, Ilija Ika Zelenika, Boško Šuković, Miodrag Kitić, Jovan Teodorović, Slobodan Stambolić, Strahinja Lazarević, Vladimir Hripovski, Vojislav Šarčević, Borivoje Marković Farma, Aleksandar Radičević Zemlja, Jovan Vasić, Ljubiša Vasić, Mihailo Janković, Radivoje Ignjatović, engineers Nikola Mačvanski and Mihailo Kokoljević, Mirko Ćetković, Branislav Jevtić, Vojislav Marković, Ivo Novak, Stevan Milutinović and Branko Teodorović;

➢ lieutenants — members of the 58th to 61st classes, 75 per cent of whom were active members of the National Liberation Movement organisation, including Svetislav Minić, Ratibor Trivunac, Vladimir Milovanović, Đorđe Kešeljević, Savo Bubanja, Mido Rakočević, Stevan Prica, Jakša Popović, Jovan Kraguljac, Borislav Todorovski, Toma Linara, Branko Džakula, Stevan Obradović, Nedeljko Paja Maksimović and Mensur Dragnić;

➢ second lieutenants — members of the 62nd to 65th classes, 125 of whom belonged to the National Liberation Movement organisation and were highly active within it. They were regarded as "the strongest bastion of the National Liberation Movement at Osnabrück" and included Vladimir Timčenko, Žarko Radovanović, Vojislav Komarac, Milorad Govedarica, Ilija Pejčinović, Momčilo Kosanović, Branislav Bojović, Milorad Đukić, Dragoljub Joksimović, Mirko Mrđa, Miodrag Bekčić, Milutin Miletić and Miodrag Cvetković.

A group of talented technical officers also returned to the country, most of them active Yugoslav Army captains and majors. In the new state, they would rise to the rank of colonel in the JNA and lay the foundations of the military industry, military-technical directorates and institutes, as well as the Military Department at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Belgrade. Among them were distinguished specialists and accomplished designers: Jovan Trivunac in external ballistics, Jovan Marinković in internal ballistics, Miodrag Krstić in automatic weapons, Boško Stanisavljević, Miloš Milosavljević and Jovan Kosanović in artillery armaments and Pavle Đorđević in the testing of war material assets. All would devote their long and productive careers to military-technical development for the defence requirements of their own country and for export.

Among the quartermaster officers, 18 active officers of various generations are named, together with 11 cadet-sergeants who, as members of the 67th class of the Military Academy, had stood in the "front line of the National Liberation Movement." The most active among them were Sreten Karamanović, Čedomir Vujaklija, Dušan Resanović and Milan Dimić. Among the gendarmerie officers, Captains Second Class Obrad Anđelić — who before the war had served in the royal security detail protecting the under-age

king — Božo Radonjić and Tadija Đorđević, as well as Lieutenant Bogosav Vujić, were particularly prominent. All of these officers would, in the decades following the Second World War, rise to the rank of colonel through conscientious and professional service in the national defence or internal affairs establishments.

It is difficult to answer the question of whether 526 active officers who were prominent anti-fascists and members of the National Liberation Movement organisation constituted a large or small proportion of the approximately 1,500 active officers imprisoned at Osnabrück. The figure could certainly never be regarded as excessively large, but neither was it insignificant, particularly given the harsh regime imposed in the camp, the atmosphere of mutual denunciation within the barracks, the complete lack of reliable information about the allegiances of the various forces on the Yugoslav battlefield, the misinformation emanating from émigré and Allied sources and the pressure exerted by men in the service of General Milan Nedić and Draža Mihailović. The pressure applied by emissaries from the country and by generals within the camp ranged from persuasion to threats, blackmail and coercion, with the aim of inducing active Yugoslav Army officers to petition the camp authorities, in a spirit of repentance, for permission to return to Serbia and join the ranks of the State Guard and the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland. Yet not even 50 of the approximately 1,500 active officers signed one such document, known as the Nuremberg Declaration. In doing so, they also demonstrated their refusal to heed those generals who, in their vehement propaganda, publicly maintained that "of all military virtues, obedience ranks first in importance." This amounted both to an appeal for young officers to return to Serbia and to a demand that, within the camp, they unquestioningly obey every order issued by "even the lowliest German guard." Dignified and conscious of their responsibilities, these officers refused to accept the humiliation of being listed by the Germans, while fighting in Serbia, under the category of "prisoners on leave."

Under such conditions, declaring oneself in favour of the National Liberation Movement — which also entailed joining its organisation and participating in hazardous acts of resistance both to the violence of the camp authorities and to the capitulationist conduct of their own generals — involved genuine danger. Indeed, some lost their status as prisoners of war because of such conduct and were sent to concentration camps. Among them were General Staff Colonel Milan Kaluđerčić and Brigadier General Mihailo Nedeljković — a hero of Cer and Kajmakčalan who, as a courageous anti-fascist and ardent patriot, loyal to his professional comrades and to the truth, was deported to Dachau and killed there.

It is likewise difficult to determine which side individual members or groups among these 526 "committed anti-fascists and prominent activists of the National Liberation Movement organisation" at Osnabrück would have chosen, particularly when considered according to their Military Academy classes, affiliations to which considerable importance was attached in the camp, had they been confronted directly with the sharp polarisation in the country between the Partisans and the Chetniks, that is, between the NOVJ and the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland. It is nevertheless entirely plausible that more would have chosen the former. Wartime circumstances, however, did not afford them

such a choice. The emphasis here is therefore not upon the red five-pointed star or membership of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, but upon their anti-fascist commitment, their struggle for national liberation, their loyalty to the Serbian people and their devotion to the military profession. The position advanced here is that no one has the right to diminish these qualities, still less to consign them to oblivion.

In the interests of historical accuracy, it is long overdue that the views of the other side should also be considered carefully and accorded due weight. One example is M. Đorđević's assessment, published in London in 1962, that "after the war, the majority of Serbian generals and active officers remained in emigration, unwilling to accept the new communist government."

Officers from the camps in Germany began arriving by circuitous routes from mid-March 1945 onwards, in detachments of between 600 and 800 men, principally through Romania and then by train from Vršac or by boat from Smederevo to Belgrade. Active officers constituted the command cadres and backbone of this military organisation, while the capital welcomed them with open arms. It was recorded that a detachment of 800 former prisoners, commanded by General Staff Colonel Vekoslav Kolb, was greeted by approximately 200,000 Belgraders and that they "marched from the railway station to Slavija with a firm step and in perfect military formation, literally treading upon fresh flowers." Speeches followed, interwoven with pledges of devotion to the fatherland and demands that they be immediately assigned to units at the front so that they might participate in the final offensive for the liberation of the country. The detachment's chief of staff was Yugoslav Army Captain Dragić Gajović, while its obligatory political commissar was the writer Oto Bihalji-Merin. The square resounded with the words of Lieutenant Colonels Kolb and Jefto Jovanović, Captain Blažo Kovačević, Yugoslav Army (JA) Generals Branko Obradović and Ljubodrag Đurić, Soviet Ambassador Ivan Sadchikov and official representatives of the capital and Serbia. Among other things, Colonel Kolb declared: "We are not asking for rest. We demand that each of us, according to his abilities, be assigned to the place befitting a soldier in battle." General Staff Lieutenant Colonel Jefto Jovanović stated, among other things: "Our mature political consciousness and our commitment to the heroic liberation struggle of our people, our willingness and readiness to join that struggle immediately and without reservation — these are the positive aspects of our life in captivity, these are the gains of captivity. Therefore, comrades, the four years that have passed have not been barren or wasted years for us."

An account of this ceremony may be found in the pages of *Politika* of 23 March 1945.

Representatives of this detachment were also received by the Supreme Commander, who accommodated, to the greatest extent possible, their requests to proceed immediately to the front. Approximately 300 were assigned to units of the three armies of the Yugoslav Army (JA), while the remainder were appointed to staff positions well behind the fronts, with around 20 assigned to the General Staff and the Ministry of National Defence.

A detachment led by Generals Milan Zelenika, Vuko Lepetić and Ljubomir Hadži-Popović arrived shortly afterwards.

At the beginning of May, 700 active and reserve officers arrived under the leadership

of their commander, Colonel Miloš Drobnjak, and their commissar, Nikola Vujanović. The staff of this detachment also included Majors Brana Jovanović, Marko Prlja, Boško Stanisavljević and Konstantin Bilbuka and Lieutenant Blažo Ćipović.

Thereafter, Yugoslav Army officers who had hitherto been held in prisoner-of-war camps arrived in smaller groups or individually, as and when they succeeded in extricating themselves from the web of Allied political manoeuvring. This continued until approximately mid-September 1945. Around 3,000 former prisoners returned to the country from Osnabrück, while approximately 1,000 initially chose to remain in emigration. This numerical ratio between those who returned to the "Second Yugoslavia" and those who "turned their backs on communism" broadly applied to all active and reserve officers of the Yugoslav Army imprisoned in Germany during the Second World War. There were, of course, also those who returned to the country only to change their minds and leave for emigration, as well as cases of the reverse. Some members of the latter group were admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) in 1946 after rigorous screening by Department for the Protection of the People (OZNA).

On 15 October 1945, a gathering was held in the ceremonial hall of the Faculty of Agriculture in Zemun for 500 active officers selected from at least 2,000 who had returned from wartime captivity that year. In the presence of the former and newly appointed Chiefs of the General Staff, Lieutenant Generals Arso Jovanović and Koča Popović, as well as the commanders of the armies and service branches of the Yugoslav Army (JA), the Supreme Commander paid high tribute to their "courageous and patriotic conduct in the camps" and to their "struggle against the nazis, which was no easier than the liberation struggle within the country." He invited them to serve in the Yugoslav Army (JA) and firmly promised that they would "in every respect enjoy equal status with officers who had risen through the ranks of the NOVJ." Hundreds had already responded to this call.

Almost all the Yugoslav Army lieutenant colonels and colonels named here would, after returning from captivity to the fatherland, become generals in the Yugoslav Army (JA), while those holding ranks from second lieutenant to major were immediately promoted by one rank and, during their active service in the JNA, would almost without exception attain the rank of colonel. Of the Yugoslav Army brigadier generals mentioned above, eight were admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) with the rank of major general, one was posthumously designated an honorary major general and one was promoted to lieutenant general. The army and divisional generals cited here, on the basis of surviving documentation, as examples of anti-fascist and patriotic conduct were retired on account of their age and transferred to the reserve in the ranks they had already attained.

According to official figures, 733 officers described as "active supporters of the National Liberation Movement in prisoner-of-war camps" in Germany were admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) in 1945, with a further 1,283 added during the first half of the following year. Thus, approximately 4,600 former active "former officers," among some 30,000 Yugoslav Army officers originating from the "workers, peasants and honest intelligentsia," represented around 15 per cent of the total. This was a substantial proportion, although their actual role during the first years of peace, particularly in military training, was incomparably greater still.

The proportion of generals drawn from the ranks of the "former officers" was even higher within the Yugoslav Army's (JA) general officer corps, which numbered 74 at the end of the war. This figure comprised 28 "former officers" promoted to general in the NOVJ during the National Liberation War, nine Yugoslav Army generals admitted from the liberated territories and 12 from wartime captivity — 49 in all, or around 60 per cent of all Yugoslav Army (JA) generals. This proportion, however, did not reflect their actual influence, which was disproportionately smaller than that exercised by the revolutionary generals, particularly "our Spaniards."

Taken as a whole, the professional work and creative contribution of all active officers — from second lieutenants to generals — who were admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) "on various grounds" and at different times were, under the prevailing circumstances, immeasurable. Their expertise became integral to the broad and solid professional foundations upon which the Yugoslav Army (JA) — renamed the Yugoslav People's Army in 1951 — developed rapidly, largely under the pressure of events during a period of precarious peace, and by the 1950s and 1960s emerged as a regional military power in southeastern Europe. They were most numerous in operational staffs, military schools and military training and instruction more generally, where during the first years of peace they were often the only available specialists and were certainly indispensable. They were also particularly prominent in the highly technical service branches — the Air Force and Navy — as well as in artillery and armoured-mechanised units and in the technical and transport services. They established schools, wrote lectures and textbooks, served as editors-in-chief of professional journals and military newspapers, founded specialist institutions and laid the foundations of the Military History Institute, Military Geographical Institute and Military Technical Institute, as well as the *Military Encyclopaedia* and the Military Publishing Institute. By way of example, a group of active Yugoslav Army officers, all of relatively junior rank and most recently returned from wartime captivity, organised an automotive course in Zemun, almost certainly under orders, to train officers for the transport service. In May 1946, this course was reorganised as the Automotive Officers' School. Its first students were young Partisan officers, some of whom were illiterate, while instruction was provided, among others, by former Yugoslav Army officers Dobrosav Jović, Borisav Debeljak, Slaviša Simonović, Vojin Omorac, Branislav Moravac, Milenko Simonović and Dušan Mrđenović. The same pattern was repeated across dozens of other specialist courses, training centres and military schools.

While their expertise was indispensable, they were retained in important posts, almost exclusively in staff and instructional positions. Once the leadership of a state governed by an ideology of political conformity, together with its military establishment, concluded that it could dispense with these men, who had been persistently marginalised and disparaged, they were prematurely retired — in most cases, as already noted, with the rank of colonel. Approximately one hundred of them are identified by name and discussed in somewhat greater detail in Chapter Seven.

As this account demonstrates, 157 active officers of the Yugoslav Army would attain the rank of general, predominantly from among those who had participated in the National Liberation War from 1941 onwards. Three of them — Arso Jovanović, Ljubo

Vučković and Rade Hamović — would serve as Chiefs of the General Staff, six as commanders of service branches, eight as commanders of combat arms and 11 as heads of principal directorates within the General Staff or the Ministry of National Defence (later the State Secretariat for National Defence and subsequently the Federal Secretariat for National Defence).

They were also disproportionately represented among the victims of the Cominform Resolution. In addition to approximately 300 who were judicially sentenced for allegedly acting "against the people and the state," twice that number were among the 16,500 officers subjected to disciplinary punishment, through which they were deprived of rank, decorations and rights of honour and, consequently, of their means of subsistence. No trace of these proceedings survives in the archives, but incomplete research and interviews suggest that, on "these grounds," the "former officers" who suffered — generally through prolonged "isolation" in the camps at Gradiška, Sveti Grgur, Goli Otok and Bileća — included six generals, 12 colonels, 15 lieutenant colonels, 21 majors and others (out of 2,902 Yugoslav Army (JA) officers and non-commissioned officers judicially sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment).

I obtained these — undoubtedly incomplete — figures through conversations with individuals familiar with this ill-fated and fabricated process. I have therefore included the names concerned on the same basis as all the others, together with essential biographical information, although the majority of those punished have, I believe, unjustly remained entirely anonymous. Even here, however, the biographies of those alleged to have been "Cominformists" do not identify them as such, except in the rare cases where this could not be avoided. They had already been punished sufficiently and permanently politically stigmatised by the label — most often fabricated, or at the very least unsubstantiated — of "traitors to the people and the state." Except in individual cases, this treatment was unlawful and illegitimate, profoundly irresponsible and inhumane and ultimately an indictment of those who, arrogantly immersed in the abuse of power, accused and punished them. In all probability, justice can no longer be fully secured in these cases, but that gives no one the right to remain silent about the truth.

* * *

According to the present author's assessment, almost one in five members of the group of officers discussed here is still living through the autumn of his life, with no serious reason to shrink from anything in his rich personal and professional biography, still less to repudiate any part of it. They are conscious that they acted in a momentous and transformative period, in many respects revolutionary, and that, often irrespective of their own choices, they found themselves where history was being made under harsh conditions — contributing more according to what circumstances permitted than according to what they themselves desired.

They lived through two centuries and three Yugoslavias, and have now witnessed the emergence of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. They helped build two armies and witnessed the development of four, while consistently sharing in every respect the fate of the people. Throughout, they remained devoted to the fatherland and faithful to the military

profession — traditionally the most prestigious profession among the Serbs. It was a turbulent life and, most importantly, it was their own, even if they could not always exercise any substantial influence over its course. Yet, according to their understanding of morality, it was a life that had to be lived with dignity. To the extent that it depended upon them, the overwhelming majority made use of that opportunity and left behind an honourable legacy.

Part Five
KILLED ON WARTIME DUTY

Initial research indicates that hundreds of active officers of the Yugoslav Army who participated in the National Liberation War or were activists of the National Liberation Movement wherever it operated were killed on the broad front of the anti-fascist war between the April War of 1941 and Victory Day in 1945, on battlefields extending from southern Africa to northern Europe and from the Urals to the Pyrenees.

Fighting throughout the extensive national theatre of war and on Allied fronts, in clandestine organisations and in prisoner-of-war camps, they died with their heads held high, as befitted officers of a national army, while carrying out duties that — both because of the nature of wartime circumstances and through the neglect of those who survived — most often remained unrecorded, leaving their deeds unknown. Consequently, the number of these wartime dead, all deserving of remembrance, will never be established. Nor can they be identified within the figure of 305,000 participants in the National Liberation War killed in the Yugoslav theatre, not least because those responsible for producing that figure, owing to ideological exclusivity, did not include the victims of the April War. It is therefore long overdue that this injustice should begin to be rectified, among other means by identifying those who, on Yugoslav soil and in the National Liberation Army — serving in command and senior staff positions in the national Main Staffs, corps, divisions and brigades — were killed while carrying out wartime duties.

The presentation of these 135 names — given the numerous limitations encountered in the research — remains no more than an attempt, however modest, to contribute towards discharging that debt, while also directing future researchers towards relevant sources and reminding everyone of a fundamental human obligation.

Here, with only one exception, all are listed in alphabetical order, irrespective of rank, appointment or place of death — in the hope that, at least in death, they may be equal. I have quite deliberately made that sole exception in the case of the heroic sacrifice of Brigadier General Mihailo Nedeljković. Out of respect for his exemplary military service, his heroic work as head of the National Liberation Movement organisation in the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp and the martyrdom with which his life ended at Dachau, the largest killing ground of the Second World War, I accord him the first and place of honour. A fuller account of this steadfast Serbian soldier, exemplary member of the officer corps and guardian of its honour is provided in the chapter of this book devoted to the 157 JNA generals who emerged from the ranks of active officers of the Yugoslav Army.

NEDELJKOVIĆ MIHAILO MIKICA, Brigadier General of the Yugoslav Army and the first and only honorary Major General of the Yugoslav Army (JA), posthumously so designated on 15 October 1945.

A place of honour in this chapter, as the first among the equal heroes of the April War, rightly belongs to those officers and non-commissioned officers of the Yugoslav Army — fighter pilots who, on the terrible 6 April 1941, were the first to take to the air

and confront the Messerschmitts and Stukas, sacrificing their lives in defence of the freedom of the fatherland and the honour of their profession:

➢ over Belgrade — Borčić Dušan, Bošković Milivoje, Gorup Vladimir, Žunjić Miloš, Kapešić Jovan, Klavora Miho, Mitrović Živica, Novaković Dobrica, Petrović Milutin, Todorović Branislav, Štrbenk Karlo;

➢ over Režanovačka Kosa — Arsić Jefta, Jermakov Konstantin, Milojević Ratomir, Perović Milutin, Popović Vojislav, Radević Milorad, Stojadinović Veroljub, Tanasić Milorad.

AKSIĆ VLADIMIR (1917), Captain, Yugoslav Army. Recalled from the reserve at the very beginning of 1941, he was captured by the Germans during the April War. He conducted himself courageously and patriotically in prisoner-of-war camps. In the spring of 1944, he organised the escape of a group of fellow prisoners from the Osnabrück camp and was killed in the course of this undertaking.

BANOVIĆ DUŠAN (1914), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. Captured as an insurgent, he was interned in a camp in Albania. He rejoined the National Liberation War in the autumn of 1943. On the Syrmian Front he commanded a battalion of the Eighth Montenegrin Assault Brigade, in which capacity he was seriously wounded. During the powerful German counter-attack of 17 January 1945, German troops broke into the hospital and killed him together with a group of wounded men who were unable to move.

BEGOVIĆ MILOŠ NOVAK (1910), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. He escaped occupied Belgrade with a group of anti-fascists and subsequently fought in southern Serbia as a member of the Rasina, Toplica and Jablanica Detachments. He was killed at Crna Trava in 1944 while serving as commandant of the Military Course.

BERIĆ ALEKSANDAR (1906), Lieutenant Commander, Royal Yugoslav Navy. During the April War he commanded the monitor *Drava* in the frontier sector near Bezdan. Together with his crew, he resisted enemy aircraft, shore units and patrol-boat crews heroically for six days, shooting down seven German aircraft. His vessel was sunk by German aircraft near Čelarevo, whereupon, after saluting the naval ensign, he courageously went down with his ship. Refusing to abandon the *Drava*, he took his place alongside the National Heroes Sergej Mašera and Milan Spasić, officers of the destroyer *Zagreb*, who likewise went down with their vessel in April 1941. In July 1942, he was awarded the Order of the Karađorđe Star with Swords, Fourth Class and, in April 2002, the Medal of Honour.

BEĆIR JOVO (1870), Brigadier General, Yugoslav Army. An officer of the Montenegrin Army during the Balkan Wars, he became the first military governor of liberated Shkodra in 1913 and commanded a division during the First World War. A Brigadier General of the Yugoslav Army, he was recalled to active service on the eve of the April War. While assigned to the Headquarters of the Second Army Group, he resolutely de-

manded that the troops resist the aggressor along the axes of advance towards Sarajevo. He was captured by the Ustaše but released following the intervention of Queen Elena of Italy. Having refused to collaborate with the occupying forces, he was subsequently imprisoned again, this time in the Jasenovac concentration camp, where he was killed in 1942.

