

WORLD WAR II YUGOSLAV MATERIALS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Western scholarly attention to Yugoslavia, at least through the 1980s, largely focused on two themes: World War II Anglo-American policy and the evaluation of its fruits—that is, the nature and viability of the state Tito governed. Given these long-term, one might say, cold war preoccupations, it could be assumed that archival materials dating to World War II are too well researched to interest a new generation of South Slav historians faced with reclaiming particular histories from the ruins of the former Yugoslavia. A number of recent trends, however, point in the opposite direction.

Whether popular or not, the opening of once restricted archives, coupled with greater public access to records in other countries, is driving a healthy process of retrospection. At the U.S. National Archives, reference inquiries from individuals and organizations formerly under communist governments have increased dramatically in the past decade. Most of the inquiries are related to World War II issues never satisfactorily resolved. As a research trend, this points to the displacement of scholarly interest in high diplomacy and military strategy by more practical concerns. A surprising number of official investigations—for instance, the Kurt Waldheim case, war crimes extradition proceedings against Klaus Barbie and Andrija Artukovič, the British inquiry into the forcible repatriation of "surrendered enemy personnel" from Austria in May 1945—have involved Yugoslav interests and been instrumental in revealing new source materials. Other searches are more localized or merely personal: writing a town history, documenting the fate of displaced persons, or reclaiming family property.

While acknowledging the cathartic effect of public access to once closed archives, the purpose of this article is to draw attention to World War II materials that may interest scholars of Yugoslav history. As a general rule, documentation in the National Archives is arranged by "record group," each of which corresponds to the records of a specific government agency. Traditionally diplomatic relations fell within the jurisdiction of the Department of State while the War Department (now

Department of Defense) and its subsidiary organizations were charged with the execution of war. World War II permanently altered this bureaucratic structure, spawning a multitude of novel government agencies to deal with wartime contingencies. Some outlasted the war to become permanent fixtures. A good example is the Office of Strategic Services, established in 1942 to gather and process wartime intelligence, and later, in 1947, reorganized as the Central Intelligence Agency. Others, such as the military government in Germany, control commissions in liberated areas, war crimes tribunals, property restitution centers and refugee boards, were abolished when their ends were achieved. All left a vast residue of records that reflect in their arrangement complex wartime prerogatives and organizational relations. World War II documentation on Yugoslavia is widely scattered throughout these records, sometimes in unlikely places, making retrieval a rather daunting excursion through a bureaucratic maze.

For those interested in foreign relations, records of the Department of State remain the essential starting point. It was the declassification of World War II era State Department "central files" (Record Group 59) in the 1970s that made possible such pioneering studies as Walter Roberts' *Tito, Mihailovic and the Allies*.¹ Central File records under country code 860H, Yugoslavia, document the evolution of American wartime policy towards Yugoslavia in tandem with its principal allies, relations with the Royal Yugoslav government in exile and with the provisional and Tito-led governments established in March and December 1945, successively. A separate group, Record Group 84, is reserved for records of U.S. Foreign Service posts. The American legation in Belgrade was evacuated on 15 May 1941, leaving wartime diplomatic representation in the hands of a Yugoslav mission attached to the royal government in exile. Although some duplication is inevitable, the Belgrade or "Yugoslav" post files are a rich source of detail (e.g., memos of conversations and eyewitness accounts) that tend to humanize or expand upon the more compressed reports found in the Central File.² With the reopening of the Belgrade embassy in March

¹ Walter R. Roberts, *Tito, Mihailovic and the Allies, 1941-1945* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 1973).

² The Belgrade post files are all the more significant because records of the

1945 the post files provide on-site reporting on Yugoslavia's liberation and rapid transition to communism. Of particular interest are extensive interviews with political opposition figures outside the National Front and detailed accounts by Allied monitors of Yugoslavia's first postwar elections.

