

= 2nd Army ( Kingdom of Yugoslavia ) =

The 2nd Army ( Serbo @-@ Croatian : 2 @.@ armija ) was a Royal Yugoslav Army formation commanded by Armijski General Dragoslav Miljkovi? that opposed the German @-@ led Axis invasion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in April 1941 during World War II . It consisted of three infantry divisions and one horsed cavalry regiment . It formed part of the 2nd Army Group , and was responsible for the defence of the Yugoslav ? Hungarian border along the Drava river from Slatina to the Danube .

The 2nd Army was not directly attacked during the first few days after the invasion commenced , but attacks on its flanks from 10 April resulted in successive orders to withdraw to the lines of the Danube and then the Sava . On 11 April , the Hungarians crossed the border in the sector for which the 2nd Army had been responsible , but the Yugoslavs were already withdrawing and the Hungarians faced almost no resistance . On the same day , the German 8th Panzer Division , driving on Belgrade into the flank of the 2nd Army , had effectively routed the entire 2nd Army Group . The disintegration of the 2nd Army as a combat force was accelerated by fifth column activities and desertion by many of its Croat soldiers . The Germans captured Belgrade on 12 April . Remnants of the 2nd Army continued to resist along the line of the Sava on 14 April , and the headquarters of the 2nd Army was rebuffed when it contacted the Germans in an attempt to negotiate a separate ceasefire . On 14 ? 15 April , tens of thousands of Yugoslav soldiers were captured . The Germans closed on Sarajevo , capturing it on 15 April , and accepted the unconditional surrender of the Royal Yugoslav Army on 17 April , which came into effect at 12 : 00 the following day .

= = Composition = =

The 2nd Army was commanded by Armijski General Dragoslav Miljkovi? , and his chief of staff was Brigadni General Bogdan Magli? . It was organised and mobilised on a geographic basis from the 2nd Army District , which was divided into divisional districts , each of which was subdivided into regimental regions . The 2nd Army consisted of :

10th Infantry Division Bosanska

17th Infantry Division Vrbaska

30th Infantry Division Osijek

76th Cavalry Regiment ( horse )

Its support units included the 76th Artillery Regiment , the 2nd Anti @-@ Aircraft Battalion , the 2nd Army Anti @-@ Aircraft Company , and a border guard battalion at Subotica . The 3rd Air Reconnaissance Group comprising sixteen Breguet 19s was attached from the Royal Yugoslav Air Force and was based at Staro Topolje just east of Brod .

= = Deployment = =

The 2nd Army was part of the 2nd Army Group , which was responsible for the eastern section of the Yugoslav ? Hungarian border , with the 2nd Army in the Baranya and Slavonia regions between Slatina and the Danube , and the 1st Army in the Ba?ka region between the Danube and the Tisza . On the left flank of the 2nd Army was the 4th Army of the 1st Army Group , which was responsible for the defence of the Yugoslav ? Hungarian border west of Slatina . The boundary with the 4th Army ran from just east of Slatina through Po?ega towards Banja Luka . The Yugoslav defence plan saw the 2nd Army deployed from the boundary with the 4th Army to the Danube , with two divisions along the line of the Drava and one division in depth . Of the formations of the 2nd Army , the 10th Infantry Division Bosanska and the 17th Infantry Division Vrbaska were partly mobilised , and the 30th Infantry Division Osijek had only commenced mobilisation . The deployment of the 2nd Army from west to east was :

17th Infantry Division Vrbaska south of the Drava from just east of Slatina to Valpovo

30th Infantry Division Osijek astride the Drava from Valpovo to the confluence with the Danube , centred on Osijek

10th Infantry Division Bosanska in depth on the right flank , behind the Vuka river , centred on Vinkovci

The 33rd Infantry Division Liška , which was under the direct command of the General Headquarters of the VKJ , was deployed further south behind the Sava river , centred on Dobož .

= = Operations = =

The 2nd Army faced the Hungarian 3rd Army , and during the first few days after the commencement of the invasion , there were exchanges of fire with Hungarian border guards , but the 2nd Army faced no direct attacks . Neither the 2nd Army nor the Hungarians were ready for full @-@ scale fighting , as they were still mobilising and deploying their forces . On 9 April , due to events in other parts of Yugoslavia , the 6th Army on the right flank of the 2nd Army Group was ordered to withdraw south of the Danube and deploy on a line facing east to defend against an attack from the direction of Sofia , Bulgaria . The headquarters of the 2nd Army issued orders to evacuate Baranja and reinforce the left flank .

The following day , the situation deteriorated significantly when the German XLI Motorised Corps crossed the Yugoslav ? Romanian border into the Yugoslav Banat and struck the 6th Army , halting its withdrawal and disrupting its ability to organise a coherent defence behind the Danube . Also on 10 April , the main thrust of the XLVI Motorised Corps of the 2nd Army , consisting of the 8th Panzer Division leading the 16th Motorised Infantry Division crossed the Drava at Barcs in the 4th Army sector on the left of the 2nd Army . The 8th Panzer Division turned southeast between the Drava and Sava rivers , and meeting almost no resistance and with strong air support , had reached the left flank of the 2nd Army at Slatina by evening , despite poor roads and bad weather .