BOŽOVIĆ MILOŠ (1920), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. While serving as a platoon commander in the 38th Infantry Regiment, he distinguished himself through courage and skilful leadership. He subsequently served as a commander in the units that attacked Pljevlja on 1 December 1941 and in the First Proletarian Brigade. He was killed during the attack on Ključ in the autumn of 1942.

BOBIĆ MILAN (1911), Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army; Major, Yugoslav Army (JA). A participant in the National Liberation War from 1941, he was killed in 1945 while serving as commander of the Osijek Brigade.

BOJOVIĆ DRAGUTIN (1918), Reserve Lieutenant, aeronautical engineer and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. As wingman to Captain Second Class Živica Mitrović, a fighter pilot, on the morning of 6 April he was conducting a routine reconnaissance mission for his Second Fighter Regiment, deployed across wartime airfields in the wider Kragujevac area. On observing his "comrades in the air" fighting in defence of Belgrade, he followed his commander and role model into battle, without having been summoned or ordered to do so. After shooting down one aircraft, he bailed out of his burning machine and landed by parachute in the Bežanijska Kosa area. During the years of civil war in Serbia, he held a senior appointment in the Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland and was killed in Aranđelovac in late 1944. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

BOJOVIĆ PETAR (1858), promoted to the rank of *vojvoda* in 1918 for distinguished service commanding troops in Serbia's wars of liberation. He was decorated with the Order of the Karađorđe Star, the Orders of the White Eagle, the Cross of Takovo and St Sava, the Gold Medal for Bravery, the Albanian Commemorative Medal and other distinctions. During the April War, on account of his achievements and standing, at the age of 83 he served as Deputy Supreme Commander to the young King Petar II Karađorđević. Retreating before the aggressor, he reached Nikšić, where, together with Prince Đorđe, he refused to leave the country by air. Under the occupation, he remained in Belgrade and conducted himself patriotically, while the Germans refrained from taking him into captivity because of his advanced age. He died on 20 January 1945, at a very advanced age, as a consequence of the privations of war. It may perhaps not be possible to say that he was killed while on duty in the anti-fascist war, but it is certainly true that, for 60 years, as a professional soldier occupying senior military appointments, from his days as a second lieutenant until his final hour, he stood on the ramparts in defence of the fatherland. Indeed, the courage of this professional soldier was manifest in his decisions,

at the age of 83 and at the gravest moment in his country's history, to accept the office of Deputy Supreme Commander of the entire armed forces and to reject the opportunity offered to him to fly to the Allies, choosing instead to remain and share the fate of his people and their army. Four months before Victory Day, a soldier's death finally overtook him.

BORČIĆ DUŠAN, Second Lieutenant and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army; during the April War, a member of the legendary Sixth Fighter Regiment and a participant in the defence of Belgrade. He was among the first, somewhere in front of Karaburma, together with his wingman Edo Banfić, to engage a formation of enemy heavy bombers protected by fighter squadrons. He shot down two German aircraft before being shot down and killed. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

BUKALOV SVETISLAV (1904), aeronautical engineer, Captain in the Yugoslav Army at the Navy seaplane base in Dubrovnik. A participant in the National Liberation War from September 1943, he served at the Headquarters of the Eighth Corps, from which he was assigned to the First Air Base at Livno. He was killed there on 6 December while defending the base against a German offensive operation.

BULAJIĆ JOŠAN (1894), physician, Major in the Yugoslav Army Medical Service. In July 1941 he served as a doctor with the insurgents and, 10 months later, became medical officer of the Fifth Proletarian Brigade. He was in charge of an echelon of wounded men on the Neretva and headed Hospital No. 3 on the Sutjeska, where, on 13 June 1943, he was killed while fighting to save the wounded.

VARIĆAK MANE, Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the National Liberation War from 1941, he commanded the Perušić Insurgent Company and was killed in September 1942 while serving as a battalion commander.

VEMIĆ NIKOLA (1914), Lieutenant and pilot, Yugoslav Army. An organiser of the 1941 uprising in Drobnjaci, he was subsequently imprisoned until the capitulation of Italy. In April 1944, together with a group of airmen assembled around the Headquarters of the Second Corps, he reached Drvar and shortly afterwards proceeded to North Africa. Following a brief conversion course at Benina airfield, he was selected as a pilot for the Second Squadron of the NOVJ (1 July 1944). He was killed flying a Hurricane on 5 April 1945 while supporting elements of the 19th Division of the National Liberation Army during the bombing of an Ustaša column near Babin Potok in Lika. He was buried in the British Military Cemetery in Belgrade as an RAF pilot.

VOJINOV SERGIJE, Air Force Captain First Class and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded a Blenheim squadron in the 68th Group of the Eighth Bomber Regiment. On 7 April, he courageously led his crew on a mission to bomb the airfield near Szeged. He was killed during that mission. Having completed their objective over Szeged, the crew evaded German Messerschmitts as far as Srpski Krstur,

where they shot down one fighter. Their heavily damaged Blenheim then made a forced landing on unsuitable terrain. The aircraft caught fire, killing Vojinov together with his comrades, Lieutenant Petar Kukić, the observer, and Sergeant Ilija Mićković, the gunner.

VOUK STANISLAV, Air Force Lieutenant and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. A pilot in the Second Squadron of the NOVJ, he was killed, with the rank of lieutenant, while carrying out a combat mission in the coastal zone, becoming one of the 10 pilots of this elite air unit to lose their lives. In his monograph *The Air Force in the National Liberation War* (1972), Colonel General of Aviation Božo Lazarević included him among those officers who "might have developed into outstanding commanders and senior commanders of the Air Force of the new Yugoslavia." The names of all 10 are inscribed on a memorial plaque on Vis, unveiled in 1951.

VUJOVIĆ SAVO, Sergeant and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army; participant in the battle for the defence of Belgrade on 6 April 1941. From Kopino Polje he was transferred to North Africa, where, on 31 August 1941, while undergoing RAF training to fly the Hurricane, he was killed during a night landing at an airfield near Alexandria, Egypt.

VUKOVIĆ RADOMIR, officer, Yugoslav Army. A company commander and commander of the Kosmaj Detachment, he was killed in December 1941 while defending the Užice-Bajina Bašta road.

VUKČEVIĆ RADOJE (1910), Lieutenant in the Signals Service of the Yugoslav Air Force. During the April War, at an airfield near Prijedor, he set fire to all fuel reserves to prevent them from falling into German hands. He subsequently joined the uprising and served as a company commander in proletarian units. From late 1943, he was an instructor at the radio school of the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ. He was killed on 25 May 1944 during the fighting against the German airborne assault on Drvar.

GAVRILOVIĆ DRAGUTIN (1882), Colonel, Yugoslav Army. He participated in all Serbia's wars between 1912 and 1918. He distinguished himself particularly as a battalion commander during the defence of Belgrade in 1915, when, in his celebrated order, he called upon his men not to spare their lives in defence of the Serbian capital. With the command "Follow me!" he led them in a final charge against the Austrians and Hungarians. A distinguished officer of the Salonika Front, in peacetime he rose to the rank of colonel in the Yugoslav Army. He spent the Second World War in German captivity, where he conducted himself patriotically, returning to the fatherland shortly before Victory Day. He died soon afterwards from the consequences of prolonged warfare and imprisonment, and may therefore be said to have expended his life in the performance of military duty.

GOLUBOVIĆ MIHAJLO, Infantry Brigadier General, Yugoslav Army, commander of the infantry of the Toplica Division. He was seriously wounded in fighting against the Germans at Neškovo Vis, towards Bulgaria. He was transported to the hospital at Lebane, where he succumbed to his wounds on 14 April.

GORUP VLADIMIR, Sergeant First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he served with the Sixth Fighter Regiment, flying a Messerschmitt Bf 109, and participated in the defence of Belgrade. After shooting down a German aircraft, his own was severely damaged and he bailed out by parachute. German pilots strafed him with machine-gun fire as he descended, while he returned fire with his service pistol. By the time he reached the ground near the Syrmian village of Gardinovci, the canopy of his parachute had been riddled with bullets, his body mutilated and the magazine of his pistol emptied.

GRADIŠNIK FERDO, Air Force Colonel and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the First Bomber Regiment of the Fourth Air Brigade. Divided into two groups based at Paraćin and Bijeljina, the regiment bombed targets towards Bulgaria and Romania. Gradišnik, a fearless and audacious commander and a Yugoslav pilot of international renown, personally led his squadrons in attacks on German columns advancing along the Kumanovo-Stracin-Kriva Palanka and Kumanovo-Kačanik axes, notwithstanding regulations requiring him not to fly operational missions. Serving as observer aboard a bomber, he directed attacks from such low altitude that, according to witnesses, "the aircraft's fuselage was perforated by fragments of its own bombs." He did so on both the first and second days of the war. When, at one point during an attack, he realised that his Blenheim was on fire and that neither he nor his crew had any prospect of survival, he instructed the pilot, Sergeant Živan Jovanović, to direct the aircraft into a German armoured column in the Stracin area. He died heroically, he and his crew doing everything still within their power to impede the advance of the German armoured and mechanised columns, thereby setting an enduring example of courage and officerly honour. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

GRAKALIĆ JUGOLE, Navy Sergeant, who escaped capture during the April War of 1941. An organiser of the uprising in the Bay of Kotor, he was killed in the summer of 1943 while serving as deputy battalion commander in the Nikšić National Liberation Partisan Detachment.

GRBIĆ DANILO, Air Force Captain Second Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded a squadron at the Third Fighter School in Mostar. On 7 April, upon learning that a formation of German bombers escorted by fighters was heading to bomb Sarajevo, he took off alone and on his own initiative in his Hurricane from Kosor airfield near Mostar and flew to intercept the enemy. He encountered the Luftwaffe fighters over Boračko Lake and engaged them in a wholly unequal battle. After a brief engagement, his Hurricane was riddled with bullets and he was seriously wounded. He bailed out and descended by parachute in the Trnovo area, where he died shortly afterwards in the arms of local residents.

DABANOVIĆ VELIŠA (1921), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. A prisoner of war in Ita-

ly, he subsequently became a company commander among the Italian partisans and was killed while serving in that capacity.

DIVAC VESELIN, Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. A recipient of the Albanian Commemorative Medal from the First World War. During the advance of the German 11th Division towards Kragujevac, on 11 April 1941 he opened fire on the enemy's tanks on the approaches to the city and continued firing until one of them literally ran him over. He was buried at Palilula Cemetery in Kragujevac, where his grave was not rediscovered until 2002.

DIMITRIJEVIĆ ILIJA, Brigadier General, Yugoslav Army, Assistant Commander of the Rear Services of the Vardar Division. He was killed on 27 May in the sinking of the *Helena Kanavarioti* in the Aegean Sea.

DONOVIĆ LAZAR, Air Force Major and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the 68th Group of the Eighth Bomber Regiment. The group was equipped with Bristol Blenheim aircraft and based at Rovine airfield near Banja Luka. When orders arrived on 7 April to bomb the airfield near Szeged, the crews competed for the opportunity to participate in the mission. Unfortunately, through no fault of their pilot commanders, the bombers were deprived of fighter escort, which proved fatal to the outcome of the attack. They found the airfields evacuated but encountered strong defences both from the ground and in the air. Major Donović was killed in the unequal and ferocious engagement, together with his navigator, Lieutenant Ivan Pandža, and his gunner, Sergeant Ivan Čubrilović.

DRAGIĆEVIĆ VELJKO (1912), Sergeant in the Radio-Telegraph Signals Service and pilot, Yugoslav Army; Major, NOVJ. The April War found him on official duty in Moscow, from where he made his way to colleagues in Amman. In Cairo, he completed a course in the operation of radio equipment for intelligence missions, followed by training as a heavy-bomber crew member. In September 1941, he returned to Yugoslavia with the first Allied intelligence group. Unlike British Captain Bill Hudson and Yugoslav Army General Staff Majors Zaharije Ostojić and Mirko Lalatović, prominent participants in the coup of 27 March, who proceeded to Ravna Gora, Dragićević remained in Užice with the Supreme Headquarters under Tito. He soon became head of the Radio Service and subsequently chief of the Signals Section. While serving in that capacity, with the rank of Major in the NOVJ, he was killed at Drvar on 25 May 1944 while defending the Supreme Headquarters against the airborne assault. His wife Zora, likewise an early participant in the National Liberation War and a cipher clerk at the Supreme Headquarters, was killed alongside him.

DRAGIŠIĆ MILUTIN (1907), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. He was killed near Gjilane in December 1944 while serving as commander of a battalion of the 17th Macedonian Brigade.

ĐUKANOVIĆ MILO, officer of the Montenegrin Army and artillery commander in the Battle of Mojkovac, Artillery Brigadier General, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the fortified sector of the Bay of Kotor. On 16 April he withdrew from Zelenika aboard the submarine *Nebojša*, proceeding first to Greece and then to the Middle East. From there, on instructions from the government, he was transferred to Cape Town, and subsequently, at his own suggestion, dispatched to Argentina to recruit volunteers from among the Montenegrin émigré community for the struggle against fascism. While carrying out this mission, he was killed in the open Atlantic as a result of an attack by a German raider.

ĐUKIĆ MILETA (1910), Captain, Yugoslav Army; Lieutenant Colonel, NOVJ. He participated in the National Liberation War from the uprising onwards, serving as a battalion commander in the Kom Detachment, instructor at the Military School of the Supreme Headquarters and chief of staff of the Fifth Dalmatian, Fourth Montenegrin and First Vojvodina Brigades. In July 1944, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the NOVJ, he became Chief of Staff of the 12th Vojvodina Corps and was killed while serving in that post during preparations for the Belgrade Operation.

ĐURIŠIĆ VIDAK (1898), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. During the April War of 1941 he served at divisional headquarters in Cetinje. He escaped capture and participated in the uprising. In October 1941, while searching for members of his immediate family, he happened to be in Kragujevac during the mass German roundup and was executed there.

ŽIVKOVIĆ DRAGOLJUB, Quartermaster Colonel, Yugoslav Army, a graduate in economics from France and head of the Quartermaster Service of the Gendarmerie Command. Known for his high professional competence and exceptional diligence in service, he was killed together with three other colonels by the first German bombs while at his post at 14 Svetosavska Street in Belgrade, at 7:00 on Sunday, 6 April 1941.

ŽUGIĆ BOŽIDAR (1915), Engineer Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army, platoon commander in the 10th Garrison Regiment. After five days of resistance in the frontier zone of northern Bačka, he refused an order to surrender his unit to the Hungarian fascists in the Bezdan area. On 12 April, in the village of Gložane, he shot and killed both his own commander and the Hungarian commander while they were negotiating, and was himself killed on the spot. Local inhabitants later found his body crushed beneath tank tracks and buried him in the village cemetery, where he remains. A monument to him was erected near the bridge over the Tara at Đurđevića Tara, while his sabre is preserved in the Military Museum at Kalemegdan.

ŽUNJIĆ MILOŠ, Air Force Captain First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the 102nd Fighter Squadron of the 51st Group, Sixth Fighter Regiment. On 5 April he brought the squadron to Zemun airfield after several months of patrol duty along the Adriatic from Mostar airfield. Routine overhaul was

due, but war began the following day. Flying a Messerschmitt Bf 109E, he was the first of his nine pilots to enter the aerial battle for the defence of Belgrade. They fought heroically over Banat, attempting to prevent dense German formations from bombing the capital, which had been declared an open city. Žunjić shot down one German aircraft before bailing out by parachute from his burning Messerschmitt, only to be riddled with bullets in mid-air by German pilots. He fell into the River Tamiš and entered history and school readers, together with the pilots of his squadron, most of whom were killed while fighting for the freedom of Belgrade and the honour of the pilot's profession. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

ZEČEVIĆ BATRIĆ (1887), Major, Yugoslav Army. An officer of the Montenegrin Army, he was subsequently admitted to the Yugoslav Army and retired, before being reactivated shortly before the April War. During the uprising and the first year of the National Liberation War, he fought together with his entire family. He participated in the Ostrog Assembly of Patriots in February 1942. Arrested and imprisoned, he was executed by the Chetniks in May 1942 at Breza near Kolašin.

IVANOVIĆ V. RADOMIR (1919), Non-Commissioned Officer, Yugoslav Army. During the April War, serving in the combat formation of the 38th Infantry Regiment of the Zeta Division on the front near Shkodra, he destroyed four or five Italian tankettes with an anti-tank weapon and was killed heroically in this unequal engagement with the aggressor. Through this feat he entered the history of the anti-fascist war, school readers and folk song.

IVANČEVIĆ NIKOLA, Air Force Captain First Class and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded a squadron of the First Bomber Regiment. After being severely hit while bombing at low altitude, he deliberately crashed his burning aircraft into a column of German tanks — according to some accounts, at the same place and at the same time as his commanding officer, Colonel Gradišnik. Lieutenant-Observer Vladimir Kink and Sergeant-Gunner Stjepan Jurković also lost their lives with him.

JANKOVIĆ VELIČKO, Major, Yugoslav Army, prominent participant in the 13 July Uprising. He was executed by the Italians in September 1941 in Andrijevica.

JERMAKOV KONSTANTIN, Captain First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the 112th Fighter Squadron of the 36th Group, Fifth Fighter Regiment. From the airfield at Režanovačka Kosa near Kumanovo, he was among the first to take off on 6 April — as early as 4:45 — to defend 36 entirely unprotected bombers at Petrovec airfield near Skopje against aircraft of the German Eighth Air Corps operating from Bulgaria. In the heroic aerial engagement that followed, he and six of his pilots were killed that morning near their own airfield.

JOVANOVIĆ JOVAN, Divisional General, Yugoslav Army, reactivated and assigned wartime duty as commander of the rear services of the Bregalnica Division. Fol-

lowing the April War he was captured in Greece, having crossed there with elements of the southern theatre in an attempt to join the Allies. During the transport of more than five hundred men aboard the ship *Helena Kanavarioti*, he was killed when the vessel struck a mine, together with more than 250 members of the Yugoslav Army. He was a recipient of the Order of the Karađorđe Star.

JOVANOVIĆ RATKO (1912), naval officer, commander of a training seaplane squadron of the Yugoslav Army, Major, NOVJ. During the April War he participated in the defence of the Bay of Kotor and in the bombing of the ports of Bari, Brindisi and Durrës, after which he flew over to the British and served with the RAF. Among other operations, he and his squadron took part in British operations against the Germans on the island of Crete, for which he received a written commendation from the Supreme Allied Commander, General H. M. Wilson. He led the 1st Flight of the First Fighter Squadron of the NOVJ, commanded by Major Mileta Protić and formed in North Africa on 22 April 1944. He was shot down and killed on 4 October 1944 while attacking an armoured train near Teslić, holding the rank of Major in the NOVJ. This was his 23rd and final combat mission in the skies over the fatherland.

JOVIČIĆ VLADIMIR, Air Force Captain First Class and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. A squadron commander in the Eighth Bomber Regiment, he distinguished himself on 7 April during the bombing of the airfield near Szeged, under the command of Major Lazar Donović. Some of the fiercest enemy attacks on Belgrade had been launched from there, and all the pilots at Rovine were eager to strike back at the Germans. He was killed on that mission in a burning Bristol Blenheim together with Lieutenant-Observer Mirko Jovanović and Junior Sergeant-Gunner Marko Tošović.

JOJIĆ TOMICA, Captain, Yugoslav Army, fighter of the Andrijevica Detachment during the uprising. He was executed by the Chetniks at Breza near Kolašin in April 1942.

KAPEŠIĆ JOVAN, Air Force Second Lieutenant and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army, specialising in night flying. During the defence of Belgrade, taking off from Prnjavor airfield near Krušedol in Syrmia as a pilot of the Sixth Fighter Regiment, he shot down two German aircraft in aerial combat on the first day of the war. On the following day he was killed in a collision with a German aircraft. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

KARADŽIĆ MILOŠ (1910), Sergeant Major, Yugoslav Army. He reached Slovenia from Italian captivity and joined the National Liberation War. He was killed in February 1945 while serving as a battalion commander.

KARADAGLIĆ NIKOLA (1913), Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the July Uprising of 1941, he was killed in April 1942 while serving as a battalion commander.

KLAVORA MIHO, Air Force Captain First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. He arrived for the April War from sick leave and ordinary leave at the last moment — or, more precisely, at precisely the moment for which a pilot prepares throughout his life. He was among the first pilots of the 103rd Squadron, Sixth Fighter Regiment, to take off in defence of Belgrade's skies. During the first two days of the war he shot down one German aircraft on each day, flying in a pair with the regiment's youngest pilot, Sergeant Pilot Milivoje Bošković, who was killed heroically on 7 April when he rammed the nose of his own aircraft into the belly of an enemy plane. Captain Klavora, an experienced and courageous pilot, drew a pack of German fighters onto himself, but ran out of ammunition. He was shot down near Krušedol. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

KULIŠIĆ KRUNOSLAV (1906), Lieutenant and reconnaissance pilot, Yugoslav Army. He was mobilised into the air force of the NDH. From 1942 he worked for the National Liberation Movement and, in November of the following year, flew with a group of airmen from Zagreb to the airfield near Livno, headquarters of the First Air Base. At the base he directed instruction in navigation. He was killed while serving in that capacity during the Sixth Enemy Offensive, when German forces advanced into Livno in December 1943.

LAZAREVIĆ RADOMIR, Air Force Lieutenant and pilot, captain of a Blenheim crew in the 69th Group of the Eighth Bomber Regiment. During the April War he successfully participated in the bombing of Pécs, Hungary, under the command of Major Dobrosav Tešić. Pursued by German fighters, he attempted to break through southwards, withdrawing under fire as far as Đala, where his aircraft was hit and the crew bailed out by parachute. All trace of them was then lost, until three months later the Tisza cast Lieutenant Lazarević's mutilated body ashore near Srpski Krstur. The crew of his Blenheim was one of eight lost by the Eighth Bomber Regiment during attacks on German airfields near Pécs and Szeged.