With the U.S. entry into the war in December 1941, American policy towards Yugoslavia was but one component of Allied grand strategy. The major World War II conferences—Quebec, Tehran and Yalta—provided the forum where U.S., British and Soviet leaders attempted to hammer out a common Yugoslav policy. The documentary residue (e.g., preparatory notes, briefing books and meeting minutes) is found in Records of International Conferences, Commissions and Expositions, Record Group 43, which also include references and working papers of the 1946 Paris Peace Conference. Among the latter are a number of series of interest to Yugoslav researchers: records of the Economic Commission for the Balkans; records of the Economic Commission for Italy, Sub-Commission on Reparations; records of the Political and Territorial Commission for Italy, Sub-Commission on the Statute of the Free Territory Trieste; and records of the Commission on the Italy-Yugoslav Boundary.³ Yet another sub-series, Records of the Council of Foreign Ministers, 1945–1955, Record Group 43, Lot File No. M-88, documents the working out of international conventions on a wide range of intractable problems—reparations and restitution, war damages, displaced persons and refugees, and the extradition of war criminals—all of which affected the Yugoslavs. Some records of the Yugoslav delegation to the Council of Foreign Ministers (1947–1948) are included, along with Yugoslav reparations claims against Germany and Italy, draft treaties relating to Trieste and documents presented to the Austrian Treaty Commission by a deputation of Slovenes from Carinthia.

Military records in the National Archives are arranged in a vast hierarchy topped by the Office of the Secretary of War and down to

Zagreb consulate from 1936–1941 were confiscated and presumably destroyed by Ustasha officials in December 1941.

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This is a substantial file that includes maps, economic and census data, reports on schools, the clergy and significant individuals, petitions and records of hearings.

each field battalion. At every level records reflect the basic contours of Anglo-American strategy: the decision not to deploy Western Allied land forces in the Balkans effectively elevated in importance the military potential of internal resistance. The problem of supplying pro-Allied Yugoslav resistance forces was severely complicated by Chetnik-Partisan warfare, and indeed the issue was not resolved until the Tehran Conference in November 1943, when full and exclusive Allied support was shifted to Tito's National Liberation Army. This decision opened the largess of Allied arms, material and air support to Tito's forces while creating, overnight, large classes of refugees, displaced persons and "non-repatriable" prisoners of war.

For the researcher of Yugoslav history, the most important chain of command passes from the War Department Operations Division (Record Group 165) through Allied Forces Headquarters Italy (AFHQ Record Group 331) with the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Record Group 218) providing high-level coordination with British planners. Two important War Department series are the formerly security classified general correspondence of the Operations Division (Entry 418) and the formerly top secret "ABC File" (American-British-Canada Correspondence [Entry 421]). While Yugoslav materials in these files date from 1942 to 1948 and contain a wealth of miscellaneous information—on captured Chetnik documents, reports on Soviet air operations over Yugoslavia, war contingency plans (1947) in the event of a Yugoslav attack on Trieste—they are chiefly valuable in transcribing the arc in post-Tehran Allied-Partisan relations and in documenting that partnership in terms of air support and military supplies. Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) provide a parallel series, documenting military advice to the White House as well as the coordination of intra-agency and intra-Allied policy. Records of the JCS Planners' Committees, the Combined Civil Affairs Committee and Country Files include policy-level reports on Allied assistance to Yugoslav forces and on the disposition of Yugoslav prisoners of war. The JCS also exercised oversight over the Office of War Information and the Office of Strategic Services, making records of this agency a source of policy-level information on wartime propaganda and intelligence planning in Yugoslavia.

Moving from policy to military operations, the researcher encounters the vast and mostly unexplored records of the Allied Forces

Headquarters Italy (AFHQ). By 1994 AFHQ was among the largest military headquarters in the world, organized as a combined British-American headquarters with complete integration of ground, air and naval forces in the Mediterranean Theater, including the Balkans. AFHQ records, rich in Yugoslav materials, are all the more intriguing because they were declassified and opened to researchers only in 1995.⁴ This article contains but a short list of some of the more interesting findings: minutes of Supreme Allied Commanders' conferences with Tito; the Yugoslav operational intelligence and daily situation reports; reports of air operations over Yugoslavia, including shipping schedules for military, medical and relief supplies to the Partisans; Partisan troop strength estimates and order of battle; reports on OZNA (Partisan intelligence) activities and personalities as well as on German Abwehr organizations inside Yugoslavia; documentation on Yugoslavs in Italy opposed to Tito, including nominal rolls for refugee and displaced persons camps, interrogation reports, wanted lists and extradition requests for Yugoslav quislings and war crimes suspects; and reports on prisoner of war exchanges between Yugoslavia and Italy.

