

Map of Yugoslavia



After Germany occupied Yugoslavia in April 1941, Germany, Italy, Hungary, and Bulgaria annexed parts of the country. Serbia was put under German military administration, and while Croatia formally became an independent state, it was heavily dependent on Germany.

Swearing-In Ceremony



Swearing-in of Bosnian units of the 13th SS Division. Catholics swear by raising their right hand, Muslims swear by placing their right hand on their heart.

Aus: George Lepre: Himmler's Bosnian Division, Atglen 1997, S. 48.

Deportation of Slovenians



Slovenians marching to Maribor train station carrying their possessions, July 1941. A large number of Slovenians who were considered "anti-German" were deported either to Serbia or to Germany for slave labour.

(Privatbesitz)

Photograph: Shooting of Hostages

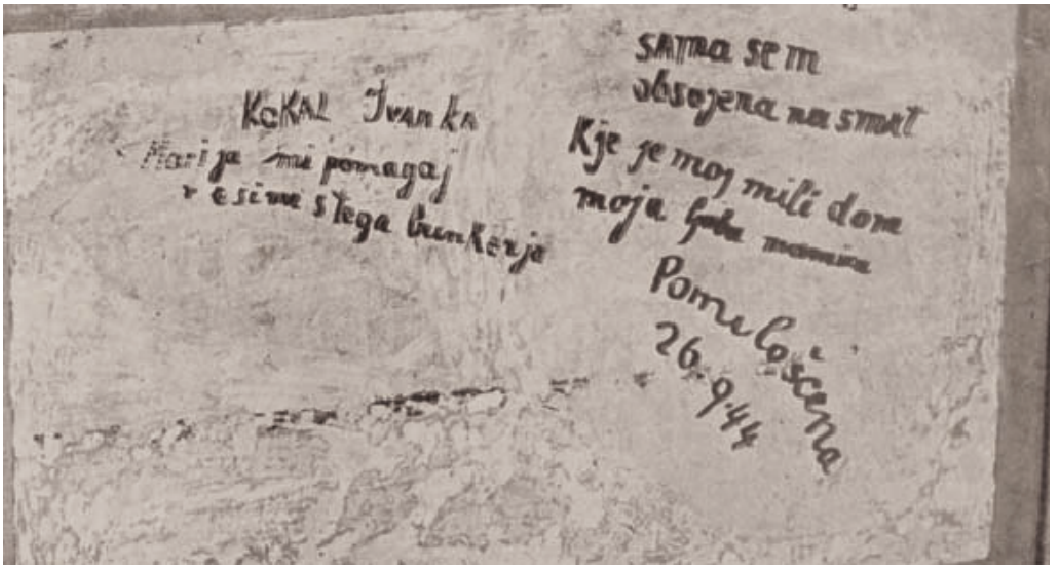


On 20/21 April 1941, unknown persons shot an SS man in Pančevo near Belgrade. Following the shooting, SS members searched houses in the surrounding area and arrested a number of Serbian civilians as suspects. Thirty-six of them were sentenced to death in a summary court-martial and publicly executed on 21 and 22 April 1941.

Detail from a photograph: An officer of the Wehrmacht shooting an injured victim.

Foto: Gerhard Gronefeld. (DHM)

Prisoners' Inscriptions on Prison Wall



Between 1941 and 1945, over 12,000 people were imprisoned in Begunje police prison in Slovenia, which was infamous as a place of torture. Of these prisoners, 2,280 were women and 405 were children. Many of the inmates had been taken hostage and were later shot, others were deported to German prisons and concentration camps.

The inscriptions on the wall read:

Help me, Mary, deliver me from this bunker

I am alone sentenced to death

Where is my beloved home and where is my dear mother

Pardoned on 26.9.44

Aus: Kjer smrt je skrhala svojo kosó. Muzej talcev v Begunjah, Radovljica 1983.

Telex Message from 5 May 1944

Fernspruch - Fernschreiben - Funkspruch - Blinkspruch

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Dreh für Radio-Prüfung anfertigen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nr. 454</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bezeichnet</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>am</th> <th>Tag</th> <th>Zeit</th> <th>Durch</th> <th>Rolle</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="font-size: small;">Verständlicher SS-Handschriftlich Schlüsselwort 1000 m. 1000</p>	am	Tag	Zeit	Durch	Rolle								
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<p>+++ SSSS 1267 5.5.44 1105==</p> <p>AN PERS. STAB RF-SS</p> <p>Z. NO. SS-HSTUF. B E R G + B E R L I N ==</p> <p>VON DEN IM OKTOBER 1943 ENTLASSENEN 801 KROATEN</p> <p>" WURDEN 536 DER ORGANISATION " TODT " ZUM ARBEITSEINSAZ</p> <p>" ZUR VERFUEGUNG GESTELLT . - " "</p> <p>" 265 KROATEN IM EINVERNEHMEN MIT REICHSSICHERHEITSHAUPTAMT</p> <p>" IN KL. HAMBURG J EINGEWIESEN . "</p> <p>" SACHBEARBEITER IM RSHA: SS-HSTUF. B U R G ==</p>															
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After the Bosnian SS units had been formed, some of the recruits rebelled. This telex message ordered the deportation of 265 Bosnian soldiers to "Hamburg concentration camp", which presumably means to Neuengamme. (IfZ)