LAKIĆEVIĆ MILETA, Captain, Yugoslav Army. A company commander during the uprising. He was executed at Breza near Kolašin in March 1942.

LUKANC MIHAEL, Artillery Brigadier General, Yugoslav Army. He was killed on duty during the April War; I was unable to establish when, where or under what circumstances.

MALNARIĆ MILAN (1906), Air Force Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army; Major, Yugoslav Army (JA). During the April War he commanded a seaplane squadron. He subsequently served with an RAF formation. He joined the National Liberation War in June 1944. From March 1945, holding the rank of Major in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he commanded the 423rd Assault Regiment of the 42nd Air Division. He was shot down while attacking the German bridgehead on the Drava near Valpovo, in support of troops of the Third Yugoslav Army (JA) during the final offensive for the liberation of the country.

MARAŠ NIKOLA (1889), Major, Yugoslav Army. An officer of the Montenegrin Army during the Balkan Wars and the First World War, he was admitted to the army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, then prematurely retired and reactivated during the April War. An insurgent and commander of a battalion of the Zeta Detachment, he was killed in combat against the Italians shortly before the New Year of 1942.

MARINOVIĆ ALEKSA, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, Yugoslav Army. A non-commissioned officer of the Serbian Army, he took part in the Albanian Golgotha of 1915 and in the subsequent establishment of the Salonika Front, where he was wounded four times in the fighting at Kajmakčalan. After receiving treatment in Bizerte, he returned voluntarily to the war, in which he was awarded the Obilić Gold Medal and the British Military Cross. In 1918 he trained as an aviator, first at Vertekop and then at Sedes in France. He flew a Caudron and, as a reconnaissance airman, participated in the battles for the final liberation of the country. As an aviation officer, he continued to serve in the Yugoslav Army. In 1938, at his own request, he retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel, but was reactivated on the eve of the April War and appointed commander of the 10th Air Base in Zagreb. Following the April War, he was executed by the Ustaše near his native Bugojno.

MARKOVIĆ ALEKSANDAR, Air Force Captain First Class and pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he flew with his entire seaplane squadron from the Bay of Kotor to join the British. He participated in RAF operations for as long as his aircraft remained serviceable. In November 1943 he firmly declared his support for the National Liberation Movement, gathering around himself a group of air force officers, for which King Petar II stripped him of his rank. When the First Squadron of the NOVJ was formed on 22 April 1944, he was the first in its ranks. Shortly afterwards, on 3 May, during live-fire training at a range near Benghazi, he was killed in a mid-air collision with the aircraft of Warrant Officer Salih Islamović; both aircraft were destroyed.

MARKOVIĆ PREDRAG Alempije (1910), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army; Colonel, NOVJ. He joined the National Liberation War in 1941. He commanded a military-Chetnik detachment composed of Serbs who had fled eastern Bosnia before the Ustaše. He fought in western Serbia and then, with the remnants of his units, crossed the Drina. In August 1942 he became the first Chief of Staff of the Sixth East Bosnian Brigade, and later Chief of Staff of the First South Morava Brigade, which arrived in that theatre at the end of 1943. He was killed while serving in that post on Mount Ozren in December 1943. Unaware of his death, the Supreme Headquarters promoted him in February 1944 to the rank of Colonel in the NOVJ and proposed him for appointment as Chief of the General Staff of Serbia.

MARKIĆEVIĆ SREDOJE, Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. An insurgent, in liberated Užice he served as assistant to Major Branko Poljanac on operational matters for the Supreme Headquarters of the National Liberation Partisan Detachments of Yu-

goslavia. He was captured by the Germans during the withdrawal of the main Partisan forces towards Sandžak and imprisoned at Banjica, after which all trace of him was lost.

MATIĆ MILOVAN, Engineer Sergeant, later Lieutenant and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. An instructor in night flying at the Air Force School in Novi Sad. He participated in the April War from an airfield near Kraljevo. A veteran of the uprising, he commanded the Assault Battalion of the Zeta Detachment. He was killed in April 1942.

MATOVIĆ S. STANKO (1908), non-commissioned officer who had passed the examination for promotion to second lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army (JA). During the April War he served as a platoon commander and took part in resistance to German and Ustaše forces on the approaches to Zagreb. In that city he was a member of the underground organisation of the National Liberation Movement until he was arrested while carrying out an assignment. He was sent to the Jasenovac concentration camp, where the Ustaše executed him in December 1944 after he had endured horrific torture.

MILAČIĆ RADOMIR (1908), officer-pilot. During the April War he refused to fly from Nikšić airfield to join the Allies. A participant in the uprising, by the end of 1941 he was serving as an adviser to the Staff of the Zeta National Liberation Partisan Detachment, and was soon killed while carrying out that duty in combat against the Italians.

MILIJEVIĆ DRAGIŠA, Captain First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the 106th Fighter Squadron of the Fourth Fighter Regiment at the airfield near Bosanski Aleksandrovac. On 8 April, together with a group of fighters and without orders or summons, he rushed to protect the remnants of the Eighth Bomber Regiment — four serviceable aircraft — at the nearby Rovine airfield, which was being attacked by 27 Messerschmitt fighters. Two German Messerschmitts were shot down, but three aircraft of the 106th Fighter Squadron were destroyed. In the fierce fighting, Milijević's heavily damaged aircraft crashed with him aboard. He was burned to death on the bank of the Vrbas, not far from Banja Luka. His remains lie in the New Cemetery in Belgrade, while the people of his native district inscribed his name among the fallen fighters of the National Liberation War on the memorial in the village of Trnjane near Negotin. This brought the villagers into conflict with the Party committee and the State Security Administration (UDBA), but no one dared remove Milijević's name from the monument, where it properly belonged.

MILOVIĆ ĐOKO (1989), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. During the April War of 1941 he fell into German captivity. In the Osnabrück camp he maintained an anti-fascist stance, and in December 1944 was killed by Allied bombs.

MILOVIĆ MILIĆ (1919), Junior Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he was captured by the Germans and interned in Poland. In the camp he declared his support for the National Liberation War, for which he was tortured. He died in captivity in the spring of 1942.

MILOSAVLJEVIĆ MILAN, Captain, Yugoslav Army. An insurgent and fighter in the Kosmaj Partisan Detachment. He was killed in combat against the Germans on 8 August 1941.

MILOŠEVIĆ MIODRAG, Captain First Class, killed on 11 April 1941 while offering determined resistance to a German tank unit at the entrance to Topola. He was buried in the cemetery at Oplenac.

MILOŠEVIĆ MOMČILO (1905), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army, captured during the April War. Throughout his captivity he was among the organisers of antifascist resistance in the camps. He returned to the country in April 1945 and was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) with the rank of Major, but died soon afterwards from the consequences of torture suffered in captivity.

MITROVIĆ ŽIVICA, Air Force Captain Second Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he served as a pilot in the 31st Group of the Second Fighter Regiment. From early morning, as leader of a fighter pair, he had been conducting routine reconnaissance with his wingman, Reserve Lieutenant Bojović. When he saw the aerial battle over Belgrade, however, he swept towards the capital like a whirlwind and, on his own initiative and without orders, engaged some 30 enemy aircraft. Although his wingman, Dragutin Bojović, was subsequently forced to bail out of his burning aircraft, this celebrated fighter pilot — the recipient of a gold wristwatch from the Rogožarski aircraft factory — fought heroically as the only pilot of the Second Fighter Regiment to participate in the defence of Belgrade. Having shot down a Stuka and a Messerschmitt, he was himself finally brought down at Miletin Salaš, within the boundaries of the Syrmian village of Krčedin. Owing to an error by the local parish priest, he was buried in the village cemetery under another man's name and was not transferred to the family tomb in Kaluđerovo, Banat, until 12 years later. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

MIHAILOVIĆ SPASO (1912), Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army, captured during the April War. While held in a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy, he displayed resolute opposition to fascism. In reprisal and as a warning to others, the Italians executed him in the camp in 1942.

MIHAJILOVIĆ NIŠA (1911), Sergeant Major, Yugoslav Army. On the eve of the April War he was serving with the garrison at Berane, in a unit commanded by Captain First Class Pavle Đurišić. He distinguished himself by his courage on the Albanian front during the advance to the approaches of Shkodra. A commander of an insurgent battalion, he was captured by the Chetniks and rejected every offer to collaborate with them. He was consequently handed over to the Italians, who executed him in June 1943 at the concentration camp in Bar.

NEDELJKOVSKI PANČE (1912), Air Force Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. He joined

the National Liberation War in 1941. A member of the Main Staff of Macedonia, he subsequently became deputy to its commander, Yugoslav Army General Staff Major and National Liberation Army General Mihailo Apostolski. In the spring of 1944, he directed operations to liberate western Macedonia from German and Ballist forces. He was concurrently a member of the Higher Military Court. Towards the end of the war, holding the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he served as Chief of the Operations Department of the Air Force Command. He was killed in an air accident in 1945.

NIKIĆ STOJAN (1901), non-commissioned officer, Yugoslav Army, serving in the 38th Infantry Regiment of the Zeta Division. With his platoon he fought courageously against the Italians during the April War of 1941, in the advance towards Shkodra. He was killed heroically at Përroi i Thatë in Albania.

NOVAKOVIĆ BOŽO (1880), Colonel, Yugoslav Army. An officer of the Montenegrin Army and a graduate of a military academy in Imperial Russia, he was decorated for his service in the wars of liberation of 1912–18 with the highest honours, including the Legion of Honour and the Obilić Gold Medal. During the April War he commanded a regiment that acquitted itself well in combat. As a prisoner of war at Osnabrück, his conduct as a patriot and anti-fascist was exemplary. He was killed in the camp by Allied bombing in March 1945.

NOVAKOVIĆ SRDAN (1886), Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. An officer of the Montenegrin Army during the Balkan Wars and the First World War. During the 1941 uprising he commanded the "Jole Piletić" Piperi Battalion and subsequently served as deputy commander to Blažo Jovanović of the Zeta National Liberation Partisan Detachment. He was killed in the Battle of the Sutjeska in June 1943, shortly after being promoted by decree of the Supreme Headquarters to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the NOVJ. He had been a delegate to AVNOJ at Bihać.

OŠTRIĆ IVO, Captain First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army, commander of the 164th Squadron, 52nd Group, Second Fighter Regiment. He was killed on 10 April while flying from Gruža to the Veliki Radinci I airfield in Syrmia. A grave bearing his name on its memorial plaque exists in the village of Rogojevac near Gruža, although there is also an alternative account, given by his son Šime, according to which he was killed while attempting to fly to Odessa in the USSR.

PEKOVIĆ MILOVAN (1913), Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. In the Nikšić Detachment he rose from ordinary fighter to battalion commander. He held the same post in the Third Sandžak Proletarian Brigade. At the head of his battalion of Sandžak fighters, he was killed on the Sutjeska on 13 June 1943.

PEROVIĆ RISTO (1880), Lieutenant Colonel, Yugoslav Army. He was killed at Tjentište on 13 June 1943.

PETROVIĆ ĐORĐIJE (1885), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. A veteran of the Balkan Wars and the First World War and the recipient of several prestigious domestic and foreign military decorations. An insurgent. An Italian punitive expedition captured him together with his three sons, and all four were executed alongside several dozen men from Kuči in reprisal for an operation by the Zeta National Liberation Partisan Detachment at Jelin Dub on 18 October 1941.

PETRONIJEVIĆ ANDRIJA Andra (1901), Captain, Yugoslav Army. An insurgent, he withdrew from Serbia to the Sandžak in November 1941 with the main body of units under the Supreme Headquarters. He was captured there during the fighting and executed by the Italians in Pljevlja towards the end of 1941.

PEŠIĆ JOVAN, Air Force Sergeant, Yugoslav Army; Warrant Officer and pilot, NOVJ. The son of a Yugoslav Army general, he trained as a pilot in civilian sport aviation. After 25 March 1941 he flew to Greece, where, following the April War, he joined Yugoslav Army air force officers and travelled with them to Amman and subsequently to Egypt. In the United States he completed training as a gunner in the crew of a Liberator heavy bomber. He participated in bombing missions against targets of the Third Reich throughout Europe. He joined the First Air Base, from whose personnel he was selected as a pilot for the Second Squadron of the NOVJ. He was killed over the Bay of Kotor while carrying out a combat mission.

POPOV ARKADIJE, Captain and seaplane pilot, Yugoslav Army; Major, NOVJ. Of Russian origin, he had been retired before the April War and served in the German air force during the early years of the Second World War, from which he intended to fly to the Soviet Union. His plan was discovered and he was imprisoned. His influential father-in-law succeeded in securing his release by bribing a physician and brought him to Zagreb, where he established contact with the organisation of the National Liberation Movement. He subsequently joined the Partisans and, through their organisation, reached North Africa. He served with Allied air formations and, in April 1944, was among the first pilots selected for the First Squadron of the NOVJ. He commanded a flight in Major Mileta Protić's squadron. Holding the rank of Major in the NOVJ, he was regarded as one of the most gifted pilots undergoing conversion training on the Spitfire. He was killed near Slano by German anti-aircraft fire while returning from a combat mission over Yugoslavia.

POPOVIĆ VOJISLAV, Air Force Captain First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. He was regarded as the most gifted pilot of several generations, a reputation he repeatedly confirmed in manoeuvres, competitions and operational service. During the April War he commanded the 111th Fighter Squadron of the 36th Group, Fifth Fighter Regiment, which was caught by the aggression at the Režanovačka Kosa airfield near Kumanovo. Flying a Hawker Fury, he was among the first to engage the German Messerschmitts advancing from Bulgaria, as early as 4:45. His objective, together with his pilots

and in co-operation with the 112th Fighter Squadron commanded by Captain First Class Kosta Jermakov, was to protect 36 Dornier bombers at Petrovec airfield near Skopje. In the aerial battle he shot down two German aircraft, while watching the courageous pilots of his squadron fall one after another — Sergeants Jefta Arsić, Ratomir "Rale" Milojević and Veroljub Stojadinović. Intent on avenging his brave comrades, he became absorbed in combat with the German pilots and lost track of his ammunition expenditure. Suddenly realising that he had literally not a single round left, he deliberately aimed his Hawker Fury at the massive Messerschmitt Me 110, known as the "destroyer." He drove his aircraft into its belly. Both aircraft burst into flames and plunged to the ground. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

PROTIĆ MILETA (1913), officer and seaplane pilot in the Yugoslav Navy, Major in the NOVJ. Following the capitulation of the Navy in the April War, he flew with his seaplane squadron to Greece and from there to North Africa. He served in RAF formations, most often protecting Allied convoys from German ships. He was among the first Yugoslav Army pilot officers to commit himself to the National Liberation Movement and encouraged his colleagues to do likewise. Holding the rank of Major in the NOVJ, in April 1944 he became the first commander of the First Fighter Squadron of the NOVJ. He was killed during an attack on a German column near Žepče.

PULEVIĆ MIRČETA (1909), Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. He was killed during the April War of 1941 while, at the head of his company, defending the border of the fatherland against German aggression on Suva Planina, facing Bulgaria.

PUTICA ĐORĐE (1911), Lieutenant and pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he took part in bombing German military targets in Graz. After the war he returned to Zagreb, where he had previously served. He remained in the capital of the NDH until 22 June, when he escaped to join the insurgents. By the end of 1941 he was commander of the Operational Staff for Herzegovina. During the open civil war, Chetniks from Ljubomir killed him in February 1942.

RADEVIĆ RADISAV (1877), Artillery Lieutenant Colonel, Yugoslav Army, reactivated on the eve of the April War. An insurgent, he commanded Partisan artillery on the fronts in Vasojevići. In March 1942 he was captured by the Chetniks and tortured in the notorious prison at Kolašin until he died.

RADOVIĆ DUŠAN (1905), Cavalry Major, Yugoslav Army. Offering determined resistance to the aggressor, he was killed on 11 April in a fierce clash with German tanks at the entrance to Topola. He was buried in the cemetery at Oplenac.

RADUNOVIĆ MILO (1903), Colonel, Yugoslav Army. An officer in the Balkan Wars and the First World War, he was decorated on the Salonika Front with prestigious Serbian and French decorations for proven wartime merit. During the April War he commanded the 20th Infantry Regiment. While defending the Sokobanja approach, he was

seriously wounded in a clash with German armoured units in the Bavanska Gorge. When the Germans entered the hospital in which he was being treated, Colonel Radunović took his own life rather than fall into their hands alive. He was buried in the cemetery at Sokobanja.

RAIČEVIĆ DUŠAN (1901), Artillery Major, Yugoslav Army. During the April War of 1941 he commanded an artillery battalion in Zagreb and was known for his determination in defending the freedom of the fatherland and the honour of the officer's profession. He fought against Germans and Ustaše forces in the wider Sisak area. Refusing an order from his superior to surrender his unit to the enemy, he was killed courageously together with a large number of his soldiers.

RAIČEVIĆ JOVAN (1885), Artillery Colonel, Yugoslav Army. A veteran of the Balkan Wars and the First World War, he was accepted into the Yugoslav Army and retired in 1929, only to be reactivated on the eve of the April War. He participated in the July uprising and entered the struggle for liberation with his entire family. At the beginning of 1942 he commanded a battalion and later served as an adviser on the Staff of the Zeta Detachment. At the end of March, seriously wounded, he fell into Chetnik hands and was sentenced to death by their court. He was executed in June 1942 at Zabjelo, Podgorica.

RAMOVIĆ BLAGOTA (1885), Lieutenant Colonel, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the July uprising of 1941. Together with his entire family he marched in the wartime column of the Fifth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade during the three-month offensive from Zelengora towards Bosanska Krajina. He was killed on the Sutjeska in June 1943.

RAOSAVLJEVIĆ ĐURO (1886), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. An officer of the Montenegrin Army and later a *komitadji*. He was admitted to the Army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, soon retired and then reactivated on the eve of 1941. During the uprising he commanded the Lipovo Battalion. A prisoner in Chetnik jails, he was executed in March 1942 at Breza near Kolašin.

ROGANOVIĆ ĐURO (1903), Major, Yugoslav Army. Battalion commander and deputy commander of the Nikšić Detachment. He served as military adviser on the Staff of the Fifth Proletarian Brigade and as an instructor at the Military School of the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ. He was killed at Tjentište on 13 June 1943 beside his legendary commander Sava Kovačević — Mizara.

SEKULOVIĆ MIRKO (1911), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. Captured during the April War and sent to a camp. Because of his open support for and work on behalf of the National Liberation Movement, the Germans stripped him of prisoner-of-war status and sent him to a concentration camp, where he was executed as an "organiser of resistance among the prisoners."

SEP OTO, Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army, fighter pilot and commander of the

110th Squadron of the 35th Group, Fifth Fighter Regiment. On 9 April, while flying from Kosančić to Kraljevo, he was killed in an engagement with a Messerschmitt Bf 109 above the village of Dulane near Rekovac, where his remains are buried.

SIMOVIĆ PETAR, Air Force Lieutenant and pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War, flying from airfields at Skopje and Kosovo Polje, he took part in attacks on German columns advancing through Macedonia, and subsequently on targets in the Ibar Gorge and the valley of the West Morava. He avoided capture and participated in the July uprising. As a fighter in the "18 October" Battalion, he took part in the Battle of Pljevlja in December 1941, where, in an ambush at Savin Lakat, he distinguished himself by courage and military skill. After returning to his native Piperi, however, he was liquidated in March 1942 during the wave of "leftist deviations," as an expression of suspicion towards "former officers."

SMILJANIĆ MOMČILO (1916), Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. An organiser of the uprising on Zlatibor and company commander in the "Dimitrije Tucović" Užice Detachment. He was seriously wounded in combat against the Germans near Kosjerić. The Chetniks captured him by deception and, on 22 March 1942, killed him near Gornji Milanovac.

STOJANOVIĆ MILEN, Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. In the Osnabrück camp he was a prominent member of the clandestine National Liberation Movement organisation. In October 1944 the Gestapo arrested him and stripped him of prisoner-of-war status. He endured the full brutality of the concentration-camp system. Together with Yugoslav Army officers Second Lieutenant Vsevolod Kuselj, Captain Andreja Listratov and Lieutenant Stanislav Kusić, as well as another 15,000 anti-fascists from several European countries, he was killed in the port of Lübeck while serving as the officer responsible for a group of prisoners of war being sent back to Yugoslavia. This occurred during the Allied bombing of the Baltic city, on the very eve of liberation, 3 May 1945.

TEŠIĆ DOBROSAV, Air Force Major and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the 69th Group of the Eighth Bomber Regiment, which on 7 April, from the Rovine airfield near Banja Luka, was assigned to bomb German airfields near Pécs. Deprived of the indispensable fighter escort and protection, the formation was met by intense anti-aircraft fire. Even under such conditions, Major Tešić set an example to his pilots in bombing the airfields and strafing enemy fighters. He was killed during one of these attacks, together with the observer in his aircraft, Captain First Class Rudolf Kobali, and the gunner, Junior Sergeant Dragoljub Černe.

TOMOVIĆ MILIVOJE (1911), Gendarmerie Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the July uprising, at the beginning of 1942 he commanded the Assault Battalion of the Montenegrin-Sandžak Detachment. He was killed shortly afterwards while holding that post, in combat against the Chetniks.

TOPALOVIĆ VUKOSAV (1909), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. An insurgent and commander of the "Bajo Pivljanin" Battalion in the Battle of Pljevlja on 1 December 1941. He was killed on the Sutjeska in June 1943.