Another aspect of the air war over Yugoslavia, dubbed Operation Ratweek, was Anglo-American tactical air support for Tito's National Liberation Army in its final drive against German divisions retreating northward from Greece. Mediterranean Allied Air Force records, including air target data and "Ratweek" operations reports, are found among AFHQ records cited above. An additional source, Records of the Army Air Forces (Record Group 18), includes sixty-seven Yugoslav combat mission reports for the period 6 November 1943 through 7 May 1945. Documentation therein generally consists of loading lists, target information and aerial photography. To conduct an impartial and expert survey of the effects of Allied aerial attacks, the Secretary of War established the United States Strategic Bombing Survey in November 1944. Records of this short-lived agency (Record

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As combined British-American records, AFHQ materials were subject to the less liberal British declassification schedules and restrictions. U.S. microfilm copies of the original, British-held records were thus among the last World War II records in the National Archives to be opened to the public, by order of the Clinton administration, in 1995. Prior to that time, a small amount of AFHQ materials was opened to individuals in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Group 243) include damage assessment photo intelligence reports for Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana, as well as fifty-four other Yugoslav target areas.

Records of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS, Record Group 226) are the only major Allied intelligence collection currently open to researchers. The OSS was established in 1942 to gather and disseminate overt and covert intelligence in support of the war effort. Like its British model, it was functionally divided into Special Operations (SO) and Secret Intelligence (SI), each with central offices and overseas field desks. While SO activities were coordinated with those of British SOE units in the field, SI provided a specifically American channel of intelligence to U.S. policy-makers and was supported by a cluster of related offices: the Research and Analysis Branch (R&A), the Foreign Nationalities Branch (FN), and the Counter-Intelligence Branch (X-2). Translated into the vernacular, OSS materials pertaining to Yugoslavia include records of the overseas field stations in Cairo, Egypt and Bari, Italy, reports of SO and SI missions into Yugoslavia, Yugoslav cable traffic and radio transmissions, reports of X-2 contacts with Axis and other agents inside Yugoslavia, and records of OSS recruitment and use of Yugoslav nationals. This short list barely scratches the surface and hardly suggests the significance of these records in the World War II policy-making process. And the volume is simply enormous. Indexes to records of the relatively small FN branch cite no less than 1891 files pertaining to Yugoslav organizations and personalities in the United States, and this is a mere trifle when compared to the output of the R&A Branch.

The OSS mandate to centralize intelligence functions and integrate covert intelligence into the policy-making apparatus cut across the traditional prerogatives of other government agencies. The War Department's Military Intelligence Division (MID), forerunner of today's Defense Intelligence Agency, continued to supplement OSS data with information from diverse sources. MID files are included in Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs (Record Group 165) and include a substantial "library" or "G-2 regional file" for Yugoslavia, 1933–1944, arranged by subject. Military attaché reports and information on Yugoslav military officials in the U.S. is included in the Army Intelligence Project Decimal File, 1941–1945, found in the related Records of the Army Staff (Record Group 319). This record

group also includes the still partially classified Records of the Investigative Records Repository (IRR), a series which postdates the war and contains investigative files on Ante Pavelic and other prominent Croatian Ustasha officials as well as a small number of other Yugoslav personalities.⁵

Closely related to intelligence is information control or propaganda. From 1942–1943 the OSS fought and lost the battle to retain control over all foreign propaganda relating to the war effort, preserving jurisdiction only over "morale operations." In intelligence terminology, this refers to activities intended to incite resistance in enemy-occupied areas and to "black propaganda" aimed at creating confusion or undermining enemy morale.⁶ In March 1943, all other aspects of U.S. propaganda abroad were allocated to the Office of War Information (OWI), which also inherited the radio monitoring functions of the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service (FBIS). Documentation relating to propaganda and psychological warfare activities directed at Yugoslavia is scattered throughout OWI records (Record Group 208), with the single largest collection located among files of the Bureau of Overseas Intelligence. Here one can find Yugoslav outpost reports, October 1943 to June 1945, digests and reviews of Yugoslav publications and radio broadcasts, copies of Partisan periodicals, and reports on military intelligence gleaned from various monitoring activities. Yugoslav policy directives are among files of the Office of the Policy Coordinator. Records of the Office of the Historian, Psychological Warfare Branch, contain additional material from the Yugoslav outpost. A small amount of Yugoslav radio monitoring reportage remains among records of the FBIS (Record Group 262), while many records of the OWI Overseas Operations Branch were transferred to and retained by the Department of State.⁷

⁵ Access to still classified personal name files may be gained according to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

⁶ OSS morale operations (MO) directed at Yugoslavia were carried out from Bari, Italy and Cairo. See Record Group 226, Entry 144.

