

My name is OBRENOVIC DOBRIVOJE

I was born in CACAK (JEZDINA) YUGOSLAVIE where he is a farmer owner. Father of TIHOMIR currently alive, resident at CACAK and of DARINKA BAJCETIC also alive and remain at CACAK.

Before the declaration of war.

I had to occupy myself in the civil life of trade of accountancy and agriculture. In the Royal Yugoslav Army I was a Lieutenant and commanded the 7th Company of the 7th Infantry Regiment at NOVI SAD (Ex-Yugoslavia). In support of my statements, I have at your disposal a military identity card N°5939 established on 11/19/1940 by Colonel ITRKOVIC RADOVAN who commanded my Regiment. I have occupied this post in the army since 02/06/1940.

At the time of the declaration of war by the Germans (6 / 1941)

I was with my company in a village called STARI-FUTOG about 12 km from NOVI SAD. From STARI-FUTOG, we set off for VILOVO on the TISSA river which was our combat station. 04/10/1941 we received the order to withdraw by NOVI SAD to SABAC on the SAVA river. On 04/13/1941 we were attacked by the Boches and after a fierce fight, there are only eleven of my men and myself left in my Company. The rest of the workforce being dead or taken prisoner. After a new withdrawal and with what was left of able-bodied men, my Regiment reorganized and the fight resumed in April at LOZNICA.

We were still forced to retreat after this new engagement on LJUBOVIJA where we our forces being clearly inferior to that of our adversaries we were literally crushed and all those who had not perished in this fight were all taken prisoner (these facts happen on 04/16/1941 in the evening). I managed to get away from Les Boches and went to SARAJEVO where I arrived after 4 days of walking, that is to say on 20/04/1941 in the evening. Unfortunately this city was already in the hands of the Germans.

On 04/21/1941, I was able to have a cottage and a civilian costume through a friend of mine in this town (Mr.YOKASIN BASTA). On April 22, the Boches ordered all officers, non-commissioned officers and troops of the Yugoslav Army to report to barracks for instructions. There those who presented themselves were taken prisoner (including me). On April 23, 1941 around 9 a.m. we were taken on a train (cattle vans) and directed on S.L.BROD where we were thoroughly searched and then re-embarked in our leaded vans for an unknown destination.

On 04/27/1941 so after 4 days of nonstop travel during which no food had been given to us, no more than water, we arrived around 11 p.m. in a French prison camp at MOOSBURG in BAVIERE near MUNICH. Thanks to the French, we are able to eat On April 30 at around 10 am we were taken by train to HOYERSWERDA north of DRESDE (traveling under the same conditions) where we arrived on May 2, 1941 at noon.

On May 6 at 7:00 am we were sent to a new ANNABURG camp (Former School of Boches NCOs) the water was inedible and polluted by Typhoid. We stayed there until May 19, 1941 when we were transferred to the NUREMBERG camp (MARZ-FELD station) where we arrived around midnight the same day. We stayed in the vans until morning then smoked driving to a camp called OFLAG L3R and the place was named in

My prisoner number was 6084 and as accommodation the barrack N ° 80 Block N°5.

The camp commander was named Lieutenant Colonel VON IMKOPF
his deputy was Commander VON BISCHOP.

The Cne. FUCKS was in charge of the administrative question of the camp.

Cne KAMPF was Commissioner of the Gestapo

Cne MILLER was Head of Censorship

The block's supervisor was Master Corporal GROSS, He made us endure all the miseries going so far as to beat Yugoslav Officers. In October 1941, the French officers were in turn evacuated to another camp whose name and address I do not know. In our camp were centralized the Yugoslav Officers whose number reached at some time around 10,000.

On June 21, 1941, the Germans informed us of their entry into the war against RUSSIA, and then the surveillance of the camp became more severe. Later Russian prisoners were brought to our camp as well as Dutch officers, but they were separated from us. The treatment which should have been Standard was much harsher for the Serbs and the RUSSIANS.

We were considered inferior to prisoners of other nations. The food was very bad and insufficient especially for us Serbs who in our country used to eat us abundantly, especially bread.

When we were able to receive individual and collective packages, our lot was significantly improved. Camp life was hard and unbearable in every way and the winter of 1941/1942 was very difficult due to the almost total absence of heating and blankets.