UROŠEVIĆ LJUBIŠA (1918), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the uprising in Pomoravlje and company commander in the Second Šumadija Detachment. From mid-1942 he commanded the 3rd Battalion of the Second Serbian Proletarian Brigade, subsequently the Durmitor Detachment and then served as Chief of Staff of the Fourth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade. From February 1943 he was Chief of Staff of the Ninth Dalmatian Division and later of the 16th Vojvodina Division. Holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the NOVJ, he was killed while serving as Chief of Staff of the Third Corps during the battle for the liberation of Tuzla in October 1943.

FANEDL BRANKO, Air Force Major and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded the 64th Group of the Third Bomber Regiment. With 11 pilots flying Dornier Do 17s of the 208th and 209th Squadrons, commanded by Captains Simo Mijušković and Dušan Milojević, he flew several sorties a day — initially from Davidovac near Paraćin and later from the airfield near Uroševac — bombing German armoured and mechanised columns advancing from Bulgaria, which were at times "more than 20 km long." When German forces broke through into Kosovo, he transferred all surviving aircraft to the reserve airfield near Užička Požega and continued the bombing campaign from there. At dawn on 12 April he received orders to "attempt, through bombing, to slow the advance of the German armoured columns towards Belgrade and at the same time destroy the bridge over the Great Morava near Ćuprija." This highly accomplished pilot and respected officer immediately led his crews on the mission. Flying at low altitude, they took the German columns completely by surprise, their commanders having been informed that the victim of aggression no longer possessed an air force. German anti-aircraft defences, however, quickly recovered and opened fire with their quadruple-barrelled Flak guns. Their first victim was the group commander, Major Fanedl; his aircraft, engulfed in flames, crashed near the village of Bukovče, close to Jagodina. The other members of his Dornier crew, Captain First Class Nikola Teofilov and Sergeant-Gunner Franjo Ribić, were killed with him. In April 2002, he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

CVETKOVIĆ ĐORĐE Ciga, Sergeant and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. The April War found him serving as an instructor at the Third Fighter School in Mostar. Taking off from the airfield near Podgorica on 6 April, as wingman to Lieutenant Milenko Milivojević, a fighter pilot, he engaged dense German formations pouring in from Italian airfields in Sicily. When his flight leader was killed, he continued the fight alone. According to the people of Podgorica, the only witnesses, he shot down two aircraft before running out of ammunition. Refusing to resort to his parachute, in accordance with what he himself had taught his pilots, he dived his Avia BH-33 into a German aircraft. A violent collision followed, killing both pilots and setting both aircraft ablaze. The truth of this account by Podgorica witnesses cannot be corroborated by archival evidence, but

Sergeant-Pilot Cvetković's very act of taking off in a thoroughly obsolete BH-33 fighter against the aggressor's most modern aircraft was itself heroic.

CENIĆ ALEKSANDAR, Sergeant and pilot, Yugoslav Army; Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army (JA); Major, RAF. He fought in RAF formations in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Selected from among 23 pilots and 230 members of personnel, he was appointed commander of the Second Squadron of the NOVJ, with Captain Miloš Marinović and Lieutenant Branivoj Majcen appointed as section leaders. Under Cenić's command, the squadron flew 227 combat missions from Canne airfield in Italy, Vis and Zemunik near Zadar. He disappeared on 3 May 1945, reportedly while flying from Zemun to Zadar. No trace was ever found either of the gifted and courageous pilot or of his aircraft.

ŠKEROVIĆ BRANKO (1911), Ship-of-the-Line Lieutenant, Royal Yugoslav Navy. He was killed on active wartime duty on the Sava River on 11 April 1941.

Supplement: When this manuscript was already in press, I obtained an official document containing the names of Yugoslav Army non-commissioned officers born in the Podgorica District who had fallen in the anti-fascist war across the Yugoslav theatre. On the basis of that document, I concluded that the number of those killed from this category of freedom fighters must have been considerably greater than stated here, and that the same may equally apply to several other insurgent areas of the Serbian lands. I therefore append a further, probably still incomplete, list of those Yugoslav Army non-commissioned officers who, on 13 July 1941, together with those already mentioned, resolutely joined other representatives of the people in the war of national liberation and were subsequently killed while serving in the NOVJ, in battles and engagements throughout the Yugoslav theatre against the occupiers and their collaborators, or at execution sites and in camps across Europe. My criterion of restricting inclusion, because of the large number of such individuals and the impossibility of undertaking broader research in the territories of the states created by the dissolution of the "Second Yugoslavia," to officers holding the post of battalion commander or above may at least explain, if not justify, such an approach, particularly in view of the memory of those who fell and the irreparable loss suffered by their descendants.

The following is that "supplementary" list of officers — non-commissioned officers and cadets of the Yugoslav Army born in the territory of the present-day municipality of Podgorica — who were killed while performing wartime duties:

BOGOJEVIĆ M. NIKOLA (1909)
BOŽANOVIĆ R. DUŠAN (1920)
BOŽOVIĆ M. MILOŠ (1920)
VLAHOVIĆ R. MILIJA (1908)
VUJOŠEVIĆ N. DUŠAN (1915)
VUJOŠEVIĆ G. MILORAD (1917)
VUKČEVIĆ N. ŽIVKO (1918)
VUKČEVIĆ S. LAZAR (1917)

DAVIDOVIĆ L. DAVID (1919)
DAVIDOVIĆ S. KRSTO (1910)
IVANOVIĆ S. MIJAJLO (1908)
KLIKOVAC N. GAVRO (1906)
LJUMOVIĆ J. DRAGOMIR (1920)
MIJOVIĆ R. RADONJA (1915)
MILIČKOVIĆ R. PAVLE (1920)
MILOŠEVIĆ V. MILJAN (1920)
MIĆKOVIĆ M. ILIJA (1915)
PETROVIĆ ILIJA (1905)
PETROVIĆ Đ. RADAN (1914)
PRELEVIĆ B. RADOVAN (1918)
RADINOVIĆ S. DUŠAN (1914)
RADOVIĆ P. MILUTIN (1922)
RADUNOVIĆ Đ. VELJKO (1919)
SELIĆ N. PAVIĆ (1904)
SPAIĆ N. MIHAJLO (1917).

I subsequently obtained information about one further Yugoslav Army serviceman who died while performing what may be regarded as a wartime duty:

KRUŠIĆ M. BLAGOJE, Sergeant, born in 1880 in Banjani, Old Herzegovina. His family was colonised in Toplica, where he served as a *komitadji* under Vojvoda Tankosić and later as a commander in the celebrated "Iron Regiment," in which he was proclaimed a knight. He was awarded the Order of the Karađorđe Star with Swords, two Obilić Medals for Bravery and several high Allied decorations. When German troops entered Niš in April 1941, he defiantly went out to meet them wearing his *komitadji* uniform and carrying arms. He was imprisoned and remained under constant surveillance until August 1944, when he lost his life "under strange circumstances."

* * *

Finally, the truly final sentence: As I continued to discover new sources of information, I came to realise that this subject is as rich and inexhaustible as life itself, and hence I have never quite been able to bring it to a close. This is also demonstrated by the fact that, literally at the eleventh hour, in the collection *Pod zastavom slobode* [*Under the Banner of Freedom*] — an admirably produced commemorative volume, published in 2002, devoted to fighters born in the territory of the Nikšić District who, as participants in the National Liberation War, were killed throughout the Yugoslav theatre — I encountered the names, together with basic biographical information, of 79 active-duty Yugoslav Army servicemen, predominantly non-commissioned officers. I commend this subject to a future researcher, noting that it offers sufficient material for a separate publication, which would discharge yet another professional and moral debt to the people of Nikšić who gave their lives in the struggle against fascism and for the freedom of the fatherland.

Part Six
SOLDIERS OF STRANGE FORTUNES

Every person's fate is a story unto itself, resembling its protagonist. All the more so in war. Active officers of the Yugoslav Army, carried by the winds of war across Europe and beyond, found themselves in all manner of circumstances, arrived in places for which they had never set out and remained there longer than they had intended. They exposed themselves, moreover, to the dangers with which war abounds and which constitute a challenge to the professional soldier.

This modest selection of active Yugoslav Army officers (31) who survived the war and, during the years of peace, generally served in the armed forces of the "Second Yugoslavia," most often for decades with the rank of colonel, serves merely to illustrate the circumstances in which these men found themselves and how they overcame them, bearing witness to a complex era and to our people within it...

Here, too, I have deliberately made one exception to strict alphabetical order: in fourth place, immediately after Arso Boljević, comes Savo Poljanec, an air ace, a legendary pilot and a hero of the defence of Belgrade during the April War — because their wartime destinies, by no means coincidentally, were intertwined and almost identical.

ADUM ROMEO, Major and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army; during the April War, commander of the 51st Group of the Sixth Fighter Regiment. He was one of 559 officers and military officials, including 53 former Yugoslav Army majors, whom the Yugoslav government in London "deprived of rank and office" because they had submitted applications to join the armed forces of the NDH. Shortly afterwards, in the summer of 1942, he conducted operations against partisan forces in Bosnia, where an aircraft malfunction forced him to land in liberated territory. He was exchanged for a group of prisoners from the Jasenovac camp. Soon afterwards, he established contacts with the National Liberation Movement organisation in Zagreb, rendering it certain services. Having thus aligned himself, in September 1944 he defected from Graz in a Fieseler 168 aircraft and landed at Pliško Polje airfield on Vis. Following an extensive investigation, the pilot was released, while his two-seater aircraft was retained by the Supreme Headquarters Liaison Squadron.

ARSENOVIĆ DUŠAN (1906), artillery officer, Yugoslav Army; Lieutenant Colonel, JNA. In 1937 he left the service and, as a military deserter, joined the (French) Foreign Legion. In July 1941 he joined de Gaulle's Free French Forces, in whose ranks he fought against fascism for three full years of the war, receiving several decorations for courage and military skill as well as promotion to the rank of major. In July 1944, through the Base at Bari, he voluntarily joined the NOVJ, retaining the Yugoslav Army rank he had held in 1937. With the rank of artillery captain, he commanded the Supreme Headquarters Heavy Artillery Battalion on Vis, subsequently the artillery attached to the Headquarters of the First Corps and, at the end of the war, that of the 21st Serbian Assault Division. He retired in 1958 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the JNA,

from his post as an editor of the *Military Encyclopaedia*. Five years earlier, however, he had been "removed from the register of members of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia on grounds of political inactivity," an accusation that was continually held against him. Throughout the 1950s, Arsenović — who had in fact "joined the Party" in 1945 under pressure from a commissar — maintained that, in the workplace, and particularly within a scholarly institution, "one should concern oneself with one's profession and scholarship," whereas political commitment was "a matter of personal conviction and for one's time after work." This caused him considerable difficulties and ultimately led to his premature retirement, despite the fact that his professional work and achievements had received nothing but praise.

BOLJEVIĆ ARSENIJE (1904), Air Force Major and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army; Colonel, JNA. During the April War he commanded the 34th Group of the Fourth Fighter Regiment. Following the capitulation of the army and the state, he reached his family home in Lješkopolje near Podgorica, but was arrested and sent to the Osnabrück camp. From there, as punishment for repeated escape attempts, he was transferred to other, progressively stricter prisoner-of-war camps, from which he escaped twice with Captain Savo Poljanec. Finally, in June 1944, they escaped from the Strij camp and made their way to the Slovak partisans, among whom, after several months of fighting and owing to their courage and military skill, they became national heroes, particularly after acquiring an aircraft. After the war, they were consequently awarded Czechoslovakia's highest military decorations. From there they reached Moscow in November 1944 and, at the NOVJ Mission headed by General Velimir Terzić, insisted that they be transferred urgently to Yugoslavia in order to participate in the final operations for the country's liberation. Their request was granted, and Boljević was immediately appointed commander of the 11th Fighter Division, while Captain Poljanec was appointed commander of its 112th Fighter Regiment. Eight years later, after making a highly significant contribution to the development of the Air Force, he was killed in a traffic accident in Zemun, holding the rank of Colonel in the JNA. He was also active as a writer, particularly in researching the role of the Yugoslav Army Air Force in the April War, on which he left important, well-documented contributions in military journals.

POLJANEC SAVO (1907), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army, test and fighter pilot, member of an aerobatic team and celebrated sport pilot. During the April War, in the aerial battles over Belgrade, he flew his IK-3 according to the tactical principle of "one against the multitude," penetrating German bomber formations and breaking them up. He shot down two aircraft but was himself seriously wounded. He went into hiding and received medical treatment in Belgrade, but was discovered, arrested and interned in the Osnabrück camp. Together with his senior colleague Major Arso Boljević, he escaped from the camp several times and, as punishment, was transferred to increasingly strict facilities. In June 1944 he reached Slovak partisan units, where he was seriously wounded in combat and sent to Przemyśl for treatment. From there, together with Major Boljević, he made his way to Moscow and was particularly insistent that he be allowed to participate

in the final operations for the liberation of the fatherland, so that he might "at least partly repay the Germans in kind." The Supreme Headquarters granted his request, and he was immediately appointed commander of the 112th Regiment of the 11th Fighter Division, whose first commander was his closest comrade, Major Boljević. He devoted 13 full years of peacetime service to the development of the Air Force, holding posts ranging from division commander to head of the Air Force Military Academy. In 1958 he retired with the rank of Colonel of Aviation and Pilot in the JNA.

BOSNIĆ VOJISLAV, Colonel, Yugoslav Army, and instructor at the Advanced School of the Military Academy. Following the April War, he joined the Croatian Home Guard of the NDH with the rank of colonel. While serving as commander of the Slavonian Combined Formation, he was captured by the 12th Slavonian Assault Brigade in April 1943 in an ambush in the Vučjak Gorge near Slavonska Požega. He surrendered without resistance, together with 13 officers. Since it was known that he had committed no war crimes, he was offered the opportunity to join the NOVJ with the same rank. He initially accepted but subsequently refused, as a result of which he was imprisoned, escaping after two months. In 1946 he was tried before the Military Court in Sarajevo and acquitted of criminal responsibility. With Aleksandar Ranković's approval, General Savo Orović offered Bosnić, as a professor and anti-fascist, a position as a senior instructor at the Military Academy of Democratic Federal Yugoslavia and subsequently at the Infantry Military School. Bosnić firmly rejected both offers, as well as his former Yugoslav Army rank. He was retired with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

VUKOTIĆ DUKLJAN (1915), Sergeant in the Guards armoured units. Immediately before the April War, having passed all the requisite examinations, he was awarded the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army, although he would never formally assume it. An insurgent and participant in the Battle of Pljevlja, he served as a squad commander in the First Proletarian Brigade at Rudo, subsequently as battalion commander in the 10th Krajina and Fourth Dalmatian Brigades, deputy commander of the 22nd Division and then Chief of Staff and deputy commander of the 46th Division. In February 1945, holding the rank of Colonel in the NOVJ, he became Chief of Staff of the Operational Headquarters and Military Administration for Kosovo and Metohija, established to suppress the rebellion by Albanian terrorists spreading from Drenica. Following a brief period of study in the Soviet Union, his first and last peacetime appointment was as commander of the Armoured Training Centre in Vršac.

ĐURIĆ RADOSLAV (1906), General Staff Major, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he served as Chief of Staff of the Bosnian Division. In the summer of 1941 he was Ravna Gora's representative in Belgrade and, from the beginning of October, a member of Colonel Draža Mihailović's delegation in all negotiations conducted with the partisan leader Tito. He represented the Chetnik side on the joint Operational Headquarters with the partisans during the attack on the Germans at Kraljevo. In mid-November, together with Yugoslav Army General Staff Major Mirko Lalatović, he represented the

Chetnik command in negotiations with the partisan leaders Aleksandar Ranković and Lola Ribar concerning the defence of Čačak. He later became the Chetnik "Commander of Southern Serbia," including Macedonia and Kosovo. In early spring 1944 General Draža Mihailović removed him from this post on the grounds that he was "colluding with the partisans." By May, Đurić had declared his readiness to join the partisans together with a group of his officers, provided that his life was guaranteed. In doing so, he also invoked the fact that Lieutenant General Arso Jovanović, then Chief of the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ, had been his classmate during General Staff training. The Supreme Headquarters on Vis was informed and gave its consent on condition that he had committed no war crimes. He was accepted and, on 10 June, with the rank of Colonel in the NOVJ and on the recommendation of Blagoje Nešković, Secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, was appointed Assistant Chief of the Operations Department of the General Staff of Serbia. He retired with the same rank.

ŽITNIK EGON, Air Force Major, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he served as deputy commander to Colonel Mate Švarc at the Third Air Force Base in Skopje. Soon afterwards, both men joined the Air Force of the NDH. Towards the end of the second year of the war, Žitnik commanded a motorised detachment at Stalingrad, wearing an Italian uniform. He fought against Soviet forces but, following the collapse of Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus' army and the satellite forces under his command, surrendered to the Red Army and turned against the Germans. He returned to Yugoslavia in the autumn of 1944 with the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front, holding a senior staff appointment in the First Yugoslav Brigade formed in the USSR.

ILIĆ LJUBA, Air Force Technical Lieutenant Colonel and aircraft designer in the Yugoslav Army Air Force. Together with engineer Kosta Sivčev, he designed the successful IKA-1, IKA-2 and IKA-3 fighter aircraft and subsequently, with Sivčev, S. Milutinović and R. Fizir, the P.V.T. aircraft. During the Second World War he served as the official representative of the Yugoslav government-in-exile in London at de Gaulle's headquarters in Algiers. In the spring of 1944, following discussions with members of the Military Mission of the NOVJ in the Mediterranean and under the influence of a sizeable group of pilots, "former officers" who had flown aircraft of his design, he declared his support for the National Liberation War. He returned to Yugoslavia at the end of 1944 and worked devotedly for the needs of the Air Force. After a year, however, he reconsidered his position and joined the émigré community, first in Italy and subsequently in Britain.

KNEŽEVIĆ RADE Brko (1904), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded a machine-gun company on the frontier facing Bulgaria, from where, following the collapse of the Yugoslav Army, he made his way on foot to his native Nikšić. He participated in the uprising of 13 July, soon becoming a company commander and, at the beginning of 1942, deputy commander of an assault battalion. After a year spent operating deep underground, he rejoined the NOVJ in early spring 1943, serving as Assistant Chief of Staff of the Fifth Proletarian Brigade and Operations Officer of the

General Staff of Montenegro. He was the first Chief of Staff of the 37th Sandžak Division and, at the end of the war, Chief of Staff of the Prisoner-of-War Command.

In liberated Belgrade he became Assistant Commander of the City Command under General Ljubodrag Đurić and subsequently under Miloje Milojević, Radivoje Jovanović and others who successively held that prestigious post. Knežević invariably remained responsible for garrison affairs, which included, among other matters, maintaining order and military discipline in the capital. This was indispensable work but, under the conditions of the time, also exceptionally unpopular. Conscientious, responsible and strict by reputation, he kept constant watch over the conduct of military personnel in public places, their dress and the preservation of officers' prestige — matters that presented serious problems for years. Although a colonel by rank, he was known personally to stop officers or NCOs who had until recently been wartime fighters and who retained the mentality of victors and the habits of men accustomed to considerable latitude. Many officers, some of them highly influential, complained that "Comrade Brko really goes too far," and some even appealed against him to the Supreme Commander and Chiefs of the General Staff. Knowing him, however, as a man wholly devoted to service, consistent and fair, they supported him and demanded that the "peasant army" be disciplined "even more rapidly and rigorously." He was repeatedly and officially informed that, in recognition of his unquestioned wartime and professional merits, promotion was forthcoming. Yet after two decades of devoted and thankless service in the same rank, he was eventually handed his retirement decree as a colonel — the rank he had already attained during the war. Adhering to the customs of the army in which he had been trained as a professional soldier, he requested an audience with his superior, whom he regarded as none other than the Supreme Commander himself, in order to report that he had honourably and proudly completed active military service and properly handed over his duties. Nothing more: characteristically dignified, he complained about no one and asked for nothing. A pre-war Captain First Class on the eve of promotion to major, a wartime colonel and, throughout the decades of peace, a "perennial candidate" for general, he lived to the age of 97, respected and remembered in stories about the "disciplining of the peasant army" in the capital.

KRAJGER GEORGE (1892), officer of the Austro-Hungarian Navy and pilot on the Isonzo Front in 1917. He flew to Italy in order to fight for the liberation of Serbia. He participated in supporting the breakthrough of the Salonika Front and, in 1918, the Serbian Army's advance for the liberation of the fatherland. In 1927, holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and pilot in the Air Force of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, he requested discharge from the armed forces and emigrated to the United States. There, as a gifted and experienced wartime pilot, he joined Pan American and soon became chief pilot and the company's foremost "long-route" aviator. He entered the United States Army Air Forces in 1942 and, with the rank of colonel, headed a Military Mission responsible for the repatriation of Allied airmen brought down across the European theatre. In this capacity he was in Yugoslavia in May 1944, moving from one end of the theatre to the other in a small two-seat aircraft capable of taking off from and landing on strips only a

few dozen metres long. The airborne assault of 25 May found him on a field at Potoci, immediately outside the attacked town of Drvar, from where he took off and became the first to deliver to the Allied Supreme Commander in the Mediterranean, General H. M. Wilson, a first-hand report on the crisis surrounding the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ and the Allied military missions attached to it. This report prompted the first highly effective Allied air attacks against German forces operating within the offensive known as "Knight's Move." He remained in the USAAF for the first three peacetime years and subsequently retired with the rank of "two-star general," thereafter working in the American aviation industry. Until his death he remained a sincere friend of the Serbs.