Later that day , as the situation was becoming increasingly desperate throughout the country , Dušan Simović , who was both the Prime Minister and Yugoslav Chief of the General Staff , broadcast the following message :

All troops must engage the enemy wherever encountered and with every means at their disposal . Don 't wait for direct orders from above , but act on your own and be guided by your judgement , initiative , and conscience .

The 2nd Army was able to evacuate Baranja and organised a defence of the left flank of the 2nd Army Group , now threatened by the 8th Panzer Division , but Croat reservists began to desert their units due to the fifth column activities of the fascist Ustaše and their sympathisers . This significantly reducing the combat power of the 2nd Army . By the evening of 10 April , the 2nd Army Group was ordered to withdraw from this line and form a defensive line behind the Sava , from Debrce to the confluence with the Vrbas river , for which one or two days would be needed . On the night of 10 / 11 April , the whole 2nd Army Group continued its withdrawal , but units of the 2nd Army that included significant numbers of Croats began to dissolve .

At dawn on 11 April , Hungarian forces , consisting of the Mobile , IV and V Corps of Altábornagy ( Lieutenant General ) Elemér Gorondy @-@ Novák 's 3rd Army , crossed the Yugoslav border north of Osijek and near Subotica , overcame Yugoslav border guards and advanced on Subotica and Palić . The XLVI Motorised Corps continued to push east south of the Drava , with the 8th Panzer Division capturing Našice , Osijek on the Drava , and Vukovar on the Danube , followed by the 16th Motorised Infantry Division which advanced east of Našice , despite bridge demolitions and poor roads . The 8th Panzer Division had effectively routed the 2nd Army Group by 11 April . On the same day , the 3rd Air Reconnaissance Group Breguet 19s were flown from Staro Topolje to Bijeljina . The following day , Messerschmitt Bf 110s of I Group of the 26th Heavy Fighter Wing ( German : Zerstörergeschwader 26 , ZG 26 ) destroyed the 3rd Air Reconnaissance Group aircraft when they swept over the airfield in one of the most effective attacks of the campaign . On the night of 11 / 12 April , the 8th Panzer Division captured Sremska Mitrovica on the Sava at 02 : 30 , after two important bridges over the Sava were captured intact . The 8th Panzer Division then destroyed a bridge over the Danube at Bogojevo , and advanced on Lazarevac about 32 kilometres ( 20 mi ) south of Belgrade . These advances delayed the withdrawal of the 2nd Army Group south of the Sava .

= = Fate = =

By 12 April , the withdrawal of the 2nd Army Group was being threatened from the left flank , with 2nd Army being described by the Polish historian Andrzej Krzak as having " no combat importance at all " . On the far right flank , 6th Army attempted to regroup while being pressed by the 11th Panzer Division as it drove towards Belgrade . West of Belgrade , remnants of the 2nd Army Group tried to establish a line along the Sava , but XLVI Motorised Corps had already captured the bridges . Elements of the 8th Panzer Division captured Zemun without a fight . On 12 April , the 1st Army 's 3rd Cavalry Division counter @-@ attacked on the right flank of the 2nd Army at ?abac and pushed the Germans back across the Sava . The Usta?e had captured Brod without German assistance , but 2nd Army units recaptured the town and destroyed the bridge over the Sava . The Hungarians occupied Baranja without facing resistance .

On the evening of 12 April , elements of the SS Motorised Infantry Division Reich , under command of XLI Motorised Corps crossed the Danube in pneumatic boats and captured Belgrade without resistance . About the same time , most of the elements of XLVI Motorised Corps that were approaching Belgrade from the west were redirected away from the capital , but part of the 8th Panzer Division continued their thrust to capture the Sava bridges to the west of Belgrade , and entered the city during the night . The rest of the 8th Panzer Division turned southeast and drove towards Valjevo to link up with the left flank of the First Panzer Group southwest of Belgrade . The 16th Motorised Infantry Division was redirected south across the Sava , and advanced toward Zvornik .

On 13 and 14 April , the 8th Panzer Division led a southward thrust towards Sarajevo , where both the Yugoslav Supreme Command and the headquarters of the 2nd Army were located , and during that day the 2nd Army asked the Germans for a separate ceasefire agreement , but were rebuffed , as by this stage only the unconditional surrender of the whole Yugoslav Army would be considered by the Germans . On 14 and 15 April , tens of thousands of Yugoslav soldiers were taken prisoner by the Germans during their drive on Sarajevo in the centre of the country , including 30 @,@ 000 around Zvornik and 6 @,@ 000 around Doboj . On 15 April , the 8th Panzer Division approached Sarajevo from the east as the 14th Panzer Division entered it from the west , and the 2nd Army surrendered . After a delay in locating appropriate signatories for the surrender document , the Yugoslav Supreme Command unconditionally surrendered in Belgrade effective at 12 : 00 on 18 April .

= = = Books = = =

= = = Journals and papers = = =

= = = Web = = =