⁷ When the OWI was abolished in September 1945, the Overseas Operations Branch was transferred to the Department of State (1945–1953) and thereafter to the U.S. Information Agency (1953–1977). In 1947 the FBIS was absorbed by the CIA, which maintained records of

As the tide of war turned in their favor, Allied governments directed their attention to planning and operations in liberated and conquered countries. Policy guidelines were laid down at the major Allied conferences, at meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers, and through the work of various ad hoc agencies. The Allied Control Commission for Italy, established soon after the September 1943 armistice, provided a model for later control commissions in Austria, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. U.S. participation in the occupation of Germany was implemented through the Office of Military Government for Germany (United States), which administered the American zone of the quadripartite system through 1949. Another element of the Allied occupation system was the Allied Military Government, British-American Zone, Free Territory Trieste, established in September 1947 and abolished in October 1954, when the territory was turned over to the Italian government.

As occupying powers, the Allies faced problems of unprecedented range and complexity. Those most directly affecting the Yugoslavs were the exchange of prisoners of war, repatriation or resettlement of refugees and displaced persons, border settlements, war repatriations and property restitution and the extradition of war criminals. All of these were complicated by the legacy of Yugoslavia's civil war and strained relations between the Anglo-American and Tito governments. As early as April–May 1945, SHAEF began developing contingency plans for a military showdown with Yugoslavia over disputed Italo-Yugoslav and Austro-Yugoslav borders. The forcible repatriation of Yugoslav nationals from the British zone of southern Austria in May 1945—a controversial act that set the stage for the so-called "Bleiburg massacres"—belongs within this context.⁸ Given this prelude, it is hardly surprising that Allied officials hesitated to honor other Yugoslav claims of a less volatile nature.

A significant amount of Yugoslav material from this troubled era is dispersed among records of the Allied occupation system. Records

the FBIS and its predecessors, 1947–1974. See Record Group 263.

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For SHAEF documentation on this topic, see SHAEF Office of the Chief of Staff, Decimal Correspondence File, May 1943–August 1945, 381 COLDSTREAM (Yugoslavia), Record Group 331, Records of Allied Operational and Occupation HQ, World War II.

of the Allied Control Commission (ACC) Italy (Record Group 331) are unique in that they predate the end of the war and thus prefigure postwar difficulties in dealing with Yugoslavs of diverse political camps.⁹ By far the most pressing problem was the disposition of an estimated 60,000 Yugoslavs in Italy, variously classified as POWs, displaced persons, refugees, deserters, traitors and war criminals. In addition to records of the Displaced Persons Commission, the researcher will find here (filed under 10000/109, Headquarters, Executive Commissioner and 10000/164, Displaced Persons) camp nominal rolls and reports on camp conditions and screening procedures, statistics, release and extradition requests from the Yugoslav government, and individual status and transfer reports. A significant portion of the above deal with the issue of separating "Tito followers" from Royalist Yugoslavs who rejected repatriation; a smaller amount with the problem of repatriating Italian POWs from Yugoslav territory. Yugoslav property claims arising from the Italian occupation include files on gold bars and coins taken from the Yugoslav National Bank, on plundered bank bonds and holdings of insurance companies and factories, and the looting of Dalmatian archives and museums together with lists of Yugoslav ships taken by the Italians and individual claims for items of lesser value.

Under the terms of the 1947 Peace Treaty with Italy, the contested territory of Venezia Giulia was divided between Italy and Yugoslavia except for a specified area around Trieste. This territorial remnant was established in September 1947 as the Free Territory of Trieste and jointly occupied by British and American forces until October 1954. Records of the Allied Military Government for Venezia Giulia (Region XIII, numerical designator 11300) are included among records of ACC Italy along with policy papers filed at ACC headquarters. An additional 900 cubic feet of records of the Allied Military Government, Free Territory Trieste (Record Group 331), document the period 1947–54. Documentation of high-level consideration of this outstanding Italo-Yugoslav border dispute is included in

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One indicator in this regard is dual representation: While the Yugoslav delegation to the ACC Italy passed into Partisan hands in 1944, the Royal Yugoslav Military Mission in Italy (eventually referred to as the "Dissident Yugoslav Military Mission") was ended only in February 1946.

State and War Department records cited earlier, as well as among records of the JCS.