LEKIĆ MILAN (Široke Njive, Prokuplje, 1915), Infantry Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army; Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army (JA). Together with his platoon, part of the Metohija Detachment advancing through Albania, he was captured by the Germans at Đakovica on 20 April. Throughout the Second World War he was held in six camps in three countries: Offenburg, Nuremberg and Hammelburg in Germany, Stryj in Poland and forts named after the Crown Prince and Bismarck in Strasbourg, before being returned to Osnabrück towards the end of the war. As a prominent activist of the National Liberation Movement, he was repeatedly transferred with a group of fellow anti-fascist officers, as punishment, to camps with the harshest regimes. On 4 April 1945 he was liberated by British troops and then spent a full five months under their protection awaiting transport to the fatherland. He voluntarily entered the Yugoslav Army (JA) on 1 January 1946, supported by written guarantees from his former comrades Captain Živojin S. Stevanović and Second Lieutenant Mihajlo D. Vukićević. He served in the Belgrade garrison, performing instructional duties within the command of the Corps of National Defence of Yugoslavia. He fell ill as a direct consequence of the harsh conditions endured in prisoner-of-war camps and died while in service in 1949.

LUKIĆ DUŠAN (1901), Engineer Major serving with the Yugoslav Army Air Force Command. He graduated from the Faculty of Engineering in Ghent, Belgium and the Special School for Aeronautical Structures in Paris. During the Second World War he lived in Italy and France. He joined the National Liberation War in August 1944, serving in the technical branch of the NOVJ Base in Bari, where, as a highly respected figure within the staff organisation of Brigadier Fitzroy Maclean's mission, he made a substantial contribution to strengthening inter-Allied relations and, in particular, to supplying the NOVJ with war matériel. Holding the rank of lieutenant colonel, he became wartime head of the Technical Department of the Air Force Staff of the NOVJ. At his own request he was transferred to the reserve in 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA). He subsequently worked in the Directorate for Military Technical Research as a leading engineer and adviser.

LOZIĆ MIODRAG (1898), Air Force General Staff Colonel, Yugoslav Army. He played an important role in carrying out the coup of 27 March 1941 and likewise during the April War, when he served as Chief of Staff of the Air Force. His brother Krsta was at

the same time a major in bomber aviation and commander of the 61st Group of the First Bomber Regiment. Soon after reaching the Middle East, Miodrag Lozić was appointed military attaché of the royal government to the Soviet Union. He remained in that post until March 1944, when he and Ambassador Stanoje Simić publicly declared their support for the National Liberation Movement. He returned to Yugoslavia and placed himself at the disposal of the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ. He was appointed head of the Air Department of the General Staff of Serbia, a particularly important post at a time when joint operations were intensifying and Allied air assistance, especially Soviet support, was increasing. Subsequently, during the final operations for the liberation of the country, he served as Chief of Staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force. After the war, drawing upon his extensive diplomatic experience, he became Assistant Head of the new Yugoslavia's Military Mission in Germany under Lieutenant General Jaka Avšič. His active service ended with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

MARINOVIĆ MILOŠ (1913), Second Lieutenant pilot, Yugoslav Army; Major, JNA. After the April War he went to the Middle East, where, as a member of the U.S. Fifteenth Air Force, he flew the heavy Liberator bomber, participating in attacks on vital installations of the Third Reich. In the summer of 1944 he transferred from the USAAF to the air force of the new Yugoslavia and, with the rank of captain, served as commander of "A Flight" (eight aircraft) of the Second Squadron of the NOVJ. Leading his flight in attacks on German columns throughout the central sector of the Yugoslav theatre, he employed a distinctive tactical method designed to safeguard the lives of his pilots. Nevertheless, during the bombing of an enemy column on the Ilica-Kiseljak road, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. He made a forced landing behind the Partisan lines. After a brief recovery he returned to duty and, towards the end of the war — following the accident suffered by Captain First Class Aleksandar Cenić — was appointed commander of RAF No. 351 Squadron (the Second Squadron of the NOVJ). After the war, holding the rank of Captain First Class in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he commanded the Second Squadron of the 112th Fighter Regiment in Zagreb. In October 1945 — at the request of *Tanjug* and in accordance with his own wishes — he was demobilised and transferred to the reserve with the rank of Major in the Yugoslav Army (JA). After *Tanjug*, he worked on the editorial staffs of *Borba*, *Oslobođenje* and *Rad*, where, among other things, his knowledge of several major world languages was put to particularly effective use.

MILEVSKI BORO (1916), Artillery Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from the end of 1943, serving as Chief of Staff of the Third and subsequently commander of the Fourth Macedonian Brigade, and from September 1944 as commander of the 50th Division. On the Syrmian Front he commanded the artillery of the 15th Corps. After the war he held senior posts in the artillery. He was killed in the Skopje earthquake of 1963, holding the rank of Artillery Colonel and serving as Assistant Chief of Artillery of the Skopje Army.

PAVLOVIĆ ANDRIJA, Air Force General Staff Lieutenant Colonel and reconnais-

sance officer, Yugoslav Army; head of the Operations Department of the Army Air Force Command and a member of the innermost circle of officers who directed the coup of 27 March. During the April War he served as acting head of the Operations Staff of the Air Force Command and was General Borivoje Mirković's principal support in command. He was personally responsible to a considerable degree for the vigorous, well-organised and tenacious resistance offered by the Yugoslav Army Air Force to the enemy's air power. He was the only commanding officer who refused, on 17 April, to accept capitulation on behalf of the Air Force. He conducted himself well in the German prisoner-of-war camp, where he belonged to an anti-fascist organisation. Towards the end of the war he was wounded in the camp during an Allied air raid. After returning to Yugoslavia, he applied for admission to the air force of the new state, but its commander, Major General France Pirc, prevented this out of vindictiveness, having learned that Pavlović had proposed to General Mirković and, on 12 April, drafted an order that Pirc — like Colonel Gorjup and several others — be removed from command of the Second Fighter Regiment and "court-martialled" for markedly passive and desertionist conduct from the very beginning of the April War. Prevented from pursuing his profession as an officer, Pavlović was forced to work as an ordinary manual labourer on the construction of the Pančevo Bridge and subsequently on several other projects in order to support his wife and three daughters. As a principal witness to the coup events of early 1941, he wrote, in addition to numerous contributions to professional journals and collections of memoirs, three substantial manuscripts on the March coup and the Air Force in the April War. These remained unpublished after his death, preserved in manuscript collections in the archives of the Aeronautical Museum and the Military History Institute. He died in Belgrade in 1993. In April 2002 he was awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, Second Class.

PETERLIN ERNEST, General Staff Lieutenant Colonel, Yugoslav Army; during the April War Chief of Staff of the Zeta Division. In the Soviet Union, as a member of the Croatian Home Guard Legion, he fought on the Axis side, before joining the Red Army in the spring of 1943. He became Chief of Staff of the First Yugoslav Brigade formed in the USSR. He participated in the final battles for the liberation of the country. After the war he served in military education, retiring with the rank of colonel.

POPOVIĆ ŽARKO, successful intelligence officer of the Serbian Army during the First World War and of the Yugoslav Army in the inter-war period. In 1940, holding the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army, he was appointed the first military attaché to the Soviet Union, where, already well known in intelligence circles and influential among the senior leadership of the Red Army, he made a substantial contribution to efforts to conclude the Pact of Friendship and Non-Aggression between the governments of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the USSR (6 April 1941). After the April War he transferred a group of Yugoslav Army officers from Moscow to Cairo, where he continued his intelligence work, which included preparing and dispatching the first groups of Yugoslav and Allied officers and NCOs on intelligence missions to the Yugoslav theatre. Following the fall of the government of Army General Dušan T. Simović, whose confidence he had long

enjoyed, he was retired with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army but, as a colonel in the British Army, continued to work for the victory of the anti-fascist coalition. After the war he remained in London, where he received both a British pension and one from the "Second Yugoslavia."

PRIŠLIN MARIJAN (1908), Artillery Captain First Class. From the shattered Croatian Legion on the Eastern Front he went over to the Red Army in the spring of 1943 and subsequently reached the NOVJ with Soviet troops. In the national theatre he commanded an artillery brigade. He retired in 1959 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

PUZIĆ VLADIMIR, Yugoslav Army fighter pilot. He participated in the air battle for the defence of Belgrade, during which he shot down one Stuka. He survived the entire war and numerous aerial engagements, continuing to fly during the decades of peace, only to die almost half a century after the April War — aboard an aircraft in which he was travelling as a passenger.

RENČELJ KAZIMIR (1905), Lieutenant Commander, Royal Yugoslav Navy. During the April War he commanded a torpedo boat, avoided capture and reached the British, under whose flag he continued the anti-fascist war. He joined the NOVJ in January 1944, serving at the Yugoslav Navy Base in Monopoli, Italy and subsequently as commander of a coastal naval sector. During the final operations he served with the General Staff of Slovenia. After the war he held posts in the Yugoslav Navy. In 1951 his political commissar presented him with an ultimatum: either join the Communist Party of Yugoslavia or be transferred to the reserve. Loyal to his profession, the colonel chose the former and retired in 1960.

SEMIZ MILISAV (1912), Sergeant fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. On 6 April 1941, during the aerial defence of Belgrade, he flew as wingman to Captain First Class Todor Gogić. Over five days of the April War he shot down four German aircraft in the Belgrade air-defence zone. He avoided capture and joined the British in the Middle East. As part of an intelligence mission, accompanied by radio telegraphist Vojislav Bakić, he parachuted from a British aircraft in April 1942 onto Duga Poljana near Sjenica, at the village of Štavalj. There he was captured by collaborationist Muslim militia and handed over to the Germans. In the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp he conducted himself courageously and patriotically. After the war he served as an officer and pilot in the Yugoslav Air Force and subsequently with JAT, where he also became chief pilot. He was killed in a road accident. In April 2002 he was posthumously awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class.

SIVČEV KOSTA, Air Force Technical Lieutenant Colonel and aircraft designer, Yugoslav Army. He graduated from the Faculty of Engineering in Belgrade and completed postgraduate studies at the University of Zurich. From 1929 to 1931 he worked in aircraft design bureaux in Paris and, from 1932 until the Second World War, in Zemun as an aircraft designer for the Yugoslav Army Air Force. Together with engineer Lj. Ilić,

he designed the IKA-1, IKA-2 and IKA-3 fighter aircraft and, with engineers R. Fizir, S. Milutinović and Lj. Ilić, the P.V.T. aircraft. After the war, at the Aeronautical Technical Institute of the Air Force, holding the rank of Colonel in the JNA, he continued his work on aircraft design. Together with engineers S. Zrnić and S. Popović, he designed the S-49A and S-49C aircraft, as well as the 211 and 213 support aircraft, and also participated in work on the Galeb jet aircraft project. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

SIMIĆ BOŽIN, Lieutenant Colonel and noted intelligence officer of the Serbian Army on the Salonika Front and later a Colonel in the Yugoslav Army; in April 1941 a member of the delegation conducting negotiations with the Soviet Union. In 1942 he moved from Moscow to London, where he was appointed the official representative of the Yugoslav government to De Gaulle, remaining in that post until the liberation of Paris. In 1945 he was appointed the first ambassador of the "Second Yugoslavia" to Turkey.

STANIVUKOVIĆ PETAR, Major in the Yugoslav Army Air Force, who after the April War was taken to German prisoner-of-war camps. Upon returning to Yugoslavia, this confirmed anti-fascist immediately became involved in providing air support to the front during the operations for the final liberation of the country. Shortly after the war he was appointed commander of a Yugoslav Air Force squadron. While serving in that post he was arrested and sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment because a pilot, for whose political loyalty and devotion to the fatherland he had given a written guarantee, fled the country.

STANOJEVIĆ SAVO (1916), Air Force NCO, Yugoslav Army, participant in the coup carried out on 27 March 1941. During the July uprising he served as a company commander, a position he also held in the Fifth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade, subsequently becoming commander of its Third Battalion and deputy brigade commander. By general acknowledgement, he was one of the bravest and most resolute fighters of this celebrated unit. Holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he became a member of the Military Mission of the NOVJ in Albania, headed by Colonel Velimir Velja Stojnić. In recognition of his proven wartime exploits, he was proclaimed a National Hero on 6 December 1944. After the war he graduated from the M. V. Frunze Military Academy in Moscow, but was subsequently, for political reasons, stripped of his rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA) and of the title of National Hero, as a result of which his name does not appear in encyclopaedias, collections or lexicons. He was politically rehabilitated in the early 1990s.

STARC ALBIN, Lieutenant fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army; Colonel in the JNA Air Force. After the April War he joined the Croatian Air Force and, with its legion, was deployed on the Eastern Front, where in aerial combat, principally in the wider Stalingrad area, he recorded 11 victories over Soviet aircraft and then, after going over to the Red Army, a further 10 over German aircraft. He returned to Yugoslavia in the autumn of 1944 as a member of the First Yugoslav Brigade formed in the USSR and was admitted

to the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force, initially as a squadron commander. He later served in the Flight Test Centre and, holding the rank of Colonel, in the Command of the JNA Air Force.

TURINA F. MILAN, Artillery Captain, Yugoslav Army; Colonel, JNA. A Croat, he voluntarily remained in German captivity because he did not wish to "betray his Serbian colleagues." After returning from captivity, he worked at the JNA Armaments Institute, where he was engaged in testing and design and also became known as the author of specialist studies. He retired with the rank of Colonel.

CVIKIĆ NIKOLA, Major pilot, Yugoslav Army; Colonel, JNA. Although a Serb, after the April War he joined the Air Force of the NDH. In recognition of his diligent performance of duty, he was awarded the Iron Cross by Hitler's Marshal Göring. Having established contact with the organisation of the National Liberation Movement, he defected to the Partisans. After the war, among other posts, he served in a senior staff position in the Air Force Command. He retired with the rank of Colonel.

ŠKRIVANIĆ GAVRO FILIP (1900), Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and pilot, Yugoslav Army. The April War found him serving as the air-force military representative in Rome. From August 1941 to January 1945 he remained abroad: in London as Air Force Officer in the Military Cabinet of the Presidency of the Yugoslav Government, as an RAF pilot on heavy bombers, as Inspector of the Yugoslav Air Force in the Middle East and as aide-de-camp to King Petar II, in which capacity he participated in the Tito-Dr. Šubašić talks on Vis in June 1944. Precisely on the basis of the Vis Agreement, from August 1944 he served as head of the Yugoslav Military Mission in Paris. In January 1945 he handed over that post to General of the NOVJ Ivan Rukavina and his deputy Ljubo Ilić, a general of the French Resistance. After the war he became head of the Training Department in the Air Force Command, from which post he was demobilised at his own request in 1946 because of his unwillingness to subordinate himself to politics. He continued his studies in history at the University of Belgrade, graduating in 1947 and receiving his doctorate in 1955. As a senior research adviser in the field of history, he wrote and published several works, including a number of textbooks for secondary schools and universities.

Part Seven
ON THE LIST OF "ETERNAL COLONELS"

By the very nature of military organisation, only a select few colonels ever adorned the lapels of their tunics with "oak leaves." This was well understood by the dozens of " former officers" who had received the rank of colonel during the National Liberation War itself — in recognition of proven wartime merit while commanding brigades and divisions, and even corps. A combination of circumstances, above all political ones, meant that these men — accomplished professionals, respected intellectuals and individuals of strong moral character, whose patriotism went without saying — remained at the same rank while raising sons and grandsons, some even living to see great-grandchildren who remembered the three silver-embroidered stars of their insignia. This, too, was part of their military fate...

At the outset, we should return to the story of that highly deserving group of young regular officers of the Yugoslav Army from various technical branches who, after returning in 1945 from prisoner-of-war camps, where they had conducted themselves honourably, devoted themselves to laying the foundations of the military industry, establishing military technical institutes, institutionalising the Military Department at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Belgrade and so forth. Their work constituted one of the essential prerequisites for the technical modernisation of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), which throughout its existence remained a formidable regional military force, as well as for the expansion of arms and equipment exports, which brought the "Second Yugoslavia" substantial foreign-currency revenues and secured it considerable international prestige. They were specialists in external and internal ballistics, automatic weapons and artillery, the design and maintenance of aircraft and combat and non-combat vehicles, esteemed heads of the Directorate for Technical Research, institute directors, heads of production, leading engineers, advisers and designers, respected authors of specialist literature in their respective fields and accomplished educators. All were devoted to their professions and to science, politically unaffiliated individuals within an orthodox Party army, recognised at home and abroad for their achievements — and all retired as colonels of the JNA. Among them were:

ĐORĐEVIĆ PAVLE

KOSANOVIĆ JOVAN

KRSTIĆ MIODRAG

MARINKOVIĆ JOVAN

MILOSAVLJEVIĆ MILOŠ

STANISAVLJEVIĆ BOŠKO

TRIVUNAC JOVAN

ANĐELKOVIĆ RATKO, Air Force Lieutenant and ground-attack pilot. During the April War he participated in the bombing of German targets in southern Austria. While imprisoned at Osnabrück, he firmly aligned himself with the National Liberation War. He returned in time to participate in providing air support for the Yugoslav Army's (JA) final operations for the complete liberation of the country. He attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ARANĐELOVIĆ ŽARKO (1903), Artillery Major, Yugoslav Army. He remained in a camp until the capitulation of Italy, after which he served as a company commander in the "Tomšič" Brigade and subsequently as an instructor at the Officers' School of the General Staff of Slovenia. He retired in 1964, while serving as artillery commander of the Fifth Army, with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ASANOVIĆ IVAN (1917), NCO in the Yugoslav Army Medical Service. A participant in the uprising, he served in the NOVJ as a medical service officer at successive levels from company to brigade.

BAKIĆ BRANKO, aviation officer on the Salonika Front and a distinguished comrade-in-arms of French military pilots; subsequently an observer officer in the Yugoslav Army Air Force. During the occupation of Yugoslavia in the Second World War, he maintained an anti-fascist stance. Together with Lieutenant Colonel Vlada Simić, he organised the Yugoslav Air Force Transport Regiment and subsequently JAT, the Yugoslav national airline. In the Air Force Command he worked on the organisation of specialist training, where his command of six foreign languages proved particularly valuable.

BANOVIĆ NIKOLA (1920), cadet at the Yugoslav Army NCO School. He commanded an insurgent platoon and company and subsequently served as deputy battalion commander in the Lovćen Detachment. In the Fourth Proletarian Brigade he served as a company commander and then as deputy battalion commander. From mid-1944 he was deputy commander of the Sixth and subsequently commander of the Tenth Montenegrin Brigade. While awaiting departure for military education in the Soviet Union, he commanded the Reinforcement Brigade of the General Staff of Serbia in Valjevo.

BAROVIĆ DUŠAN (1910), Engineer Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from August 1943, serving in Dalmatian units as a brigade operations officer, instructor on an officers' course, commander of the Eighth Corps Engineer Brigade and chief of engineering of the Fourth Army. During the post-war decades, he served as a department head in the Directorate for Military Technical Research, spending the longest period at the Armaments Institute, from which he retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

BJELICA JEVREM (1909), Air Force Captain Second Class and pilot, Yugoslav Army. An early participant in the July Uprising and deputy commander of the Nikšić Detachment. After a year spent deep underground, he rejoined units of the NOVJ. He

served as an instructor on the Second Assault Corps Officers' Course, as a lieutenant colonel at the Supreme Headquarters and as commander of the Third Air Base at Njeguđa. With the rank of Colonel in the NOVJ, he commanded the Supreme Headquarters Liaison Squadron (Vis, 18 August 1944), initially comprising seven and shortly afterwards 10 aircraft. His final wartime appointments were as head of the Air Transport Department at the Air Force Staff of the NOVJ and, from March 1945, commander of the 42nd Assault Aviation Division, whose chief of staff was Major Stevan Stevanović. After the war, as a colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he commanded an air division and, from 1947, served as deputy director of the "Justa" Yugoslav-Soviet Joint Civil Aviation Company.

BOŽOVIĆ DUŠAN Duka, Air Force Junior Sergeant and pilot, Yugoslav Army. He was placed on active service after graduating from the Reserve Air Force Officers' School in Pančevo and successfully completing his practical unit training. He participated in the April War and avoided capture. In the National Liberation War from 1941, he spent the first two years of the conflict serving in National Liberation Army units in Toplica and southern Serbia. In response to the Supreme Headquarters' appeal to airmen issued in November 1943, he reached Drvar in the spring of 1944 via the Headquarters of the Second Corps, where he worked for a time in the Supreme Headquarters' Air Force Department. In March 1945, with the rank of Major in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he commanded the 421st Regiment of the 42nd Assault Aviation Division, whose chief of staff was Captain Ivan Stojković. His active military service ended with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

BOJČEVIĆ PAVLE (1911), radio-technology instructor at the Yugoslav Army Air Force Academy. A participant in the July Uprising of 1941. During the National Liberation War he served as head of the Radio Service of the General Staff of Montenegro, the Fourth Brigade and the Second Division. As a Major in the NOVJ from May 1943, he subsequently served as chief of signals of the Second Assault Corps, then of the Operational Group of Divisions and the First Army Group during the Belgrade Operation. Thereafter, with the rank of Colonel in the NOVJ, he was assigned the task of restarting Radio Belgrade.

BRAJOVIĆ RADISAV (1923), Artillery NCO, Yugoslav Army. An insurgent and fighter in the Fifth Proletarian Brigade, he served as commissar of a brigade within the strategic echelon of the Supreme Headquarters and, during the final offensive for the liberation of the country, as commander of the Independent Anti-Tank Battalion of the Second Proletarian Brigade. During the post-war decades he held senior appointments in the artillery of the JNA. He retired with the rank of Colonel.

