

Sarajevo, World War Powder Keg Awaits Among Its Minarets For Battle With Axis Invaders

Influx of Refugee Jews Among Devout Mohammedans Causes Problem; Arabs as Brothers Arouse Sympathy

By ALVIN J. STEINKOPF

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia, April 12.—(Cable Correspondence of the Associated Press)—This Bosnian city, scene of the incident which touched off the World war, sits among its minarets and uneasily watches as the Nazi war machine drives closer.

It has felt bombs of the Germans and as for war it certainly knows all the arguments, pro and con, and the nervous city is unhappily disturbed by the conflicting issues which have torn Europe apart.

Sarajevo hears gunfire. Out in the picturesque hills which surround the old town, detachments of the Yugoslav army are waiting for the invaders. There is a black-out, the Serbs disturbed by warning planes which fly over . . . and over.

In Center of Problem.

Sarajevo is the geographical center of vastly complicated Balkan problems. And if this were not enough, the town—which looks like a picture in a book of fairy tales—is passing through a slow but apparently inevitable revolution of character. Spiritually, it is moving out of the Orient and out of the middle ages into modern Europe. The process, of course, is a strain on the old social machinery.

In crowds which poke around the glittering merchandise in the old bazaar, the Mohammedan women, to be sure, still wear veils. But under at least some of the veils are rouged cheeks and lips touched up with cosmetics.

In a street called Vojvode Stepe Strpanovic, I was startled when addressed in flawless German by a veiled woman who might have been 20 or 60. In one of the quieter coffee houses into which I was maneuvered adroitly, she threw back her veil. She was a young woman who had been present the day before when I visited a "modern" Mohammedan acquaintance. She had not worn the veil then.

She had used a lipstick well and wanted to know all about an English grammar.

"But why," I asked, "do you redden your lips and then hide them with a veil?"

"Because," she replied, "I thought I might meet you." Which seemed to be about as smart an answer as one could hope to hear in any of Europe's sophisticated capitals.

There is no dazzling speed about the changes taking place here. There couldn't be in a conservative town where muezzins sing out the Koran's call to prayer five times daily from 80 minarets. But the process definitely is under way, and the muezzins themselves talk about it when they climb down from their minarets to refresh themselves with Turkish coffee out of a kettle of beaten copper.

Not Particularly Proud

Sarajevo is not particularly proud of its dubious distinction of being the city which "started the World war." There are no monuments to Revolutionist Gavrilo Princip, the young Serb who shot the Austrian crown prince, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and the Archduchess Sophie on that fateful June 28, 1914.

There is nothing distinctive about his grave, which I was told "is visited only by Americans." His brother still lives in a village

nearby and is politically quite undistinguished.

The white Miljacka river still tumbles swiftly through the town, splashing over low concrete dams. One of the bridges across the stream has been named Prizip bridge, and a tablet on the wall of a photo shop there says in the Serb language: "Here was struck the blow" for Free Bosnia.

But that is all. There are no holidays on account of Prizip and on his bridge now loiter men wearing pointed Serbian shoes, all day long filling buck saws. They are hoping someone will buy a load of wood from the peasants whose ox carts are lined along the Miljacka. If someone buys, maybe the men with the buck saws can get a sawing job worth 20 or 30 dinars (about 45 to 70 cents).

Business Is Bad

Business is bad, they say, because wood costs too much and in wartime Yugoslavia is learning to burn its very soft lignite coal, which smokes terribly and makes the bottoms of kettles black with sooty soot.

My modern Mohammedan friend in his shop at the edge of the bazaar takes fine silver wire and with a skill which seems super-human weaves laces of exquisite beauty. He takes his length of stiff lace and places it on a strip of silver which he then thrusts into a little clay-lined oven which has been heated with charcoal. At the right moment he pulls it out, and there is the silver and lace fused, with the metal still to be seen as a delicate tracing. Then he makes bracelets which English tourists used to buy.