Like Italy, Austria was considered a liberated as opposed to a conquered country and thus granted control commission status, which implied "indirect control" or some degree of cooperation with the existing government. ACC Austria records (Record Group 260) pertaining to Yugoslavia generally fall into the category of civil affairs. On an organizational level, Records of the Displaced Persons Division include International Refugee Organization (IRO) camp lists and status reports, reports on Red Cross relief, records pertaining to the Yugoslav Repatriation Mission, and U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps interrogations and reports on Yugoslav nationals. Also included are repatriation files, nominal rolls for deportees, reports on illegal border crossings, the repatriation of German and Austrian POWs from Yugoslavia, and the resettlement via Austria of Yugoslav Volksdeutsche. Records of the Repatriations and Restitution Branch are of particular interest because they include the single most substantial country "claims file" for Yugoslavia.¹⁰ Individually numbered files document claims for factory machinery, trucks, breeding livestock, horses from the Lipica stud farm, and innumerable other items. Files pertaining to plundered Yugoslav museums, fine arts and archival collections are arranged by republic.¹¹

Through 1949, German-Yugoslav relations were in the hands of a quadripartite occupation system. Within the U.S. zone, the Office of Military Government (Record Group 260, OMGUS) was charged with such mundane matters as air traffic clearances and trade agreements, as well as expediting population transfers and property restitution.¹² Records of the OMGUS Civil Affairs Division, Displaced

¹⁰ See ACC Austria, Reparations and Restitutions Branch, Yugoslav Claims, boxes 137-150.

¹¹ Ibid., box 149. Files exist for Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

¹² The Office of the U.S. Political Advisor was created to represent the interests of the State Department in postwar Germany. Records of this office (POLAD, Record Group 84) duplicate and in some instances enhance OMGUS material. Yugoslav documentation includes restitution claims files, reports on trade and diplomatic relations with Germany, Yugoslav government extradition and expellee requests, status

Persons Branch, track the escape or transfer of Yugoslav Volksdeutsche into the U.S. zone as well as the treatment of this class of "expellees" in Yugoslavia. Some information on the control and maintenance of Yugoslav displaced persons in Germany is included. Records of German-Yugoslav trade protocols and payments are filed among records of the Economics Division, which also maintained copies of individual Yugoslav restitution claims. Additional claims files and reports on the Yugoslav Restitution Mission to Germany are located with records of the OMGUS Property Division, which also oversaw the massive operation of returning cultural objects looted from German-occupied areas. Records of the Central Collecting points—the so-called "Ardelia Hall Collection"—include claims files, custody receipts and related correspondence concerning the identification and return of Yugoslav fine art and archival materials. Records of the Office of the Financial Advisor (FINAD) document the even more daunting task of identifying and administering German-owned or looted financial assets. FINAD records include investigative reports and Yugoslav claims files for German-seized currencies, coins and precious metals as well as records of payment of wages, pensions, annuities and insurance owed by the Germans to Yugoslav nationals.¹³

While European countries had their own scores to settle, Americans were likewise personally involved in repatriation and resettlement issues. During World War II, over 20,000 Yugoslav nationals were interned in POW camps in the United States. An alphabetical list of these internees is filed in the Records Office of the Provost Marshal General (Record Group 389).¹⁴ Within the same agency, records of the American POW Information Bureau (Record Group 389, Entry 460A) contain reports from General Mihailovic's

reports on the repatriation of Yugoslav displaced persons and refugees, reports of political developments, and cable files from Belgrade.

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Recent investigations of German external assets, 1945–1950, prompted by allegations that Swiss banks have concealed the assets of Holocaust victims, has drawn attention to massive amounts of documentation on this subject, involving no less than nine record groups, in the National Archives. A complete search of these records would undoubtedly yield more information on Yugoslav financial claims against Germany.

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See Entry 446, box 57. The list provides names and POW numbers for 20,307 persons.

Chetnik headquarters and other sources regarding U.S. air crews downed in Yugoslavia. Records of the Enemy POW Information Bureau (Record Group 389, Entry 461) include correspondence with the Royal Yugoslav embassy in Washington about the status of various categories of Yugoslav prisoners, correspondence from POWs wishing to join the Yugoslav Legion, and lists of Yugoslavs interned at Camp McCain, Mississippi and Camp Greely, Colorado. On the humanitarian level, between 1948 and 1952, some 395,000 European refugees were admitted into the United States. Records of the Displaced Persons Commission (DPC, Record Group 278), appointed by the President, document the "pipeline" process carried out in conjunction with the United Nations International Refugee Organization (IRO). In addition to individual case files, DPC records contain information on Yugoslav-American sponsoring organizations and Legal Division reports on various categories of Yugoslavs, Chetniks, Volksdeutsche and other groups seeking admission.