VARDA DEMETAR (1890), Artillery Captain, Yugoslav Army. Mobilised into the Croatian Home Guard, he served with the rank of Major in an artillery battalion in Varaždin, from where he collaborated with the National Liberation Movement. In July 1943 he defected to the NOVJ with his entire battalion — 150 soldiers, five officers

and all its armaments. With the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he became a member of the Main Staff of Croatia. After the war he served as deputy commander and subsequently commander of the city of Zagreb, retiring from the latter post in 1949 with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

VASILJEVIĆ JOVAN (1920), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1941, with a lengthy interruption during which he worked underground. During the final operations for the liberation of the country, he served as an operations officer at brigade and divisional level. In peacetime he held appointments in the Navy and, after completing several years of advanced military education, served as an instructor and subsequently at the Military History Institute. Having obtained a doctorate in history, he retired in 1967 with the naval rank of Captain. He published the monographs *Dejstva na Jadranu u NOR* [*Operations in the Adriatic during the National Liberation War*] (1957) and *Mornarica NOV Jugoslavije* [*The Navy of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia*] (1972), as well as several studies on the war in the Adriatic.

VASIĆ LJUBIŠA, Captain First Class and pilot, Yugoslav Army, head of the Instrument Flying School in Pančevo. After returning from wartime captivity, where he had displayed a resolute and patriotic attitude, he held senior appointments in the transport aviation branch of the Yugoslav Army (JA) and subsequently, as an exemplary aviator, became chief pilot of JAT. In one assessment of his flying proficiency conducted by leading American experts, he received a "perfect 10."

VIDAČIĆ NIKOLA, Quartermaster Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. Captured during the April War, he succeeded in escaping from a camp and, towards the end of 1944, returned to Yugoslavia with the group led by pilot Major Arso Boljević. He participated in the final operations for the liberation of the country. With the rank of Major, he served in the JNA Rear Services Command and, as a lieutenant colonel, was subsequently assigned to senior positions in the national economy.

VUJAKLIJA JANKO (1918), cadet at the Yugoslav Army Air Force Academy. Captured in Sarajevo during the April War, he was taken to the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp. In July 1942 he escaped from the camp in Germany and made his way back to Yugoslavia. He was soon arrested and conscripted, then, with the rank of pilot lieutenant, assigned to liaison duties in the Air Force of the NDH. While flying the Zagreb-Gospić route, he also maintained contacts with the National Liberation Movement organisation in Zagreb. During one flight he suddenly deviated from his assigned course and landed at Krbavsko Polje, which was held by units of the NOVJ. Because the location was under threat, he was transferred from there to Medeno Polje and, on 14 May 1944, by order of the Supreme Headquarters, to Vis, from where he was assigned as a pilot to the First Squadron of the NOVJ.

VUJIČIĆ RADE (1923), cadet at the NCO School in Bileća and participant in the April War, serving with the Yugoslav Army's Herzegovina Division during its advance

through Albania. He joined the uprising against the occupiers. He ended the war with the rank of Captain in the Yugoslav Army (JA), serving as a battalion commander.

VUKOTIĆ KRSTO (1906), military official serving in the Yugoslav Royal Navy. At the end of 1943, following internment, he joined the NOVJ. He served as an instructor at the school attached to the Main Staff of Montenegro, commander of the airfield security unit at Njeguđa, commander of the Bay of Kotor Naval Coastal Command and, in May 1945, commander of the newly liberated city of Pula.

VUKČEVIĆ LJUBOMIR, Second Lieutenant and pilot, Yugoslav Army. An insurgent and company commander in the Zeta Detachment. As part of a group of 250 airmen from the eastern sector of the theatre, assembled at the Headquarters of the Second Assault Corps, he reached Bosanska Krajina in early April 1944 and, from there, via the First Air Base, joined the First Squadron of the NOVJ. During the final operations he served as head of the Navigation Section of the Air Force Command. In the post-war decades he commanded an air regiment in Leskovac and headed the Air Defence Training Centre, where he completed training on jet aircraft. He retired in 1966 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA, after which he worked for JAT as an instructor and taught at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering in the fields of air traffic, transport and navigation.

GAVRILCHENKO ALEKSIJE (1904), Artillery Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. After the April War he served in the Croatian Home Guard of the NDH, while simultaneously participating in the organisation of the National Liberation Movement. At the end of 1942, together with the unit under his command, he joined the National Liberation Army, where, among other appointments, he served as deputy commander of the Supreme Headquarters Artillery Battalion and commander of the artillery of the Second Division. After the war he held senior posts in the artillery commands and staffs of the Yugoslav Army (JA), attaining the rank of Colonel.

GAJOVIĆ M. DRAGIĆ (1912), Captain, Yugoslav Army. In the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp he was a member of the innermost leadership of the National Liberation Movement and served as chief of staff of the detachment of 800 officers who, under the command of Colonel Vekoslav Kolb, returned to Yugoslavia in mid-March 1945 and joined the final offensive for its liberation. After the war he held senior staff appointments. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

GLUMAC BRANKO, Lieutenant and pilot of the 24th Squadron, 62nd Group, First Bomber Regiment. During the attack on an armoured column on the Kumanovo-Preševo road, he flew as the right wingman of the regimental commander, Colonel Ferdo Gradišnik. Captured by the Germans, he was interned in the Osnabrück camp, where he conducted himself courageously and patriotically. After returning to Yugoslavia he was admitted to the Air Force of the "Second Yugoslavia." Following his retirement with the rank of Colonel in the JNA, he became active in *Aerosvet* and the Aviation Association.

GRGAS ANTE (1921), Naval NCO, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1941. He served as a fighter and company commander in Dalmatian units, battalion commander in the First Boka Brigade and chief of staff of the Fifth Kosovo-Metohija Brigade.

GROZDANIĆ MILIVOJE (1918), NCO, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1941, serving as platoon and company commander in the Battle of Pljevlja, battalion commander in the "Bijeli Pavle" Detachment, deputy battalion commander in the Fifth Proletarian Brigade, deputy commander of the "Budo Tomović" Seventh Youth Brigade and, finally, commander of the 42nd Macedonian Division in the closing phase of the war. During the years of precarious peace, as a Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he commanded a division and, after completing the Operations Course, served on the General Staff.

DAMJANOVIĆ MILAN (1910), Air Force Captain Second Class and pilot, Yugoslav Army. After the April War, together with remnants of the Air Force, he avoided capture and made his way to the Middle East. From the autumn of 1944 he served with the Military Mission of the NOVJ in Cairo, working principally on the recruitment and training of pilots. At the end of the war he held staff appointments in the Air Force.

DAPČEVIĆ MILUTIN (1908), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. Captured during the April War and interned in Germany, he was subsequently transferred to Italy. He succeeded in escaping and, in the autumn of 1943, joined the National Liberation Movement in Slovenia, where he served as chief of staff of a detachment and of the Alpine Operational Zone, and subsequently as the first chief of staff of the Ninth Corps (11 December 1943). With the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he served as chief of staff of the Littoral Operational Group and subsequently of the Second Assault Corps. He was the first head of the Intelligence Department of the Fifth Army Headquarters in Skopje.

DEBELJAK BORIS, Lieutenant in the transport service. On 1 March 1945, together with a group of fellow active officers of the Yugoslav Army, he organised an Automobile Course in Zemun to train officers for supervisory posts in unit transport services. In May 1946 the course was reorganised as the Automobile Officers' School.

DERENDA DARKO (1914), Artillery Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. As an activist of the Liberation Front, he was arrested, convicted and imprisoned in Italy. From October 1943, when he joined the NOVJ, he served as a battalion commander, chief of staff of the "Srečko Kosovel" Brigade and assistant chief of staff of the Ninth Corps. After the liberation of the Slovene Littoral he became commander of the Kobarid Military District. Immediately after Victory Day, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he served as chief of the Repatriation Staff. He attained the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

DRAGOVIĆ VLADIMIR (1910), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. A company

commander during the uprising, he subsequently served in units of the NOVJ in posts ranging from deputy battalion commander to brigade chief of staff. At the end of the war, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he was the chief of staff of the 37th Sandžak Division.

DUMITROV DOBRIVOJE, Artillery Captain First Class who had graduated from the Advanced School of the Yugoslav Army Military Academy, serving as navigator in the 61st Group of the First Bomber Regiment. He participated in the fighting at Stracin during the April War. In the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp he was an active supporter of the National Liberation Movement. Upon returning to Yugoslavia he was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force, where he held operational appointments at Air Force Command, served as chief of staff of a fighter division and taught general military and aviation history. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA. He published several notable articles in professional journals and was a vigorous advocate of the study and preservation of aviation traditions, especially those of the April War.

ĐAKOVIĆ OBRAD (1920), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he served on the front facing Bulgaria, where he distinguished himself in resisting the aggressor's forces. An insurgent, he rose during the National Liberation War from commander of a machine-gun section to battalion commander.

ĐUROVIĆ VOJISLAV (1920), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army; Major, Yugoslav Army (JA). An insurgent who soon became a platoon commander in assault units. In proletarian formations he advanced from ordinary fighter to battalion commander, and subsequently served as an instructor on an NCO course. At the end of the war, with the rank of Major in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he was deputy commander of the Third Serbian Brigade.

ELSNER ALEKSANDAR (1902), Artillery Major, Yugoslav Army. As a young man he participated in the First World War in the fighting for the liberation of Carinthia and was subsequently admitted to the army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. During the April War he was captured while serving as a battalion commander. In the National Liberation War from September 1943, he served as commander of the artillery of the Seventh Corps and, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, as chief of staff of the Base of the Main Staff of Slovenia at Biograd na Moru. After the war he served in armoured units. He was transferred to the reserve with the rank of Colonel.

ŽARIĆ JAGOŠ (1914), Gendarmerie Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. An activist in the preparations for the uprising, he served as platoon commander and deputy company commander in the Battle of Pljevlja. From the formation of the First Proletarian Brigade at Rudo on 22 December 1941, he spent the entire war in its ranks, serving as platoon and company commander in the Second Battalion, deputy battalion commander, commander of the Kraljevo Battalion during the Battle of the Sutjeska, deputy brigade commander and, from March 1944 until Victory Day, brigade commander. He became one

of its bravest and most popular fighters. He attained the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

ZVICER NIKOLA (1918), Air Force Junior Sergeant serving in the Yugoslav Royal Navy. Shortly before the July Uprising he was interned in Albania and, in November 1941, exchanged for captured Italian soldiers, after which he joined the Orjen Battalion. In the Fifth Proletarian Brigade he served as company commander and battalion commander, holding the latter appointment also in the Sixth East Bosnian Brigade. With the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded the Eighth Serbian Brigade. During the final operations for the liberation of the country he headed the meteorological service of the Air Division Group. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

ZELENIKA ILIJA Ika, Captain Second Class and fighter pilot, instructor at the Yugoslav Army Fighter Pilot School. Together with Captains Savo Poljanec, Kosta Lekić and Ercigonja, he formed part of the most celebrated group of aerobatic aces in the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force. In the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp, alongside his uncle, General Staff Brigadier General Milan Zelenika, he was one of the prominent leaders of the National Liberation Movement. By the 1950s he commanded a fighter division in Skopje. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

IVANIŠEVIĆ ĐURO, Lieutenant and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. During distinguished wartime service in Allied formations, he flew 87 combat missions in a Spitfire. He commanded a flight of eight aircraft in the First Squadron of the NOVJ. Immediately after the war he commanded the 112th Fighter Regiment of the Air Force and the Mostar garrison. Until his retirement, with the rank of Colonel in the JNA, he served with operational formations of the Air Force.

IVANOVIĆ MILORAD (1922), NCO, Yugoslav Army, serving on the front against Albania during the April War. An insurgent, he commanded units in the Kom and Durmitor National Liberation Partisan Detachments. In the proletarian brigades, while serving as commander of a supporting-weapons company, he was seriously wounded. After treatment in Italy, he became commander of a battalion of airmen sent to the USSR for training. He returned to Yugoslavia with the rank of Major in the Yugoslav Air Force.

JANEKU PETRIKA (1913), Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. A prisoner of war in Bulgaria and member of the clandestine National Liberation Movement organisation. From the autumn of 1944 he served in the NOVJ as chief of staff of the Ohrid Brigade and as chief of staff and commander of the 49th Macedonian Division. After the war he held senior staff appointments. He retired in 1965 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

JAŠMAKOV KOSTA Jašmak (1912), Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from the beginning of 1944, serving as commander of the Third Macedonian Brigade and 42nd Division, and as chief of staff of the Fifteenth Corps. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

KANDIĆ LUKA, Captain Second Class and fighter pilot. In the Osnabrück camp he was a prominent organiser of the National Liberation Movement. With the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and while serving as chief of staff of an air division in Niš, he was killed while piloting a Fieseler Storch aircraft.

KEŠELJEVIĆ ĐORĐE, Lieutenant and fighter pilot. As a participant in the defence of Belgrade during the April War, serving with the 32nd Group of the Sixth Fighter Regiment, he flew three combat sorties and shot down one German aircraft. He kept a war diary. He fell into German captivity, where, in the Osnabrück camp, he conducted himself exemplarily as an anti-fascist and patriot. Upon returning to Yugoslavia, he was admitted to the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Force, in which he rose to the rank of Colonel. A prolific publicist, he wrote particularly on the defence of Belgrade and, more broadly, on the conduct of airmen in defending the country against aggression.

KOVAČEVIĆ MAKSIM (1914), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. Commander of an insurgent platoon and company in the Grahovo Battalion, deputy commander of the Mostar Battalion, commander of the Fifth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade and, before departing for training in the Soviet Union, commander of the Replacement Brigade in Smederevska Palanka. In the JNA he attained the rank of Colonel.

KOVIJANIĆ DIMITRIJE (1908), Captain First Class and pilot, Yugoslav Army. An insurgent and underground activist, by the end of 1943 he was chief of staff of the Durmitor Detachment and commander of the Air Base at Bosanski Petrovac. During the final operations for the liberation of the country he commanded the First Air Force Transport Regiment. He attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

KOMNENOVIĆ BLAGOJE (1897), Major, Yugoslav Army. After the April War he was interned in a camp in Albania, where he became active in the National Liberation Movement organisation. From the capitulation of Italy onward he served as an officer of the NOVJ, holding appointments as operations officer of the Main Staff of Macedonia, deputy chief of the Main Staff of Serbia, commander of the city of Niš, commander of the Kragujevac Military District and commander of the area of the Fourteenth Corps. After the war he served in the Main Inspectorate of the JNA and the Military History Institute. He attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

KONVALINKA SAVA, Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. Following the Italian bombing of Bitola on 5 November 1940, he crossed into Greece with two comrades, intending to fight fascism alongside Greek forces. Towards the end of the war, with the rank of Major, he served on the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA) and, during the post-war years, in senior staffs within the military education system. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

KOPRIVICA MIRKO (1922), Cadet at the Yugoslav Army NCO School. An insurgent and military and political leader in proletarian and Krajina brigades. In the au-

tumn of 1943 he was sent from the Supreme Headquarters Officers' School to the 35th (Lika) Division, where he served as battalion and brigade commander and subsequently as divisional chief of staff. Towards the end of the war he served in the Mobilisation Section of the General Staff, from which, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he was sent for training in the Soviet Union. He attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

KOSANOVIĆ MILE, Captain First Class and bomber pilot, Yugoslav Army. In the Osnabrück camp he was a member of the leadership of the National Liberation Movement organisation. After the war he held senior posts in the operational branches of Air Force Command, attaining the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

LAKIĆEVIĆ KRSTO (1906), Captain Second Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army. Serving with the 32nd Group of the Sixth Fighter Regiment, he participated in the aerial battle for the defence of Belgrade, taking off from Krušedol airfield and fighting over Srem. He subsequently distinguished himself as an RAF pilot in the Middle East and North Africa and in the first air formations of the NOVJ within the British 281 Wing. During the final offensive for the liberation of the country, with the rank of Captain, he commanded the 422nd Assault Regiment in the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Division Group, where his chief of staff was Captain Jefta Pantić and the divisional commander was Colonel Jevrem Bjelica. After the war, among other appointments, he served as head of the Operations Section in the staff of the 11th Fighter Division. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

LAKOVIĆ MILOVAN (1897), Major in the Yugoslav Gendarmerie. During the uprising, he served as adviser to the District Insurgent Command for Danilovgrad. In March 1942 he was arrested by the Chetniks, but rejoined units of the National Liberation Army in the autumn of 1943. He served first as an instructor and then as commandant of the Officers' School of the Second Shock Corps. Towards the end of the war he commanded the Officers' School of the Corps of National Defence of Yugoslavia. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

LATAS DANILO, Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. He evaded capture during the April War and became a notable participant in the uprising in Lika. In September 1942 he was commandant of the Officers' School of the Main Staff of Croatia at Donji Lapac, then deputy to Colonel Savo Orović, commandant of the Military School of the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ, and subsequently held staff appointments at divisional and corps level. After the war he served, among other posts, as chief of staff of corps in Zagreb and Ljubljana. He died while holding that post, with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

LEKIĆ KOSTA (1909), Captain Second Class and fighter pilot, Lieutenant Colonel in the JNA. During the April War he commanded a fighter squadron. In the Middle East he commanded a fighter squadron assigned to protect the Suez Canal, which was subsequently disbanded by the British. He was then sent to the United States for training on

Liberator bombers, but fell ill shortly before his scheduled return to Egypt. After recovering, he returned to the Middle East, where in November 1943 he publicly declared his support for the National Liberation War. From May 1944 he worked with the Military Mission of the NOVJ in Cairo, particularly in gathering air-force personnel from across Africa and, above all, pilots to reinforce the First and Second Squadrons. During the final operations he commanded the Pilot Training School and subsequently served as an instructor at the Pilot School in Čoka. While commandant of the military airfield at Zemun, on 24 July 1947, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and fighter pilot, he sustained fatal injuries in the line of duty during the final rehearsal of an aerobatic manoeuvre that he was to perform before the public the following day as organiser of an air display.

LIPOVŠĆAK MILJENKO, Captain and pilot, Yugoslav Army. An officer in the Air Force of the NDH. In August 1944 he was a pilot in the Liaison Squadron of the Supreme Headquarters, which comprised 10 aircraft and operated under the command of Colonel Jevrem Bjelica. He piloted a two-seat Fieseler 168 which, on 17 October 1944, was carrying General Vladimir Ćetković, commander of the Eighth Corps, to a conference at the Supreme Headquarters on Vis. By extraordinary good fortune he survived an aerial engagement with an RAF fighter over Velebit, during which his aircraft was hit and severely damaged. General Ćetković did not survive the crash-landing that Lipovšćak was forced to make. In March 1945 Lipovšćak commanded a regiment in Major Arso Boljević's 11th Fighter Aviation Division. He attained the rank of Colonel in the Air Force.

LOZIĆ KRSTO, Lieutenant Colonel and pilot, Yugoslav Army, brother of Colonel Miodrag Lozić. On the eve of 27 March 1941, in support of the coup, he transferred the 61st Bomber Group of the First Regiment, which he commanded, from Bijeljina to Zemun. During the April War he flew several combat missions and, after the death of the regimental commander Ferdo Gradišnik, assumed command of the regiment. From Nikšić he was evacuated to Greece and then to the Middle East. Upon returning to Yugoslavia he was admitted to the Air Force, from which he retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

MANOJLOVIĆ MILOŠ Milan (1914), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. After the April War he returned to his native Pusta Reka. He became the first commander of the Leskovac and Jablanica Detachments, assistant commander of the First South Morava Detachment and the First South Morava Brigade and chief of staff of the Second Proletarian Division. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

MANOJLOVIĆ NEDELJKO (1913), Gendarmerie Corporal, Yugoslav Army. After returning from the April War, he organised the uprising of the Serbian population in Vukovsko near Kupres and commanded the Vojin Zirojević Battalion. During the National Liberation War he commanded a group of detachments and the Eighth Dalmatian Brigade and served as chief of staff of the 23rd and deputy commander of the 45th

Serbian Division. After the war he served in units of the Corps of National Defence of Yugoslavia. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

MARKOVIĆ BOŽIDAR Boško (1909), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1941, he served as an officer on the staff of the Second Serbian Proletarian Brigade and as a member of the Main Staff of Serbia. He remained in the JNA until 1953, with the rank of Colonel, when he was elected a deputy to the National Assembly of Serbia.

MARKOVIĆ RADOVAN (1895), Colonel and head of the Technical Service in the Yugoslav Army Air Force Command. He graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in France and subsequently completed the Air Reconnaissance School. After the April War he was arrested in Belgrade and interned in Germany, where he became a prominent supporter of the National Liberation Movement. He returned to Yugoslavia in mid-March 1945 and was assigned to the staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Air Division Group. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA and subsequently worked as a professor at the Faculty of Engineering in Belgrade.

MARTINOVIĆ MITAR (1870), Divisional General, Yugoslav Army. He held senior appointments in the Montenegrin Army during the Balkan Wars and the First World War and was awarded the Obilić Gold Medal. As an Artillery Brigadier General in the Yugoslav Army, he retired at his own request in 1921. At his own request he was reactivated on the eve of the April War. With the rank of Divisional General and at the advanced age of 71, he withdrew before the superior forces of the occupier while maintaining, within the framework of the National Liberation Movement, a firmly anti-fascist and patriotic stance. He died in 1954 and was buried at state expense with full military honours.

MESIĆ MARKO (1901), Artillery Major in the Yugoslav Army. As commander of an artillery battalion in the Croatian Legion, and later commander of that quisling formation, he fought against the Red Army on the Stalingrad front. After being captured, he changed sides in August 1943 and joined the Red Army. Subsequently, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the NOVJ, he commanded the First Yugoslav Brigade formed in the USSR, with which he was transferred to Yugoslavia in October 1944 via the Ukraine and Romania. As part of the 23rd Shock Division of the NOVJ, his brigade took part in fighting against the Germans around Čačak. Owing to the poor performance of both himself and his brigade, he was removed from command and appointed commandant of the Junior Artillery Course, and subsequently of the Artillery Officers' School. After the war he served as an artillery instructor. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

MILAČIĆ VLAJKO (1922), cadet at the Yugoslav Army NCO School in Bileća. During the April War he took part in the advance of the Zeta Division towards Shkodra. He joined the uprising. From the Fifth Montenegrin Proletarian Brigade, with the rank of Major in the NOVJ, he was reassigned as commander of the Sixth Macedonian Brigade.