[00:11, 21/03/2020] ub khali: Mmmhn

On May 10, 1943 in the evening by train I left ANNECY via Aix-les-Bains, Narbonne, Carcassonne and arrived the next morning in TOULOUSE from where I left about 20 minutes later for PAU. Between TARBES and PAU I had to present my papers to French police accompanied by 3 Boches NCOs it is thanks to the presence of mind of one of the French police that the Boches did not see my identity card which was false (this one had given by the organization of Pastor CHAPELLE).

Arrived at PAU where there were numerous German troops I did not have the courage to ask for information on the possibility of crossing the border and at 17 hours I took again the train and arrived at Orthez around 6 pm. The German authorities checked the identity of the travelers but these being very numerous they could not look very closely and I went unnoticed.

I lost the courage to continue by train and went to seek refuge in the Catholic church where I found the vicar who was frightened and refused me any information (a camp of boche being located just in front of the church).

I left and around 8 p.m. I crossed the PAU by a small bridge reserved for pedestrians and headed for the Spanish border via Sauveterre, Saint-Paul, Jacsurcosse, Saint Etienne PP and on May 21 at 2 a.m. crossing the border at a point where the altitude was 1.072 m.

Around noon on May 22, I arrived in Pamplona without being seen and presented myself to the Vice Consul of URUGUAY, whose address I received from the US Attaché Mre in BERNE General LEG who advised me to present myself to the Spanish police to legalize my passage through Spain this in accordance with agreements maintained between the Spanish agols on the one hand and the GB and the USA on the other.

The Spanish police questioned me. I was put in prison after I was issued an identity card which I can present to you. It bears the number 3166 and is dated May 22, 1943.

I stayed in jail for 17 days and was visited by U.S.A. Attaché Colonel Stewens and G.B. Attaché Mre, whose name escapes me. Those who, after asking me for information, told me that my release would be a bit long due to the poor organization of the Spanish Services.

On June 8, 1943 June I was transferred to the IRANDA concentration camp where the Spanish grouped all the escapees from Europe to facilitate the formalities of their departure for Portugal. During my stay in prison in Spain I knew several French officers including the Lieutenant son of General De Castelneau whom I later had the opportunity to meet in Algiers.

On June 29, 1943, I was released by the Spanish and sent to Madrid by train, I presented myself to the Yugoslavian Royal Legation to Chargé d'affaires VISACKI who took care of doing the necessary to 'to obtain all the documents which were useful to me to leave Spain and to gain England while passing by Portugal in transit.

The Spanish exit visa N°3252 issued on 07/07/1943 by the M The passport N°523 / 43 / XI-I) was issued to me on 07/03/1943 by the Royal Yugoslavian legation of Lisbon. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and authorization to cross the border through VALENCIA D'EL CANTARA,

Seen at the Spanish border on 5-8-43 N ° M.5 / 3.172.

My passport had been stamped on 10 / 07.1943 by the Embassy of G.B. in Madrid for my departure in G.B. under N ° V.R.31.458

For my departure to Portugal my passport was stamped on 08/02/43 by the Consulate General of Portugal in Madrid under No 3.166.

In Madrid I had to wait for the Portuguese visa for 35 days, because of the refusal of the Lisbon International Police which was 99% pro-German and knew that I was an escapee from Germany.

In Portugal I arrived on 08/05/1943 around 9pm (Lisbon) by train. I was received by the charge d'affaires of the Royal Yugoslavian Iregation Mr. M.D. MILOVANOVIC and his secretary Mr. MILETIC I stayed at the hotel BORGES while waiting for my place by plane for England. During this time, I took the opportunity to buy some clothing items. On 12/08/1943 at midnight I left Lisbon aerodrome for BRISTOL where I arrived on the 13th at 6am.

The English authorities visited my luggage and subjected me to a summary interrogation and kept me at their disposal as well as all the passengers.

Around 3 p.m. we left BRISTOL by train and arrived in the evening in London where we stayed in a former Hospice de Vieillards and quarantined for 9 days. On 08/22/1943 we were transferred to the Victoria Patriotic School Southempton.

There the English special services placed all individuals without distinction of nationality who came for the first time to Great Britain so as to be able to question them. For my part having provided a lot of information that had to be checked, I was kept there for 20 days. Our regime was that of the consigned soldiers and not in prison, the treatment was good.