"One of our troubles," he says, "comes from the fact that more refugee Jews have come here than can be absorbed easily in this city of 80,000."

We have almost 11,000 Jews, a circumstance which leads to misunderstandings with the Mohammedan population. Then we are called "nazi-friendly" and even fifth columnists.

"But no. We realize that national socialism is a German invention, and we really don't think it is for us. What seems to be sympathy for German aspirations in the southeast is to be explained entirely on religious grounds.

Arabs Our Brothers

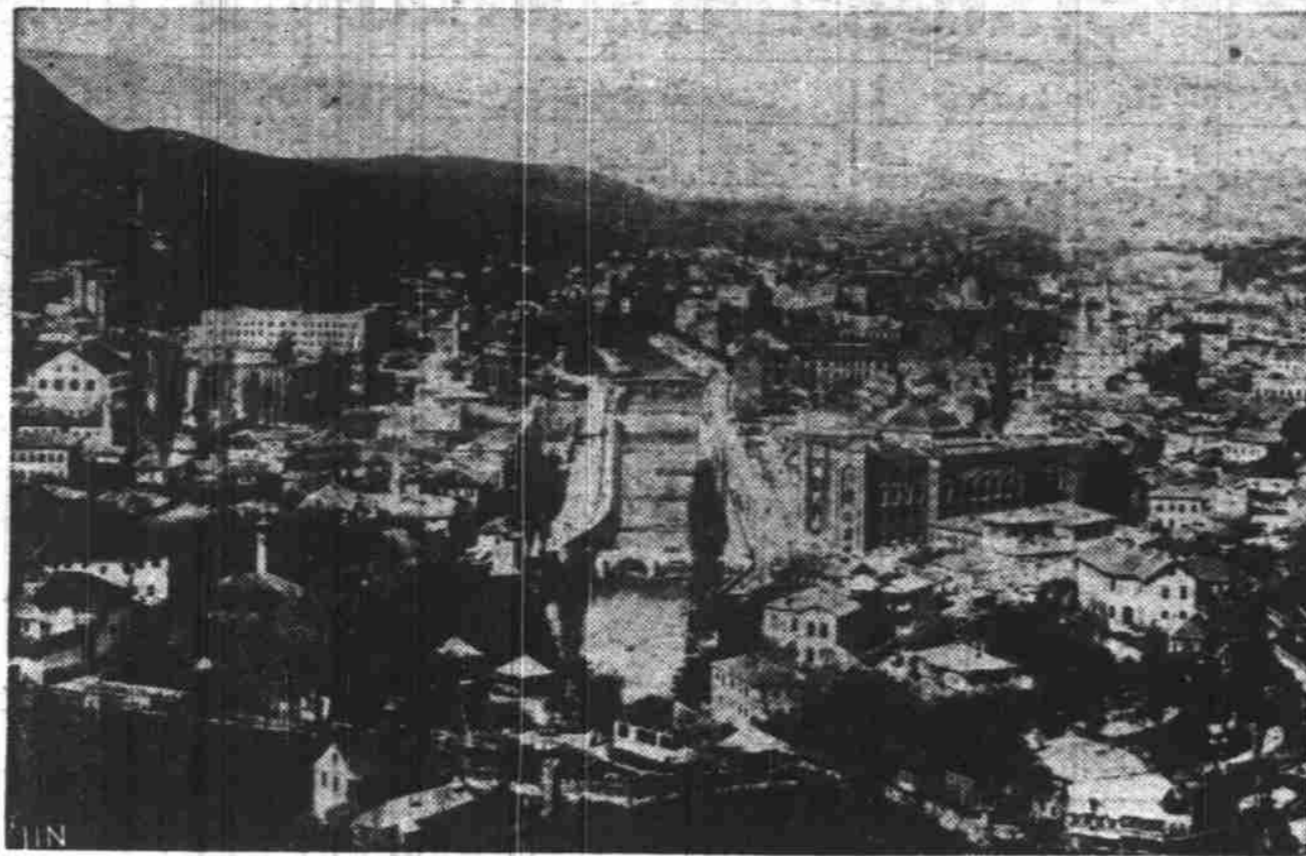
"The Arabs in Palestine are, as children of Allah, our brothers. In their difficult position they have found strong support in Germany, so it is only natural that with this phase of national socialist activity we should be sympathetic."