MITROVSKI BORO (1917), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1944, he served as chief of staff of a brigade. After the war he became a military historian. He retired in 1976 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA. He wrote several studies and monographs on the development of the National Liberation War in Macedonia from 1941 to 1945.

MUŠIKIĆ MILIVOJE (1910), Air Force Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army, who had completed reconnaissance, meteorological and pilot training. During the April War he commanded a squadron in Novi Sad. Until the capitulation of Italy he lived in Zagreb, where he was involved in the organisation of the National Liberation Movement, before transferring to liberated territory. Following the appeal to airmen issued in November 1943, he was sent to the Supreme Headquarters, where he organised the meteorological service within the Aviation Department. He was subsequently commandant of Glamoč airfield and head of the Meteorological Course at Gravina in Italy. After training in the Soviet Union, he became head of the Meteorological Section on the Staff of the Air Division Group. After the war he held posts in Air Force Command, from which he retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

NIKOLIĆ VUK (1905), Artillery Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. After the April War he was interned in a prisoner-of-war camp. In the National Liberation War from early September 1943, he commanded the Coastal Artillery of the Šibenik Sector and subsequently held senior appointments in the artillery of the Navy and the Eighth Corps. In November 1944 he became assistant head of the Training Section in the Artillery Department of the Supreme Headquarters, and towards the end of the war was appointed commandant of the Artillery NCO School in Ćuprija. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

NOVAK IVO, Captain First Class and pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he served as a pilot in the celebrated Sixth Fighter Regiment. Following the capitulation of the Yugoslav Army, he was taken into captivity. In the Osnabrück camp he became active in the organisation of the National Liberation Movement. After the war he served, among other posts, as chief of staff of the Air Force Officers' School in Kovin, under its commandant Blažo Kovačević, his fellow airman and former prisoner of war. He attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

NOVOVIĆ VOJISLAV (1910), Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the uprising in Vasojevići. He served as chief of staff of the Andrijevica District Insurgent Command, was imprisoned by the Chetniks in Kolašin and later confined in the concentration camp at Bar. He joined the National Liberation War in October 1943 and by November had become chief of staff of the Main Staff of Montenegro. A year later he was chief of staff of the Coastal Operational Group, equivalent in strength to a division, and during the final offensive for the liberation of the country, with the rank of Colonel, he served as head of the Operations Department on the Staff of the First Army.

NOVOSEL MILORAD, Gendarmerie Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. An organiser of the uprising across the wider Ozren area. He commanded the Zvijezda Detachment, which during the Second Enemy Offensive in early 1942 numbered 1,300 fighters. He subsequently commanded the Visoko-Fojnica Detachment and later served as chief of staff of the Seventh Krajina Brigade. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the JNA.

OBRADOVIĆ PETAR (1920), cadet pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the uprising he served as platoon and company commander. Seriously wounded in the Battle of the Sutjeska, he was subsequently imprisoned by the Chetniks in Žabljak, from where he escaped in August 1943 and rejoined the Partisans. He was sent to Italy for pilot training, then to Ismailia and, as a member of a Youth Battalion comprising 420 Yugoslavs, to the Soviet Union. He completed fighter-pilot training in Krasnodar. After the war he served in military schools and commanded an air regiment in Niš. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

PAVLOVIĆ MILUTIN Mića (1913), Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. Captured during the April War, he escaped from a transport at Frankfurt and until the capitulation of Italy worked clandestinely in Biograd na Moru. Thereafter he served in the National Liberation War as a company commander, chief of staff of the Sixth Dalmatian Brigade, head of the Operations Section on the Staff of the Eighth Corps and first assistant to the chief of the Main Staff of Croatia. He retired in 1956 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

PAJEVIĆ MILOŠ (1905), Artillery Major, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from August 1943, he commanded the artillery battalion of the Second Proletarian Brigade and the Artillery Group of the Second Shock Corps. He later became assistant chief of staff of the 37th Sandžak Division and head of a section in the Artillery Department of the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff. After the war he held staff and instructional appointments in the artillery. He retired in 1961 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

PEROVIĆ MILISAV, General Staff Major, Yugoslav Army. As one of the prominent participants in the coup of 27 March 1941, and acting under the authority of the Yugoslav Army General Staff, he twice travelled to Athens for talks with the chiefs of the Greek and British general staffs. He was taken into German captivity. In the Osnabrück camp he became one of the most influential officers in the organisation of the National Liberation Movement. He returned to Yugoslavia in early May 1945. After the war he worked in military publishing. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

PERUNIČIĆ ĐORĐIJE (1915), Military Judicial Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army, later Lieutenant Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA). One of the leaders of the uprising in his native region, he subsequently took part in the Battle of Pljevlja on 1 December 1941. From September 1943 he held senior posts in the military territorial authorities of the Sandžak and, towards the end of the war, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, became head of the Department for the Protection of the People for the Novi Pazar district.

PERUTOVIĆ BOŽO (1911), Artillery Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the uprising, towards the end of the Second World War he commanded an artillery battalion and, with the rank of Major in the Yugoslav Army (JA), headed the Naval Artillery Officers' Course.

PERUĆICA NOVAK (1911), Lieutenant in the Yugoslav Army mountain troops. During the April War he served as adjutant of the Second Mountain Battalion in the Karavanks. He joined the uprising and commanded a company in the Nikšić Detachment. He spent the following two years engaged in clandestine work and imprisoned in Cetinje. From the beginning of 1944 he served as chief of staff of the Fifth Proletarian Brigade and the Coastal Operational Group, equivalent in strength to a division, assistant chief of staff of the Second Shock Corps and of the Operational Group of Divisions during its advance into Serbia, commander of the Fifth Serbian Brigade and assistant chief of staff of the First Proletarian Corps and the First Army. After the war he commanded the 29th Herzegovinian Division and served as chief of staff of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Signals Command and of the Fifth Army. He completed his active service with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

PERHAVEC STANISLAV (1910), Air Force Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1942, he served as an operations officer on the Staff of the Eleventh Corps and, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, as head of the Meteorological Department on the Staff of the Air Force of the NOVJ. After the war he graduated from the Air Force Academy in the Soviet Union, after which he commanded an air division and the Air Force School at Rajlovac. He retired in 1962 with the rank of Colonel.

PETROVIĆ ANANIJE (1915), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he served on the Albanian front. He commanded a company in the Zeta Detachment, a battalion in the Ninth Brigade and served as chief of staff of the Sixth Brigade.

POLEKSIĆ MOMČILO (1912), military official in the financial service. After the uprising he became deputy commander and, in early 1942, commander of the Durmitor Detachment, then the first commander of the Fifth Battalion of the Fourth Proletarian Brigade, deputy commander of the Seventh Krajina Brigade, head of the Armaments Section of the Economic Department of the Supreme Headquarters, chief of staff of the Ninth Dalmatian Division and the Thirteenth Corps and head of the Training Department on the Staff of the Second Army. He completed his active service with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

RAVNIČ KARLO, a Slovene born in Istria, who until the capitulation of Italy held the rank of Major and commanded an artillery battalion of the "Aosta" Brigade. By order of the Supreme Headquarters of the NOVJ of 10 October 1943, he was appointed commander of the "Aosta" Italian Partisan Brigade, and from August 1944 became the third successive commander of the "Garibaldi" Partisan Division, which fought as part of the Second Shock Corps of the NOVJ. On 8 March 1945, after a ceremonial farewell

in Dubrovnik, he led the division back to Italy, where it became a garrison unit in Sicily.

RADULOVIĆ VASILIJE (1910), Sergeant in the Yugoslav Army military music service. During the April War he fought on the Albanian front. He spent the first two years of the war underground in Cetinje as an activist of the National Liberation Movement. In the National Liberation War from autumn 1943. In the Eighth Montenegrin Brigade he progressed from platoon commander to battalion commander. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

RADULOVIĆ SLOBODAN, General Staff Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. A prisoner of war until 1943, from which point he served in the National Liberation War, initially as an instructor at the Officers' School of the Main Staff of Slovenia. In February 1944, at the request of the Main Staff of Croatia, the Supreme Headquarters assigned him to that institution as assistant to its chief, General Velimir Terzić. After the liberation of Belgrade, he was transferred from that post to the Supreme Headquarters as assistant to the head of the Training Department, General Mihailo Apostolski. In March 1946, with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he was sent with a group of 16 Yugoslav Army (JA) officers, mostly generals, to study at the K. E. Voroshilov General Staff Academy in Moscow. He completed his active service in the Yugoslav Army (JA) with the rank of Colonel.

RADONČIĆ SALIH (1917), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. He spent two and a half years in German and Italian captivity. At the time of Italy's capitulation he became commander of the newly formed Muslim Plav-Gusinje Battalion, later deputy battalion commander in the Fourth Proletarian Brigade, liaison officer between the headquarters of the Second Shock Corps and the Sixth Division of the Albanian Army, assistant on the Staff of the Third Shock Division and, at the end of the war, head of the Operations Department of the First Army.

RAKIĆ VOJISLAV, Major and fighter pilot; an activist in the organisation of the National Liberation Movement in the Osnabrück camp; after the war chief of staff of an air division with the rank of Colonel in the JNA, then assistant director of JAT for operations.

RAKOČEVIĆ ĐURO (1890), Captain, Yugoslav Army. An NCO and officer in the Montenegrin Army. In 1920 he was admitted to the army of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, then soon retired and later reactivated. A participant in the uprising, in early 1942 he commanded the Polimlje Battalion and towards the end of the war the Bijelo Polje Detachment. Victory Day found him serving as commander of the Prijepolje Military District, with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

REBULA EDUARD, Yugoslav Army officer, in the National Liberation War from 1943; chief of staff of a brigade and division in the Vojvodina formations and of the Staff of the Twelfth Corps of the NOVJ. After the war he held appointments in headquarters

from divisional level to the General Staff and in military education, retiring with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

RUŽIĆ DANILO (1919), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. In German prisoner-of-war camps he conducted himself as an exemplary patriot and anti-fascist. After returning to the country he worked as a military journalist for the Army Command newspaper in Novi Sad and subsequently, with the rank of Major, for *Front* and *Narodna armija*. For decades he was a highly regarded military and civilian journalist, particularly noted for his accomplished reportage in the Belgrade press.

SEKULIĆ VLADO (1916), NCO, Yugoslav Army. After the April War he escaped from the prisoner-of-war camp in Rogatica and made his way to his native Montenegro. He took part in the Battle of Pljevlja and served as squad leader and platoon commander in the First Proletarian Brigade. He later commanded the Supreme Headquarters Motor Transport Company and the Motorised Battalion of the First Proletarian Division. He served successively as deputy commander, chief of staff and the final wartime commander of the First Tank Brigade of the Yugoslav Army (JA), from April to May 1945. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the armoured and mechanised troops of the JNA.

SEKULIĆ VOJIN Vojo (1912), NCO, Yugoslav Army. In the insurgent "Bijeli Pavle" Detachment he rose from ordinary fighter to battalion commander. In the Fifth Proletarian Brigade he served as a company commander, and in the Dalmatian brigades as a battalion commander. In the Fourth Proletarian Brigade he commanded a battalion and later served as chief of staff, before becoming chief of staff of the 23rd and 25th Serbian Divisions.

SIMIĆ VLADIMIR, Captain First Class and pilot, Yugoslav Army. During the coup d'état of 27 March 1941, he neutralised the guard and seized the radio transmitter at Makiš near Belgrade. During the April War he flew to the Middle East, where he fought in RAF formations. From November 1943, together with his colleagues Miloš Maksimović and Kosta Lekić, he was one of the organisers of the first air formations of the NOVJ. In the first establishment of the Air Force Staff of the NOVJ, formed at the end of October 1944, he held the rank of Major and served as deputy to Colonel Jevrem Bjelica, head of the Air Transport Department. In command and staff appointments he attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

SLOBOĐANINOV VLADIMIR (1906), Artillery Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. After the collapse of the army and state in April 1941, he was mobilised into the artillery of the NDH Home Guard. He became directly involved in the work of the Varaždin National Liberation Movement Military Committee and, in August 1943, together with the 150 soldiers and five officers under his command, surrendered to the Twelfth Slavonian Shock Division. The Supreme Headquarters reported this to Moscow on 13 August as a major success, noting that two howitzers had been captured and six destroyed. In the NOVJ he served in operational appointments on the Staff of the Sixth

Lika Proletarian Division, later as deputy head of the Operations Department and artillery officer of the Main Staff of Croatia. His final wartime appointment was as head of the Training and Mobilisation Department of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Artillery Command. After the war he commanded the artillery of the Second Army, headed the Artillery Training Centre and served as chief of artillery of the Fifth Army in Zagreb, from which post he retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

RAIČEVIĆ VUKSAN (1918), Sergeant, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he fought on the Albanian front. A participant in the uprising, he served as assistant intelligence officer of the Coastal Operational Group, equivalent in strength to a division, and as intelligence officer of the First Boka Brigade.

Slovenia, as the north-western theatre of the unified Yugoslav battlefield, with its armed National Liberation Army formations, constituted a kind of "transit station" through which dozens of anti-fascists and patriots passed on their return from prisoner-of-war and labour camps, or in which they remained on duty with units, determined to contribute to the liberation of the fatherland. Thus, in addition to those already named, the following arrived in Slovenia:

ĐUKIĆ NIKOLA (1910), Yugoslav Army military official, who ended the war as chief of staff of the 30th Division.

ĐUROVIĆ MILOVAN (1910), NCO in the Yugoslav Army medical service, medical officer of the "Simon Gregorčič" Brigade.

ŽIVKOVIĆ VLADIMIR (1915), NCO in the Yugoslav Army military music service, who ended the war as head of OZNA for the Novo Mesto district.

JANKOVIĆ SVETO (1909), Yugoslav Army medical officer, medical officer of the 31st Division.

MILAČIĆ MOJSIJE (1917), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. Instructor at the Officers' School of the Main Staff of Slovenia.

NENEZIĆ LJUBO (1920), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army; during the final offensive, operations officer on the Staff of the Ninth Corps.

RAIČEVIĆ MITAR (1917), Artillery Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army; during the National Liberation War, head of the Operations Section on the Staff of the Ninth Corps.

SMODLAKA OZREN (1909), Artillery Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1943, he held command appointments in artillery units of the NOVJ on the islands and along the central Adriatic coast, then commanded

the Artillery School on Vis, served as an instructor at the National Liberation Army Artillery School in Gravina, Italy, and headed a section in the Training Department of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Artillery Command. He retired in 1963 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

STANOJLOVIĆ BOŠKO, General Staff Lieutenant Colonel in the Yugoslav Army Air Force, serving on the eve of the April War as air attaché in Moscow. From there he went to the Middle East to join the Allies, where, towards the end of the war and with the rank of Colonel, he successfully commanded a fighter division.

STIPIŠIĆ NIKOSLAV, NCO in the radio-technical service of the Yugoslav Navy. In the National Liberation War from 1941. He fought in the Biokovo Detachment and, from September 1942, in the Belgrade Battalion of the First Proletarian Brigade. He was subsequently reassigned to the Supreme Headquarters Radio Centre, where, at Drvar and on Vis, he commanded the Signals School. After the war he served as chief of staff of the Signals Directorate and later as head of the Signals Department of the Yugoslav OZNA. He completed a two-year course of study in the Soviet Union and, from October 1948, with the rank of Colonel, taught in the Signals Department of the Yugoslav Army (JA) Higher Military Academy.

TARTALJA MIHOVIL, Yugoslav Army officer, Colonel in the JNA. In the National Liberation War from 1941; from the formation of the First Dalmatian Brigade he commanded its First Battalion. After the epic Battle of the Sutjeska he served as assistant chief of staff of a brigade, a division and, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the NOVJ, the Fourteenth Corps. After the war he served for a time in the Air Force Command, then in military education and professional instruction more generally, where his military education and, in particular, his command of five world languages proved especially valuable. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

TATARAC SVETISLAV (1906), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1943, he held the highest appointments in the Ozren Detachment, then served as chief of staff of the 23rd Shock Division and the Fourteenth Corps. He retired in 1961 with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ĆOROVIĆ VOJIN (1915), Second Lieutenant, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the uprising, by the end of 1941 he was a company commander. In June 1942, while serving as deputy battalion commander in the Durmitor Detachment, he remained behind to conduct clandestine work, but was captured by the Chetniks and held in prisons at Žabljak and Kolašin. In spring 1943 he escaped and joined the NOVJ. In September, as deputy battalion commander in the Fourth Proletarian Brigade, he was promoted to Captain. He subsequently served as brigade chief of staff, deputy chief of staff of the Fifth Krajina Division and assistant head of the Operations Department on the Staff of the First Army. During his service he attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ĆURGUS MILE, Captain Second Class and pilot in the Yugoslav Army Air Force. A participant in the April War. In German captivity he was one of the organisers of the National Liberation Movement. After returning from the camp he held senior appointments in the Air Force. He retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA. He was notably active in efforts to preserve the combat traditions of Yugoslav airmen, especially those of the April War.

HRIBAR ARTUR (1912), Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. A collaborator of the National Liberation Movement from 1941 and a member of the NOVJ from January 1943, initially serving with Dalmatian formations, then as chief of staff of the Third Vojvodina Brigade, commander of the Officers' School and chief of staff of both the Main Staff of Vojvodina and the Twelfth Corps. After the war he commanded the Yugoslav Army (JA) Motor School, headed the Transport Department of the Ministry of National Defence and commanded the "Petar Drapšin" Military School. He was transferred to the reserve in 1947 with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), after which he became director of the Split Shipyard.

HUBMAJER DANILO (1901), Corvette Captain in the Yugoslav Army. He graduated from the Higher School of the Military Academy in Belgrade and the Faculty of Aeronautical Engineering in Paris, after which he worked in the Air Force Command as an engineer. In the NOVJ from 1943. With the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, as a technical specialist he successfully headed a detachment in Algeria in which hundreds of aviation specialists scattered across North Africa and the Mediterranean were assembled and trained for the needs of the NOVJ. Subsequently, in the first establishment of the Air Force Staff of the NOVJ, formed in October 1944, he served as assistant to Lieutenant Colonel Dušan Lučić, head of the Technical Department. After the war he commanded the Air Force Specialist School and held logistical appointments in the Yugoslav Air Force Command. He retired in 1956 with the rank of Colonel.

ČAKIĆ BOŠKO (1921), final-year cadet at the Yugoslav Army Intendance Military Academy. He avoided capture during the April War. During the National Liberation War, under the nom de guerre Nenad, he organised anti-fascist resistance in Kosovo and Metohija, where towards the end of the war he served as commissar of the Main Staff. With the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he was transferred to the diplomatic service, in which he served, among other appointments, as the SFRY ambassador to Cambodia.

ČOLANOVIĆ MARKO (1895), Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. Joined the National Liberation Army after the capitulation of Italy, serving in quartermaster appointments on the Staff of the Second Shock Corps and at the Supreme Headquarters, with the rank of Major. After the liberation of Banat, commander of the city of Pančevo. In the first post-war years, as a financial specialist, served in the Yugoslav Army (JA) Rear Command. Attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ČUKALEVSKI VANGEL (1910), Air Force Captain Second Class, Yugoslav Army. In the National Liberation War from 1941, holding command appointments ranging from the Prespa Detachment to the 48th Macedonian Division. With the rank of Major in the NOVJ, deputy chief of the Main Staff of Macedonia under General Pavle Ilić. After the war, military attaché in London and later employed in the Air Force Command. Retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ŠALETIĆ PETAR (1888), Major, Yugoslav Army. During the First World War, assistant chief of staff of the Second Division of the Montenegrin Army. In 1922 admitted to the Yugoslav Army, then retired in 1932 with the rank of Major, only to be reactivated on the eve of the April War. During the uprising, commander of the Jelenač Battalion, in which capacity he was captured by the Italians and sentenced to 101 years' imprisonment. He served his sentence in Italy and, after its capitulation, made his way to Slovenia, where he was an instructor at the NCO School and commander of the Officers' School of the Main Staff. In the second half of 1944 he commanded the Zeta Detachment. Retired with the rank of Colonel in the Yugoslav Army (JA).

ŠPADIJER MILO, Air Force Captain Second Class, reconnaissance pilot, Yugoslav Army. Returned from captivity, where he had conducted himself well, at the beginning of May 1945. In peacetime he served mainly in air-force schools, where he made a notable contribution to the education, training and professional formation of generations of young pilots. Retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ŠPADIJER ŠPIRO (1914), military musician, Yugoslav Army. On the eve of the April War, discharged from the army as "politically unreliable." While employed at Borovo, he was arrested by the Ustaše in spring 1941 and handed over to the Germans. Imprisoned in the Osnabrück camp, he soon succeeded in escaping. As a member of the Lovćen Battalion, he took part in the Battle of Pljevlja. An early fighter of the First Proletarian Brigade; in its Lovćen Battalion he rose from squad leader to battalion commander, subsequently commanding its Second Battalion. Towards the end of the war he commanded the Eighth Montenegrin Shock Brigade. Attained the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ŠTRUMBERGER RATOMIR, Lieutenant in the Signals Service of the Yugoslav Army Air Force. Conducted himself courageously and patriotically in the Osnabrück camp. During the years of peace he worked in the Yugoslav Army's (JA) publishing service and later as a specialist editor for the *Military Encyclopaedia*. Retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ŠUKOVIĆ BOŠKO, Captain First Class and fighter pilot, Yugoslav Army, a prisoner of war in the Osnabrück camp, where he was one of the foremost organisers of the National Liberation Movement. Immediately after the war, with the rank of Major in the Yugoslav Army (JA), he became the first military diplomat of the "Second Yugoslavia" in Czechoslovakia, and later commanded the Air Force School at Pančevo. He was killed on duty, with the rank of Colonel in the JNA, while flying a domestically produced Aero-2

over Ravni Kotari, striving to save the aircraft until his final breath.

