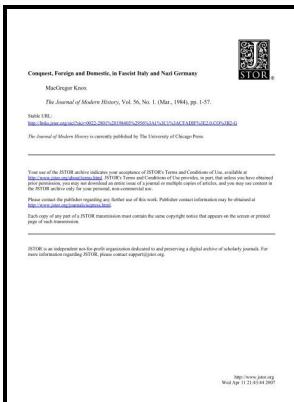


Bail out over the Balkans - escape through Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia

Sigler - Force 10 from Navarone (1978)



Description: -

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American.
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Tags: #A #Daring #Rescue #Behind #the #Lines

Yugoslavia: post World War II

September 1943 Following the Italian surrender, Mihailovic launched multiple offensive operations: in the valleys of Drina and Lim and from Herzegovina toward the Adriatic.

A Daring Rescue Behind the Lines

From a point east of Korca, the Salonika force was responsible for the line Bilisht-Kastoria-Neapoli- Grevena-Krania-Metsovan. The battle then became a pursuit, which lasted long into the night. However, as casualties mounted and the guerrilla forces gained in size, many youths with no previous military experience were enlisted and given from 4 to 6 weeks of basic training.

Invasion of Yugoslavia

The terrorism, fanaticism, and ruthlessness of that movement reflect the enduring legacy and influence of the Grand Mufti. While the XXII Mountain Corps conducted GEMSBOCK in western Greece and southern Albania, the LXVIII Corps in the Peloponnesus and eastern Greece pursued several operations of its own. A tactical success, the operation failed to achieve its purpose when the Italian forces against which the guerrillas were to be driven did not arrive in time to prevent the escape of large numbers of the guerrillas into the Italian zone of interest in Croatia.

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The German Situation by Mid-1943 With both Yugoslav and Greek guerrillas withdrawn from large-scale operations for the moment, the Germans hastened to take steps to secure the Balkans against a threatening Italian collapse or surrender.

Serbian

Volume 1: Operational losses: Aircraft and crews, 1939—1941.

Rescue Behind Enemy Lines

The terrain over which the operations were conducted was ideal for irregulars, with high and rugged mountains paralleling the roads vital to the extended supply lines of the occupation forces.

Ploesti Raid: A Tragic Tidal Wave

However, continued domestic aircraft production during the invasion supplied the VVKJ with an additional eight Hurricane Is, six Ks, four Blenheim Is, two , one and one Messerschmitt Bf 109 from the local aeronautical industry's aircraft factories and workshops. It was audacious and risky beyond belief, but there was no other way to get those boys out of German territory.

The Nazi Conquest of Europe in Maps

This suggests that subsequent estimates had to conform to the predetermined figure. It was ordered to for two-days operations over the frontline.

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