Every political breeze makes a little whirlwind in Sarajevo's narrow streets, in which rug merchants jostle against donkeys delivering milk.

There is a lively German element.

Many Jews are negotiating for visas. White Russians, after years of vain hopes, think something may happen in favor of their dim cause. Red Russians are taking new interest now that there is a Soviet legation in Belgrade.

Birthplace of First World War Under Fire



View of the city of Sarajevo

Half Million Payroll Seen In War Work

ASTORIA, April 12.—(AP)—Payrolls born of the national rearmament program will reach \$500,000 per month in the lower Columbia river area, a survey of contracts disclosed Friday.

This region is the locale for the most diversified military preparedness program in the state. Contracts calling for \$11,310,659 in expenditures hereabouts already are approved or executed.

The payroll of Fort Stevens, Camp Clatsop and the naval air base at Tongue Point currently reaches \$217,500 a month. The Fort Stevens payroll comes to \$67,500, that of Camp Clatsop \$70,000, while construction workers at Tongue Point draw about \$60,000, and the present navy and navy-supervised personnel draws about \$16,500. The latter figures of course will increase sharply when the base is put in commission.

By the time the Astoria Marine Construction company gets to work on four minesweepers for which it holds a \$1,320,000 contract, about 200 men will be paid close to \$40,000 a month.

When the navy begins work on pier No. 2 to create its \$250,000 section base, the contract job will bring between \$20,000 and \$25,000 in pay to workers.

Stimulated by the rearmament money, a \$120,000 sub-division of 20 new residences has started. The estimated monthly payroll will run around \$6400.

Reliable estimates are not available on the payroll that will accompany start of work by the Astoria Marine Iron Works on its \$1,000,000 contract to build 10 marine engines for merchant ships. It is expected to be large and there is a chance the firm may get a contract to construct some ships.

WPA projects, also connected with defense work, will add to the total particularly if the WPA pays prevailing wages for skilled work.

Frontier Surgery Used in Taking Steel From Eye

SPOKANE, April 12.—(AP)—Memories of a day when frontier surgery favored pushing an Indian arrow through the flesh instead of drawing it back through the wound were revived Thursday by Dr. Telford I. Moore when he extracted an eighth-inch long sliver of steel from Basil Hastings' eyeball.

The steel fragment, flying from a chisel he was using, penetrated the cornea of Hastings' eye and lodged in the center of the eyeball.

Dr. Moore, who said the technique was unusual but not new, cut away the tissue holding the eyeball, made a small incision at the back of the eye and placed a high-powered magnet against the back of the eyeball.

The physician said Hastings, who is 23, would be out of the hospital in 10 days, his eyesight unimpaired.

Courts Discover Blood Will Tell Says Prosecutor

PULLMAN, April 12.—(AP)—Courts of the nation are discovering that "blood will tell" when the defendant stands on his constitutional rights and refuses to give evidence against himself, Prosecutor C. C. Quackenbush of Spokane county informs northwest law enforcement men.

The prosecutor, speaking at a session of the Northwest Law Enforcement conference, added that many courts excluded such tests on grounds of improper identification and handling of blood specimens.

"In the negative sense blood tests are of vital worth in maternity, filiation, murder and neglect homicide cases," he said.

"It cannot be proved that blood is from a certain individual, but can be proved definitely that certain blood is not that of a certain individual."