ŠUŠOVIĆ MILUTIN (1907), General Staff Captain First Class, Yugoslav Army. During the April War he commanded a battalion. In the Osnabrück prisoner-of-war camp he was a resolute opponent of nazism and was entrusted with responsible tasks within the organisation of the National Liberation Movement, particularly in the field of propaganda. He returned to the country in March 1945 and was immediately assigned to the Yugoslav Army (JA) General Staff for work in military publishing. After the war he founded and became editor-in-chief of the army journal *Vojni glasnik*, served as a specialist editor of the *Military Encyclopaedia* and became a prominent author on the art of war. As an erudite scholar and polyglot, he rendered substantial assistance to General V. Terzić in preparing the two-volume study *The Collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941*. Retired with the rank of Colonel in the JNA.

ŠURAN ANTON (1919), NCO in the mechanical branch of the Yugoslav Navy. A participant in the uprising and, at the beginning of 1942, commander of the Kotor Company. After two years of clandestine activity for the National Liberation Movement under Italian occupation, he rejoined the National Liberation Army and held staff appointments. In the final period of the war, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he commanded the Boka Naval Coastal Command.

ŠĆEPANOVIĆ MIRKO (1908), Air Force Sergeant and pilot, Yugoslav Army. A participant in the uprising and commander of the "Bijeli Pavle" Battalion in the Battle of Pljevlja. Company commander in proletarian formations and battalion commander in Dalmatian units of the NOVJ. In September 1944 he led, by ship from the port of Ismailia, a group of approximately 420 Yugoslavs sent for training at the Soviet aviation centres of Krasnodar, Gorky and Engels. Immediately after the war he brought the First Ground-Attack Aviation Regiment from Grozny. While serving as commander of an air division in Niš and shortly before promotion to Colonel, he was removed from service for political reasons and soon afterwards, in 1948, died tragically in Kosovo and Metohija — at the hands of Albanians and OZNA.

AFTERWORD

To mention in a published work 882 names and, for 560 of them, provide thousands of details drawn from wartime and professional biographies, from history and memory, without making not only typographical and factual errors but also errors of meaning, or without omitting some important fact, perhaps even the name of an individual who likewise deserves inclusion in this selection, is simply impossible. I am aware that my good intentions in writing and my sincere regret over any deficiencies in the text offer only uncertain consolation from the perspective of readers, especially those personally concerned, but they may at least serve as a modest explanation. This is all the more so because the alternative of excessive caution would have meant continuing to remain silent about so numerous and deserving a category of our fellow citizens in uniform, neglected for decades — something increasingly unacceptable with the passage of time, since these were people who, through the circumstances of war, participated in the anti-fascist war and in the making of history, while a temporal distance of six turbulent decades not only permits but obliges us finally to tell the truth about them, truth being the supreme criterion of practice.

From the standpoint of professional ethics, I believe it is the lesser wrong to afford satisfaction to the overwhelming majority than, by error, to do injustice to only a few. This, of course, somewhat contradicts the old legal maxim that it is better for a hundred guilty men to remain free than for one innocent man to be imprisoned, but it may be that this subject has been deferred for so many decades precisely because it is excessively complex and delicate, and therefore attended by the very risk discussed here.

May the author be permitted to paraphrase our Miloš the Great: here is the publication and here is its author before the judgement of the public — war on silence and unfairness! Such readiness to answer for every line and every word is the fate of those who act publicly, and this author accepts it without reservation.

Finally, I feel a sincere need publicly to thank the authors of monographs and encyclopaedia entries, contributions to periodicals and papers in collected volumes, memoirs and war diaries, reports, archival manuscripts and newspaper serials — whose work constituted indispensable and invaluable sources of information. I am equally grateful to archivists and curators, editors and contributors to encyclopaedias, lexicons, commemorative volumes and almanacs, as well as to those interlocutors who — as participants in the events described here and principal witnesses to the people and events of that time — helped me shape this work as part of a legacy for the future.

While the book was in press, the President of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, Svetozar Marović, posthumously awarded the Order of the Knight's Sword, First Class, to a further 20 officers and NCOs of the Yugoslav Army Air Force — pilots who heroically lost their lives defending the skies of the fatherland during the April War of 1941.

At a ceremony held on 21 July 2004 at the Palace of the State Union in New Belgrade, the Order was presented to the relatives of the fallen pilots: Dragiša Milijević, Milivoje Bošković, Karlo Štrbenk, Milutin Petrov and Danilo Grbić.

The orders awarded to the remaining 15 recipients were entrusted for safekeeping to the Military Museum at Kalemegdan and the Aeronautical Museum in Zemun: Konstantin

Jermakov, Danilo Đorđević, Branislav Todorović, Dobrosav Tešić, Lazar Donović, Đorđe Cvetković, Milutin Perović, Veroljub Stojadinović, Jefta Arsić, Milorad Radević, Ratomir Milojević, Borivoje Milovanović, Obrad Milićević, Todor Radović and Sergej Vojinov.

Thus the fatherland — albeit with great delay — discharged its sacred debt to a number of airmen who had fallen in the April War: of the 135 who lost their lives in aerial combat, 48 were decorated, a distinction they had amply earned through their heroic self-sacrifice. Alongside them were three officers of the Navy — the first heroes of the defence of the fatherland — likewise posthumously awarded high decorations.

Only some ten heroes of the Army remain "still without a medal." Unjustly and inexcusably — most probably for all time.

Details of the wartime exploits of each of these 20 airmen decorated in the "second round" may be found by the reader in the chapters of this publication.

ABBREVIATIONS

AVNOJ — Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia
BAF — Balkan Air Force
JA — Yugoslav Army (1945–1951)
JAT — Yugoslav Airlines
JNA — Yugoslav People's Army (1951–1992)
POW — Prisoner of War
KNOJ — People's Defence Corps of Yugoslavia
KOS — Counter-Intelligence Service of the Yugoslav Army/Yugoslav People's Army (1946–1992)
NCO — Non-commissioned officer
NOVJ — National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia
RAF — Royal Air Force
SSNO — Federal Secretariat for National Defence
USSR — Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
SFRY — Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
VMA — Military Medical Academy
USAAF — United States Air Force

SOURCES

Archives

Archives of the Historical Institute of Montenegro
Archives of the Historical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Archives of the Military Historical Institute, Yugoslav Army Collection (P-17)
Archives of Serbia
National Archives, Washington, DC
The National Archives, London

Books

Aćin, Miloš, *Spomenica palih Srba vazduhoplovaca 1941-1945* [*Memorial Volume to Fallen Serbian Airmen, 1941–1945*], Washington, 1975.

Anić, Nikola et al., *Narodnooslobodilačka vojska Jugoslavije* [*The National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia*], Belgrade, 1982.

Aprilski rat 1941, Zbornik dokumenata [*The April War of 1941: Collection of Documents*], vols I and II, Belgrade, 1987.

Batrićević, Đuro, *Vitezovi neba* [*Knights of the Sky*], Cetinje, 2000.

Bećirović, Radovan, *Junačka epika* [*Heroic Epic Poetry*], Nikšić, 1970.

Bjelajac, Mile, *Jugoslovenska iskustva sa multietničkom armijom 1918-1991* [*Yugoslav Experiences with a Multi-Ethnic Army, 1918–1991*], Belgrade, 1999.

Bjelajac, Mile, *Vojska Kraljevine SHS/Jugoslavije 1922-1935* [*The Army of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes/Yugoslavia, 1922–1935*], Belgrade, 1994.

Bosnić, Petar, *Naše nebo* [*Our Sky*], 2nd edn, Belgrade, 1997.

Broz, Josip, *Sabrana djela* [*Collected Works*], vols 7–30, Belgrade, 1982–1988.

Čulinović, Ferdo, *Okupatorka pobeda Jugoslavije 1941* [*The Occupation Partition of Yugoslavia in 1941*], Belgrade, 1975.

Davidović, G. and M. Timotijević, *Zatamnjena prošlost* [*The Obscured Past*], vol. I, Čačak, 2002.

Deakin, F. W., *Bojovna planina* [*The Embattled Mountain*], Belgrade, 1973.

Dimitrijević, Bojan, *Valjevski ravnogorci* [*The Ravna Gora Movement in Valjevo*], Valjevo, 1998.

Drugi svetski rat [*The Second World War*], vols I–II, Belgrade, 1961.

Džodžović, Stanislav, *Na krilima* [*On Wings*], Belgrade, 1996.

Đorđević, Dušan, *Vazduhoplovne žrtve 1912-1945* [*Air Force Casualties, 1913–1945*].

Đorđević, M., *Između crvenoj i crnoj fašizma, U osnabričkom logoru 1941-1945* [*Between Red and Black Fascism: In the Osnabrück Camp, 1941–1945*], London, 1962.

Glišić, Venceslav and Gojko Miljanić, *Rukovođenje u NOB u Srbiji 1941-1945* [*Command and Leadership in the National Liberation War in Serbia, 1941–*

1945], Belgrade, 1994.
Hercegovina u NOB [*Herzegovina in the National Liberation War*], vols 1–5, Belgrade, 1986.
Ivetić, Velimir, *Načelnici Generalštaba* [*Chiefs of the General Staff*], Belgrade, 2000.
Jovanović, Radivoje Bradonja, *Uvod u kritičku analizu strategije NOR 1941-1945* [*Introduction to a Critical Analysis of the Strategy of the National Liberation War, 1941–1945*], Belgrade, 1998.
Jugoslovensko RV u NOR-u [*The Yugoslav Air Force in the National Liberation War*], Belgrade, 1981.
Karapandžić, M. Borivoje, *Građanski rat u Srbiji 1941-1945* [*Civil War in Serbia, 1941–1945*], Cleveland, 1968.
Kljakić, Dragan, *Oni su branili Beograd* [*They Defended Belgrade*], Zagreb, 1960.
Kostić, Božidar, *Plamen nad Beogradom* [*Flames over Belgrade*].
Košutić, Ivan, *Hrvatsko domobranstvo u Drugom svjetskom ratu* [*The Croatian Home Guard in the Second World War*], Zagreb, 1992.
Kovačević, Branislav, *Od Vezirovog do Zidanog Mosta* [*From Vezirov Most to Zidani Most*], Belgrade, 1993.
Lazarević, Božo, *Sećanje na rat i revoluciju 1941-1945* [*Memories of War and Revolution, 1941–1945*], Belgrade, 1987.
Lazarević, Božo, *Vazduhoplovstvo u NOR* [*The Air Force in the National Liberation War*], Belgrade, 1972.
Leksikon NOR [*Lexicon of the National Liberation War*], vols I–II, Belgrade, 1980.
LET, Belgrade, 1/1998.
Levičnik, Karel, *Artiljerci prekomorci* [*Overseas Artillerymen*], Nova Gorica, 1963.
Maclean, Fitzroy, *Rat na Balkanu* [*War in the Balkans*], Zagreb, 1980.
Marjanović, Jovan, *Draža Mihailović između Britanaca i Nemaca* [*Draža Mihailović between the British and the Germans*], Belgrade, 1979.
Marjanović, Jovan, *Ustanak u NOB u Srbiji 1941* [*The Uprising and National Liberation War in Serbia in 1941*], Belgrade, 1963.
Martinović, Ratko, *Od Ravne Gore do Vrhovnog štaba* [*From Ravna Gora to Supreme Headquarters*], Belgrade, 1979.
Miljanić, Gojko, *Kadrovi revolucije 1941-1945* [*Cadres of the Revolution, 1941–1945*], Cetinje, 1975.
Minić, Miloš, *Oslobodilački ili građanski rat u Jugoslaviji 1941-1945* [*War of Liberation or Civil War in Yugoslavia, 1941–1945*], Novi Sad, 1993.
Narodni heroji Jugoslavije [*National Heroes of Yugoslavia*], vols I–II, Belgrade, 1965.
Nikolić, Kosta, *Istorija ravnogorskog pokreta* [*History of the Ravna Gora Movement*], vol. I, Belgrade, 1999.
Orović, Savo, *Ratni dnevnik* [*War Diary*], Belgrade, 1972.
Panajotović, Zoran, *Bibliografija o NOR i socijalističkoj revoluciji Srbije 1941-1945* [*Bibliography on the National Liberation War and Socialist Revolution in Serbia, 1941–1945*], Belgrade, 1989.
Pavlović, Andrija, *Rukopisi o Aprilskom ratu* [*Manuscripts on the April War*],

Archives of the Military Historical Institute.
Pavlović, Vojislav, *Od monarhije do republike* [*From Monarchy to Republic*], Belgrade, 1998.
Pejčić, Predrag, *Prva i Druga eskadrila NOVJ* [*The First and Second Squadrons of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia*], Belgrade, 1991.
Perhanc, Rafael, *Letalci prekomorci* [*Overseas Airmen*], Nova Gorica, 1963.
Petranović, Branko, *Revolucija i kontrarevolucija u Jugoslaviji 1941-1945* [*Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Yugoslavia, 1941–1945*], Belgrade, 1983.
Petranović, Branko, *Srbija u Drugom svetskom ratu 1939-1945* [*Serbia in the Second World War, 1939–1945*], Belgrade, 1982.
Poljanac, Branko, *Ratni zapisi* [*War Notes*], manuscript in the Archives of the Military Historical Institute.
Ratni dnevnik nemačke Druge armije [*War Diary of the German Second Army*], translation in the Archives of the Military Historical Institute.
Simović, Dušan, *Memoari* [*Memoirs*], manuscript in the Archives of the Military Historical Institute.
Stanišić, Milija, *Rukovodeći kadrovi NOR-a* [*Leadership Cadres of the National Liberation War*], Podgorica, 1995.
Stevanović, Mileva, *Topola u NOB* [*Topola in the National Liberation War*], Topola, 1983.
Terzić, Velimir, *Slom Kraljevine Jugoslavije 1941* [*The Collapse of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1941*], vols I–II, 2nd edn., Belgrade, 1984.
Tito-Čerčil strogo tajno [*Tito–Churchill: Top Secret*], Belgrade-Zagreb, 1981.
Tomašević, Jozo, *Četnici u Drugom svetskom ratu 1941-1945* [*The Chetniks in the Second World War, 1941–1945*], Zagreb, 1970.
Ustanak naroda Jugoslavije 1941 [*The Uprising of the Peoples of Yugoslavia in 1941*], vols I–V, Belgrade, 1963.
Vasiljević, Jovan, *Mornarica NOV Jugoslavije* [*The Navy of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia*], Belgrade, 1972.
Vojna enciklopedija [*Military Encyclopaedia*], 1st and 2nd edns.
Vojni leksikon [*Military Lexicon*], Belgrade, 1981.
Vujanović, Nikola, *Front u žicama* [*The Front behind Barbed Wire*], Belgrade, 1977.
Za pobedu i slobodu [*For Victory and Freedom*], vols 1–9, Belgrade, 1985.
Zbornici brigada i divizija NOVJ [*Collections on the Brigades and Divisions of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia*].
Zbornici epopeja Neretva [*Collections on the Epics of the Neretva*] (3 vols) and *Sutjeska* [*Sutjeska*] (6 vols).
Zbornici radova sa više naučnih skupova o Drugom svetskom ratu [*Proceedings of Several Scholarly Conferences on the Second World War*].
Zbornik dokumenata i podataka o NOR naroda Jugoslavije [*Collection of Documents and Data on the National Liberation War of the Peoples of Yugoslavia*], vols I–XIV.

Zbornik sećanja na Aprilskom rat [*Collection of Memoirs on the April War*], Belgrade, 1995.
Željko Vidakov Zirojević, *Sin Durmitora* [*Son of Durmitor*], Belgrade, 2003.

Journals

Glasnik RV i PVO [*Air Force and Air Defence Bulletin*]
Istorijski glasnik [*Historical Journal*], Belgrade
Istorijski zapisi [*Historical Records*], Podgorica
Jugoslovenski istorijski časopis [*Yugoslav Historical Journal*], Belgrade
Mornarički glasnik [*Naval Bulletin*]
Vojno delo [*Military Review*]
Vojnoistorijski glasnik [*Military Historical Journal*]
Zbornik Filozofskog fakulteta [*Proceedings of the Faculty of Philosophy*], Belgrade
Zbornik Matice Srpske [*Matica Srpska Proceedings*], Novi Sad
Boljević, Arso, "Jugoslovensko vazduhoplovstvo u Aprilskom ratu 1941 [The Yugoslav Air Force in the April War of 1941]," *Vojno delo*, 1/1952.
Mladen Ikica, "Ratna mornarica bivše Jugoslavije u ratu 1941 [The Navy of the Former Yugoslavia in the War of 1941]," *Mornarički glasnik*, 1/1952.
Petrović, Slobodan, "Jugoslovenska flota u Boki Kotorskoj u ratu 1941 [The Yugoslav Fleet in the Bay of Kotor in the War of 1941]," *Vojnoistorijski glasnik*, 1/1969.
Vasiljević, Jovan, "Dejstvo na Jadranu u NOR [Operations in the Adriatic during the National Liberation War]," *Vojnoistorijski glasnik*, 1/1969.

Newspapers

4. jul
Borba
Narodna armija
Newspapers of the army districts
Pobjeda
Politika, Budimir Potočan's serial published in April 2001
Večernje novosti

NOTE ON THE AUTHOR

IVAN R. MATOVIĆ was born in 1933 in Piperi, Montenegro.

After studying in Podgorica, Sarajevo and Belgrade, he devoted his entire professional career to military journalism and publicistic writing.

He retired in 1993 with the rank of colonel.

As a researcher and writer, he studies the wars of liberation fought by the Serbian people during the twentieth century, with particular emphasis on the anti-fascist war.

He has published biographies of Arso R. Jovanović, Chief of the Supreme Headquarters of the anti-fascist army, and of Ivan Milutinović and Lola Ribar, members of that institution, as well as accounts of the wartime trajectories of the Eighth Serbian and Second Vojvodina Brigades of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia.

He has completed an extensive manuscript on the "leftist deviations" — the civil war — in Montenegro and Herzegovina at the end of 1941 and in the spring of 1942.

He is writing a history of his fellow tribesmen amid the upheavals of the transformative twentieth century.

He lives in Belgrade.

The manuscript of this book received the first prize for publicistic writing awarded by the distinguished Dragojlo Dudić Foundation for 2001.

In researching this extensive subject during the preparation of the final version of the manuscript for publication, I received assistance from:

Željko Vidakov Zirojević, historian and publicist
Đorđe Hajvaz, businessman from Belgrade
Miloš Vuković, businessman from Podgorica
Vaso Nikčević from Nikšić
Dr. Veljko Đerković from Belgrade
Municipal Committee of SUBNOR, Novi Beograd.

My grandchildren Stefan (1992) and Luka (1994) supported me throughout this creative endeavour, thereby earning my blessing as they grow into exemplary citizens.

The Author

Credits to the original edition
"Vojska" News and Publishing Centre

For the publisher
Zvonimir Pešić, Colonel

Special Editions Editorial Office
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor
Petar Bošković

Editor
Branko Kopunović

Reviewers
Dr. Mile S. Bjelajac
Ljubiša Đorđević

Art and Technical Editor and Computer Processing
Aleksandar Švedić

Language Editor
Slađana Bojković

Text Entry and Proofreading
Biserka Jakob

Editorial Secretary
Vera Zvonarek-Jovanović

CIP — Cataloguing in Publication

355.332(497.1)"1941":929

MATOVIĆ, Ivan

Faithful to the Fatherland and the Calling : Active Officers of the Yugoslav Army on the Anti-Fascist Fronts / Ivan Matović. - Toronto : Sava Press, 2026. - 223 pp. ; 24 cm.

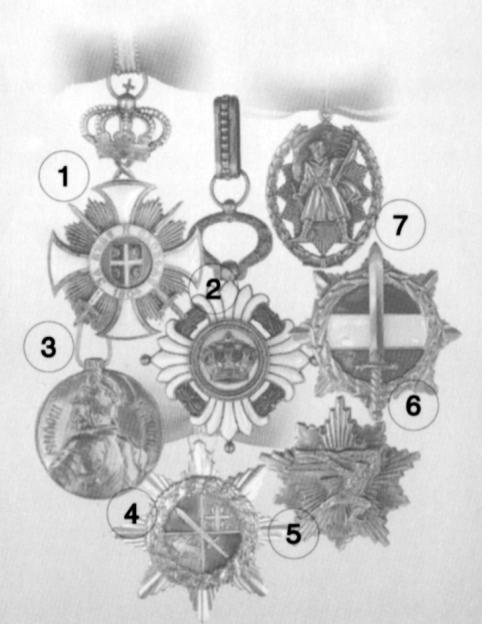
Translation of: Verni otadžbini i pozivu. - Originally published: Belgrade : NIC Vojska, 2004. - Introduction to the English Edition: pp. 7-8. - Foreword: pp. 9-16. - Includes abbreviations and bibliographical sources. - Biographical note on the author.

ISBN 978-1-997536-45-1

a) Officers - April War 1941 - Biographies

This book is dedicated to the regular officers of the Yugoslav Army who, in April 1941, when confronted with questions of personal honour and moral responsibility, chose the most difficult path — the anti-fascist war on every front.

They resisted the aggressor with selfless devotion on land, at sea and in the air. They gave their lives in defence of the fatherland.



On the back cover: 1 Order of the Karađorđe Star, 2 Order of the Royal Crown, 3 Miloš Obilić Medal for Bravery, 4 Grand Decoration of the Medal of Honour, 5 1941 Commemorative Medal, 6 Order of the Knightly Sword, First Class, 7 Order of the National Hero