War crimes remain one of the most contentious issues arising from World War II. The process of defining war crimes and establishing extradition and trial procedures began in October 1943 with the creation of the United Nations War Crimes Commission (UNWCC). The UNWCC was assisted by "national offices" representing seventeen constituent members. A major achievement of this agency was the compilation of a list of over 37,000 war criminals, security suspects and witnesses from names and evidence submitted by national offices. A substantially larger "Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects," commonly known as CROWCASS, was compiled by Allied military authorities and liaison teams under SHAEF auspices. The burden of apprehending and detaining war criminals fell to Allied military commands. U.S. Army investigating teams, aided by the U.S. Counter Intelligence Corps, operated in the British, French and U.S. occupation zones. Detainees were kept in "enclosures" (i.e., camps) under U.S. Forces, European Theater supervision. Extradition requests were processed by extradition boards under supervision of the U.S. Theater Judge Advocate General Staff, and individuals were released for trial only after careful examination of each case. Trial proceedings began with the International Military Tribunal of Major War Criminals at Nuremberg in November 1945, followed by "Subsequent Proceedings" at Nuremberg, hundreds of concentration camp cases tried near or on-

site, and many more trials held by member states of the U.N. Commission.

Yugoslavia was a constituent member of the U.N. War Crimes Commission with a "national office," the Yugoslav State Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes, supported in turn by an internal body, the State Commission for Ascertaining the Crimes of the Occupying Forces. By February 1945 the Yugoslavs had identified some 800 alien war criminals, whose names were submitted to the U.N. and CROWCASS organizations. In the years 1945–46, Yugoslavia figured prominently at the International Military Tribunal as a victim of Axis aggression. Via representation in Italy, Austria and Germany, the Yugoslav State Commission filed extradition requests for leading figures in the Axis occupation and for Yugoslavs deemed quislings and collaborators. Yugoslav war crimes proceedings, beginning in July 1946 with the trial and execution of Chetnik leader Draža Mihailović, continued through 1948. While some involved bona fide war criminals, many others, such as the trial of Cardinal Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac in Zagreb (September–November 1946), were deemed "show trials," aimed at eliminating or intimidating opponents of the communist regime. Negative opinions of the Yugoslav courts inevitably slowed the extradition process. For example, Allied officials balked at releasing Italian war crimes suspects to the Yugoslavs and in 1947 bequeathed the entire process to the Italian government, with predictable results. The postwar escapes of Ante Pavelić and many other Croatian Ustasha named as war criminals on "wanted lists" raise many questions in this regard.

The complexity of the process and range of Yugoslav "war crimes" point the researcher toward a multiplicity of record groups. The National Archives Collection of World War II War Crimes Records (Record Group 238) includes records of the International Military Tribunal (IMT) and Subsequent Proceedings at Nuremburg. As one would suppose, IMT prosecution exhibits—U.S., British, French and Soviet—include captured German documents and evidence supplied by the Yugoslav State Commission selected to illustrate the violation of Yugoslav neutrality in April 1941 and crimes committed by the Axis occupation forces. Pretrial records contain reports of interrogations of many German and Austrian military officers and officials implicated in

the Yugoslav occupation system.¹⁵ Other Nuremburg evidence series hold a vast amount of Yugoslav war crimes material collected but never integrated into trial proceedings. These files are particularly rich in Holocaust-related information that has been gleaned and indexed by Yad Vashem.¹⁶

Records of the War Crimes Branch of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army), Record Group 153, include United Nations and CROWCASS lists of war criminals, suspects and witnesses, as well as records of 489 war crimes trial proceedings that were held in U.S. Army courts between 1945 and 1948. Case files are indexed by country code. Most of the ninety-three case files for Yugoslavia document the killing or abuse of downed Allied aviators. A general file on Yugoslav war crimes (25-0) includes a State Department position paper on "Yugoslav War Criminals, Traitors and Quislings," and reports and correspondence submitted by the Yugoslav government on German and Italian war crimes in Yugoslavia. A related file (25-10) contains reports on trials held in Yugoslav courts and U.S. intra-agency correspondence on the issue of extraditing German, Italian and Croatian Ustasha suspects wanted by the Yugoslav government. Some additional documentation on Italian war crimes against Yugoslavia (file 103-6b) and correspondence regarding the Yugoslav war crimes office (file 152-12) are found in the so-called JAG "set up files" (entry 145).