On September 10 I was released and returned directly to the Royal Yugoslav Embassy in London, I presented myself to the Minister of War of Yugoslavia who was in London, who told me that I needed to prepare myself to leave for Egypt. My passport was stamped by: The Royal Yugoslav Embassy on September 9, 1943 N ° 245/43, The English Passport Control on September 9, 1943 N ° 963.995 The Egyptian Consulate in London on September 13, 1943 No. I.583. In London where I only stayed 4 days, I completed my wardrobe. On September 14 around 9pm I left by rail to GLASCOW, from where on the 15th in the morning I left on the MOOLTAN s / s in direction of Port-Said. There I arrived on 09/30/1943 around 2 p.m. and I left the same day for Cairo.

Arrived in Cairo I presented myself on 09/30/1943 around 2 p.m. at the Yugoslav Royal HQ villa Aida Zamalek where again I was interrogated but for the first time by Yugoslav soldiers and on behalf of YUGOSLAVIA. My HQ gave me an ID card issued by the English HQ of MIDDLE EAST FORCES on 05/10/1943 and bearing N°000.76I. I was assigned by my HQ in agreement with the English HQ to the Yugoslav Royal Military Mission.

in North Africa 5 Rue Elisée Reclus Alger.

The Head of this Mission at that time was Lieutenant Colonel M.FROSEN who was precisely at CAIRE and with whom I am reborn by plane and arrived at the White House.

By order of the Royal Yugoslavian Head of Mission in North Africa and the Allied HQ Ref. 200/43 / ACF of 09/10/1943 I was sent to the Constantine Transit camp where I arrived by plane on 10/10 / 1943 on the grounds of Telergma.

This camp was located near the former Saint Helena Seminary (near Constantine and there were about 1,700 Yugoslavs, all former escaped prisoners. The Camp Commander was ALADJEMOVIC. In this camp I was Deputy Officer until this on November 25, 1943, on that date, I escorted a convoy of 250 men chosen as specialists for the RAF in Algiers.

On 11/27/1943 at 4 am I disembarked with my men at Rouiba station and drove them to the farm of Mr. Rattel which was requisitioned by the ALLIES. The same evening, I went to Algiers 5 rue Elisée Reclusà to the Mission Mre Royale Yugoslave where I stayed.

On 02/12/1943 the Head of Mission Lieutenant Colonel PROSEN and Colonel POUTNIC who left Algiers by road with the Mission car N ° M 713.718 bound for CAIRE. From this date I assumed the functions of Head of Mission until 14/06/1943 date on which I was replaced by the Yugoslav attaché at the French General HQ (Commander RADOULOVIC.) From June 14, 1944 and until July 1, 1945 I served as manager of the Royal Yugoslav Mission and Interallied Liaison Officer. At the request of the Yugoslavian HQ in Cairo, I went to Cairo three times on the following dates: 20 30)

- 1 •) Departed Algiers on 23-3-44 by plane returned on 30-3-44 by plane
 - 2 •) Departed from Algiers on 24-9-44 by plane returned on 3 -10-44 by plane
 - 3 •) Departed from Algiers 24-II-44 in Auto returned 6-12-44 in Auto
- During the period or threw head of mission Mre

I bought a PACKARD 8340 AL5 Leguel Roadster was in poor condition and required major repairs, which were carried out in English workshops by Yugoslav soldiers.

Unable to get rid of this unsaleable car, I bought a Renault 14 hp Registration 5423 ALI5 but it was also tired and I had to have it repaired at my expense.

I bought a third car, a Ford I3 cv, during one of my missions to Casablanca. It is registered 5590 MA 8 (I have in my hands all the documents useful for registration in Algeria (customs clearance certificate etc ...))

This last car is under repair and I propose as soon as it is finished to sell the first two which I no longer need now.

I was traveling with these vehicles thanks to an authorization issued to me by the English and under N° M.5.321.801. of course with one car at a time.

I would like to point out that when I arrived in Cairo, the HQ paid me my pay and reminded me of the delay, that is to say of all the time that I spent in captivity. I exchanged this sum in Cairo for francs knowing that I was going to live in Algeria.

It is thanks to these funds that I can live. I will not go back to my country because, I am a Royalist by tradition and that currently the Yugoslav regime and contrary to my ideas and the teachings that I received since my childhood. I applied for an identity card to be authorized to reside in French territory, that is to say in Algeria where I would like to settle down and get a situation then get married. In addition, I plan to apply for my French naturalization one day. In the meantime I make a commitment to never get involved in politics and to continue the very modest life I lead here. In the apartment at 5 Rue Elisée Reclus which was that of the Mission and of which I have been the tenant since July 1, 1945.