

Chetnicks

Armed groups of Serb fighters who were active in Yugoslavia during the German occupation, from 1941--1945. Their goal was to return Yugoslavia's (Serb) royal family to power.

The Chetnicks began their activities soon after Yugoslavia succumbed to Germany in April 1941. They participated in the Yugoslav revolt against the Germans in the summer of that year, and even cooperated with the partisans under the leadership of Tito. However, after the revolt was brutally suppressed, the Chetnicks decided that there was no point in fighting the Germans, because the struggle was hopeless and unattainable. Their most important conclusion was that the real enemy was not Germany, but rather the pro-Communist partisans, who would attempt to take over Yugoslavia after the war. Therefore, the Chetnicks turned on the partisans. They even collaborated with their former enemies, the Germans and Italians, against the partisans.

When the Chetnicks began cooperating with the occupying forces, any Jews among their ranks left. There were even instances where the Chetnicks killed Jews or surrendered them to the Germans.

After the war, most of the Chetnicks were caught and executed.