Burglar Alarm On Poor Box Jails Thief

RICHMOND, Cal., April 12.—(AP)—After the poor box in St. Mark's church had been robbed several times last year, Father Richard A. O'Donnell rigged it up with a burglar alarm.

One night recently the alarm rang and Father O'Donnell, in the nearby pastor house notified police. A police car made a fast run and arrived as a man sprang out and down the street.

He was captured and booked as Fred Allen Wilson, 23, of Emeryville and charged with petty theft although the burglar alarm interrupted the burglary attempt and nothing was taken.

Police Captain E. Bengley said he learned from Oakland police the suspect had just been released from the Oakland jail for pilfering a poor box at another church.

Army Stymies Teeth-Pulling Draft Dodgers

BALTIMORE, April 12.—(AP)—From now on the dental draft dodgers will have to chew army steaks whether they like them or not—and without those teeth they discarded.

Lieut. Col. Amos R. Koontz, state medical director for the draft, said today that the DDD's are out of luck.

What they did, after being examined and rated physically fit for service, Col. Koontz explained, was to go to a dentist and have just enough teeth pulled to disqualify them by the army's standards.

One man, who had more than enough teeth when examined by his draft board physician, turned up at the army induction station without a single tooth in his upper jaw. There was nothing the army could do but turn him down.

Now, Lieut. Col. Henry C. Stanwood, selective service executive for Maryland, has received word from Washington that the physical requirements in such cases have been waived by the war department.

The effect of the new regulation is that anyone who had sufficient teeth when examined and selected for service will get a uniform whether he shows up at the induction station with all his teeth or one.

The war department, said Col. Stanwood, simply put teeth into the law.

Circus Fat Lady Operation Bust As Bed Breaks

TAMPA, Fla., April 12.—(AP)—The operation to remove some 100 of the 800 pounds of Mrs. Ruth Pontico, jovial carnival fat lady, has been postponed—the delay being an engineering rather than a surgical problem.

The standard hospital bed into which she attempted to climb at Tampa Municipal hospital a few minutes before an anesthetic was to be administered collapsed, and there she sat, helpless but unhurt.

Doctors arrived quickly, however, and after examination said her pulse had increased to the point where they thought it best to call the whole thing off for the time being.

"We might try again soon," said Mrs. Pontico, resting in her own bed which had been moved in. It has four by four cross pieces and springs that would float a truck.

"I don't know how much the doctor is going to take away," she said, "but it probably will be from my legs and possibly my abdomen."

Once she went on a reducing diet, she said, but gained nine pounds in four days and gave it up.

Thieves Steal Evidence

FOREST CITY, Ark., April 12.—(AP)—Francis county sheriff's deputies recently recovered a quantity of stolen merchandise, held it in the sheriff's office as evidence. Now they'll have to do it over again.

Thieves broke into the office, stole the once-stolen goods.

Queer Things Recorded by Screw News

NEW YORK, April 11.—(AP)—If you want to make some big money in your spare time, just buy into some straitjacket stock and padded-cell preferred, because the nation is going nuts. At least that's the rather inevitable impression to be gained from last week's national monkeyshine marathon. The play by play:

Some Washingtonians placed on sale a purported hunk of George III's bread. . . . The Salvation Army started making patriotic doughnuts with star holes. . . . and in New York, a Civil war drummer boy was charged with stealing a three-ton paper cutting machine. . . .

A circus fat lady in Tampa, Fla., started reducing because she weighed too much even to be a circus fat lady (800 lbs.) . . . A Los Angeles holdup man robbed a trolley motorman of \$16—and then demanded a transfer. . . . and a Ft. Custer, Mich., soldier gave the government back \$10, explaining he thought he'd been eating more than his share.

An Asheville, N. C., judge ruled that an apple could be a deadly weapon (page Eve!) . . . A Miami judge sentenced two crap shooters to a minute in jail. . . . and when a ferry gatekeeper slammed the barrier in a New York commuter's face, the commuter went to a bakery, bought a lemon pie, and slammed it in the gatekeeper's face. . . .