Records of the Judge Advocate General point to involvement of other U.S. agencies in war crimes procedures. At the policy level, a

¹⁵ Nuremburg interrogation reports with alphabetical name indexes are available to researchers on National Archives Microfilm Publications M1019 and M1270. Also included in Record Group 238 are personnel ("201") files on witnesses and defendants at Nuremburg.

¹⁶ Nuremburg Evidence Series are designated NG (Nuremburg Government); NO (Nuremburg Organizations); NI (Nuremburg Industrialists); NOKW (Nuremburg, Oberkommando der Wehrmacht). Yugoslav materials document the activities of SS units, hostage reprisals, economic exploitation, and the deportations, executions and other measures against the Jews in Serbia and Croatia. The latter material has been indexed in Jacob Robinson and Henry Sachs, ed., *The Holocaust: The Nuremburg Evidence* (Jerusalem: Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes' Memorial Authority, 1976).

researcher would do well to consult War Department (Record Group 165) and SHAEF (Record Group 331) planning and operations files,¹⁷ the State Department central file (Record Group 59) and Records of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Record Group 43), cited above. Additional documentation on the extradition issue with background material on individual Yugoslav cases is to be found in records of the Political Advisor to Germany (Record Group 84, POLAD).¹⁸ Records of the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade and the Zagreb Consulate (Record Group 84), which reopened in May 1946, furnish on-site reporting on Yugoslav war crimes trials.

Implementation of the extradition process is documented in records of the Allied occupation system. In Italy, responsibility was shared by officials of AFHQ and ACC Italy (Record Group 331).¹⁹ Records of the AFHQ G-2 (Intelligence) Section include watch lists, Interrogation Center reports on Yugoslavs in Italy, reports on Italian officials returning from Yugoslavia, and on members of the Croatian Ustasha government. The largest single file is the Index to Yugoslav War Criminals and Quislings, April 1944–October 1946. The AFHQ G-5 (Civil Affairs) Section includes reports on Yugoslav war crimes, extradition requests for Yugoslavs and Italians, and investigative files and arrest and extradition reports. Companion files in ACC Italy, Headquarters, have in them additional material on Italian atrocities in Yugoslavia and on Ustasha officials in Italy. Records of the Yugoslav War Crimes Mission to Italy document conflicts with Allied officials over the extradition procedures and include lists of German, Italian and Yugoslav war criminals wanted by the Yugoslav government.²⁰ Much

¹⁷ Records of the SHAEF G-1 Division, Entry 6, Decimal Correspondence File, 1944–45, include especially significant files on war crimes policy (decimal 000.5) and on the handling of repatriation cases (decimal 383.4, Yugoslav nationals folder 12).

¹⁸ The U.S. Political Advisor (POLAD) served as an intermediary between the State Department and the Office of Military Government for Germany and had responsibility for political activities in Germany, 1945–49. Documentation on Yugoslav war crimes issues is filed under decimal 810.8a for the years 1946–47.

¹⁹ Record Group 331, AFHQ Italy, rolls R527E and R528E.

²⁰ Record Group 331, ACC Italy, file 10000/105, folders 444 and 447-

additional material on extradition is scattered throughout records concerning displaced persons and refugees.

Records of the Yugoslav War Crimes Mission in Vienna are interfiled among records of the Legal Division, Allied Control Commission, Austria (Record Group 260). Legal Division General Records, 1945–50, include reports on war crimes enclosures, arrest reports, Yugoslav extradition requests, and monthly extradition reports, transfer reports, and correspondence on individual cases.²¹ Comparable information on the extradition process in Germany is divided between military and civilian agencies. Records of the OMGUS Extradition Board were transferred to State Department custody in 1949 and are filed among records of the High Commissioner for Germany (Record Group 466, HICOG).²² The volume of Yugoslav materials—general correspondence and ten boxes of extradition case files—suggests that these may be the most complete source on the topic.²³ HICOG records relating to the CROWCASS Administration of War Crimes include Yugoslav wanted lists and additional intra-governmental correspondence. Information on field interrogation teams in the U.S. zone are found among records of the G-2 Staff Section, European Theatre of Operations (Record Group 338, ETO). Correspondence relating to the extradition of Yugoslav war crimes suspects and war crimes case files involving Yugoslavia, many pertaining to downed Allied aviators, are filed among records of the

448); file 10000/109, folders 360 and 380, 1069-1070, and 1091-1093.