A Chicago police station, robbed twice, installed a burglar alarm. . . . residents of Oxfordville, Wis., noted approval of the sale of liquor but refused to sanction beer. . . . and when a Wilson, N.C. political candidate went to vote for himself, he discovered that he's forgotten to register. . . .

A citizen of Birmingham, Ala., bawled out the police for dumping some seized liquor where his goat got hold of it and contracted a hangover. . . .

On April Fool's day, a Chicago man found a pocketbook—with \$250 in it. . . . and an Olyphant, Pa., policeman, after quitting the force in a huff, continued pounding a beat, explaining that he wanted to wear out his uniform.

And an Augusta, Ga., pencil salesman succeeded in training a duck to take the pencils to the customers and bring the money back.

Flight Surgeons, "Doctors of The Air," Serve US Army in Keeping Tired Pilots Safe

Science of Aviation Medicine Grows More Important as Thousands Try for Wings in National Defense

RANDOLPH FIELD, Tex., April 12.—(AP)—The science of aviation medicine is terminating the flying careers of some old-timers in the army air corps to improve safety records aloft.

Flight surgeons can tell when a man has passed his peak, and his "reaction time" has lengthened dangerously.

The flight surgeon stays in the background, but he has two important jobs:

First, to protect every pilot's life.

Second, to protect the government's tremendous cash investment in each man, for it costs \$40,000 to complete the training of a single flyer.

Young Men Dot Skies

Today, goggled, wind-burned young men dot the Texas and the nation's skies by hundreds, yes thousands.

Around 400 enroll at this "West Point of the Air" every five weeks.

Some of them die trying to learn to be aviators, but most of them live to be commissioned officers.

To the flight surgeon, assigned to the job of preventing crashes, only two causes are listed for what is called in military parlance "termination of a flyer's usefulness" and what is more generally known as death or disabling injury. These causes are:

- 1. Failure of engine or plane. 2. Failure of pilot.

Only eight per cent of flyers are lost because of the shortcomings of aircraft, the air corps figures, while "the usefulness" of 92 per cent is "terminated" by faulty judgment on the part of the pilot. Whether he be student or veteran.

Thinks Ways and Means

Kindly Lt. Col. Fabian L. Scott, commandant of the school of aviation medicine at Randolph field, is one of the officers in charge of thinking up ways and means to reduce that 92 per cent—primarily by seeing that men with innate flying ability are selected for training, and that experienced officers no longer physically fit are taken off flying.

Bitter experience taught the air corps that after years of

continuous flying, the flier begins to show signs of deterioration, particularly in middle age. The economical thing to do, at this point, is to relieve him temporarily from active flying, flight surgeons decided.

Upon graduation, the flight surgeon is eligible to examine candidates for flying officers and supervise the rigid physical examinations they must pass twice a year to remain in the air.

The flight surgeon lives in close touch with his pilots; is trained to diagnose the occupational ills which result from flying, so he knows when to institute periods of rest, recreation and temporary excuse from duty.

Unlike most physicians, he deals constantly with men who wish to conceal all physical difficulties because they fear they will be grounded.

Personality, experience and diagnostic ability are required of these doctors of the air.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 12.—(AP)—Madge Howe of the University of Utah, might well be the envy of any woman.

For Madge has a "date," four times a week with six lieutenant colonels; 20 majors; 43 captains, and 192 first and second lieutenants—and they can't speak till they're spoken to.

It all began when flying officers at Fort Douglas received an order that "henceforth all air corps officers must be able to converse intelligibly in the Spanish language."

Madge—"About 30 and a cute blonde,"—according to officers testimony—is a Spanish instructor at the University of Utah where the men have enrolled.

Physical evidence of group affection for teacher came last week. The boys brought her a shiny red apple.

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