²¹ Record Group 260, ACC Austria, Legal Division, Administrative Branch, General Records, 1945–, decimal 000.5 (War Crimes), boxes 1-8. It should be noted that final approval of extradition requests in occupied areas rested with the theatre commander. See Records of U.S. Forces in Austria (USFA) and U.S. Forces European Theatre (USFET), contained in Record Group 338, Records of the U.S. Army Commands.

²² The Office of the High Commissioner of Germany replaced the military government in September 1949. Many active OMGUS files were transferred to HICOG, a State Department agency, at that time.

²³ Record Group 466, HICOG, U.S. Element, Extradition Board, Yugoslav Country Subject File 1946–51, box 6; Yugoslav War Crimes Extradition Case Files, boxes 176-185.

theatre-level Judge Advocate General, War Crimes Branch (Record Group 338).²⁴

A final category worthy of mention is the National Archives Collection of Seized Enemy Records (Record Group 242), which holds over 70,000 rolls of microfilm of World War II German and Italian records. In most cases the original documents have been returned to the country of origin and are in the custody of the German and Italian archival systems. Nevertheless, many international researchers prefer using the National Archives collection, which is accompanied by over 100 volumes of published item-level finding aids and is available for purchase in film format. Captured German records document virtually all aspects of the World War II invasion, partition and occupation of Yugoslavia. In this collection are records of the German Foreign Ministry, the German Army High Command and Field Commands, of individual Wehrmacht and SS field units, the Gestapo and German police, and of many economic concerns in former Yugoslavia. Two series, records of the General Plenipotentiary for the Serbian Economy and the so-called "Yugoslav Archive," are of special interest.²⁵ In a similar fashion, captured records of the Italian Armed Forces document the invasion and occupation of the Italian zone in Yugoslavia. Records of the Italian Second Army and subordinate units are a particularly rich source of information on Chetnik-Partisan warfare, Italian anti-Partisan actions, and Italian collaboration with the Croatian Ustasha and other anti-Partisan groups. To supplement its captured records collection the U.S. Army Europe, Historical Division, prepared over 2000 manuscripts based on postwar interrogations of former high-ranking officers in the German army. These "Foreign Military Studies" (Record Group 338) were used to prepare the U.S. Army publication,

²⁴

Many are duplicates of files in Record Group 153, cited above.

²⁵

Records of the Plenipotentiary for the Serbian Economy are included on the sixty-eight rolls of National Archives Microfilm Publication T75 and described in German Guide No. 89. The 122 rolls of film constituting the "Yugoslav Archive" are included in National Archives Microfilm Publication T120, rolls 786-907. These consist of miscellaneous Yugoslav government documents, mostly in the Serbian language, captured by the Germans and taken to Vienna, where they later fell into Allied hands. The originals were returned to Yugoslavia after filming.

The German Army in the Balkans, and constitute a unique resource for those interested in the Yugoslav campaign in April 1941.²⁶

National Archives, College Park, Maryland

POVZETEK

GRADIVO O DRUGI SVETOVNI VOJNI V JUGOSLAVIJI V AMERIŠKIH DRŽAVNIH ARHIVIH

Po koncu hladne vojne in razpadu Jugoslavije so se odprli nekdanj nedostopni arhivi in raziskovalni interesi so se orientirali na nerešena vprašanja druge svetovne vojne. Članek nudi obsežen pregled gradiva o drugi svetovni vojni in Jugoslaviji, ki je dostopno v državnih arhivih ZDA. Avtor presega tradicionalne vire z dokumentiranjem diplomatskih, vojaških in obveščevalnih vidikov vojne in usmerja raziskave k pretežno neznanim zbirkam o vojnih ujetnikih, razseljenih osebah, vojnih reparacijah, vračilu lastnine in procesom proti vojnim zločincem. Dodan je seznam enaindvajsetih tozadevnih zbirk listin.

²⁶

Center of Military History, U.S. Army, *The German Campaign in the Balkans (Spring 1944), Historical Study* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1953).