

Pregledni rad

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JANKO JANKOVIĆ (1909 – 1944) – THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN THE SPECIAL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Abstract: This paper analyzes the life and activities of Janko Janković, head of a card files of the IV Anti-Communist Division, the Special Police Department. Janko Janković was originally a Kragujevac resident, where he received his elementary education, after which he moved to Belgrade and started working in the Belgrade City Administration. He first worked as the chief of the General Police department card file, and from 1941 he was transferred to the same position in the Special Police Department. Almost simultaneously, he connected with the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia for Serbia and began to inform them of the activities and plans of the Anti-Communist Division of Belgrade City Administration. He actively cooperated with the Communist movement until early October 1943, when he was discovered and arrested, and then executed by shooting on April 27, 1944, in Marinkova bara. It is believed that he helped about 2000 people with his activity. In the paper we tried to objectively analyze his position and activities from the angle of historical science.

Key words: Janko Janković, agent, Belgrade City Administration, Special Police Department, Communist Party of Yugoslavia, Anti-Communist Division

FORMING THE SPECIAL POLICE DEPARTMENT IN BELGRADE

The Belgrade City Administration, which existed during the Second World War, represented the continuation of development of this institution throughout the 19th and 20th century. The initiator of the function of Belgrade City Administration is considered to be Jakov Nenadović, who served as commander of the town of Belgrade in 1806/1807. He also performed tasks within the

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administrative and police field (Božović 1995: 22). The continuity of this institution existed since 1828, and in 1870 the name, Belgrade Town Administration, was officially introduced. The institution continued to exist after the First World War, and immediately after its liberation had two departments: administration and traffic. The structure of Belgrade City Administration was upgraded by a separate regulation, when, in addition to the existing two, two new departments were established: the Public Security Department and the General Police Department (Božović 1995: 23).

The turning point in the work of City Administration was the publication of the "Obznana" from December 29, 1920, by which it was decided to put the Communist movement out of law. The City Administration was assigned the task of carrying out repressive measures against Communists and their followers (Božović 1995: 231). The Law on the Protection of Public Safety and Order in the Country, passed 7 months later, further sanctioned the provisions prescribed by the "Obznana". During the sixth January dictatorship, more precisely, on January 14, 1930, a regulation with legal force on Belgrade City Administration in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was passed. By this regulation it was established that Belgrade City Administration covers the territories of the municipalities of Belgrade, Zemun and Pančevo, and a new division into departments was established, so there were following departments: Administration, General Police Department (this department played the role of political police), Criminal Police Department, Traffic Police Department and Technical Police Department. The administration was subordinated to the Minister of Internal Affairs (Božović 2014: 30). Regardless of the political changes that took place in the meantime, this structure continued to function until the outbreak of the Second World War. The main police prison, known as "Glavnjača" was located in today's Student Square (now there is the building of Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics), and had two yards, one for criminals and the other for political prisoners, most of which were Communists. Every quart also had its own prison (Božović 2014: 30).

The government of Milan Stojadinović, and the change of foreign policy orientation towards Germany and Italy, among other things, led to the cooperation of the City Administration and the German police. In 1937, an official co-operation agreement was reached, followed by an exchange of police delegates between Yugoslavia and Germany. German intelligence had since started operating in Yugoslavia, among them the most influence had Hans Helm, the Gestapo officer, and Karl Kraus, the SS major, one of the espionage organizer (Božović 1995: 203). After the fall of Milan Stojadinović's government, that influence will diminish, but will continue to exist, to escalate at the beginning of the Second World War.

After the bombing of Belgrade on April 6, 1941, the City Administration ceased to function, where the chaos took place, and the city was ruled by

lawlessness until the arrival of the Germans (Bozovic 2014: 30). This situation lasted for a short time, because the appointment of Drago Jovanović took place on April 21, former Assistant of the Belgrade City Administration and adviser of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, appointed for Belgrade's "extraordinary commissioner". The jurisdiction of the Belgrade Police was re-established, and the order formalized on the 25th of April stipulated the organization and scope of work. The Belgrade Police consisted of three departments: Administration, Special Police and Criminal Police. Besides these three departments there were also local police, police guards; Assembly of police agents and 7 police quarts in the city.¹

The Special Police Department played a particularly important role, it existed even before the war when it performed the function of the political police, only under the different name "The General Police Department". The name was changed because of psychological effect it was supposed to provoke in the population, that is, the tendency to frighten, and the primary task of this police force was to fight the communist movement.² The first chief to be appointed was Miroslav Jovanović, pre-war chief of the General Police Department with many years of experience, who immediately joined the organization of the Special Police Department according to the special "Schedule of work in the Special Police Department of the Belgrade City Administration". He appointed police commissioner Anđelko Božinović as his deputy, while entrusting Borivoje Mitrović with conducting administrative affairs, managing checkouts and conducting investigations. He appointed Janko Janković as the head of the card files, and Paksval Bogdanović, the clerk, to prepare and submit daily and periodic reports of the department. A Jewish Department was established, entrusted to Jovan Nikolić and Nikola Nikolić. The supervision over dissolved political parties was assigned to the clerk Josif Vučinić, and the control of societies and associations as well as the press to Radosav Stožinić and Aleksandar Jelovac. Kazimir Magašić and Đura Tripković were in charge for suppressing foreign propaganda and checking and detaining persons at the request of German authorities. Žarko Marković was appointed to manage the affairs of reporting and deregistration of foreigners (Božović 2014: 61).

The leadership of the largest group of the Special Police Department was entrusted to the clerk, Božidar Bećarević. Its job was: suppressing communist action and propaganda, as well as arresting and punishing sympathizers and members of the Communist Party. He was assisted by clerk Stevan Šterić, political-administrative trainee Radoslav Radan Grujčić, administrative-office clerk Branislav Božić, while managing the agents was assigned to acting deputy of police agents Miodrag Milenković (Božović 2014: 61). The main activities of the

1 HAB, II-1/29, B-4, The Collection of Commands and Instructions no. 1, 1941

2 HAB, MG-626/4224, The Subject of Sergej Golubjev

Special Police Department in practice were to detect and to arrest Communists, as well as to interrogate them, in which they had “untied hands”, while the Gestapo played a decisive role in the interrogation of Jewish people and members of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Police activity was aimed at collecting data on Communists in Belgrade and their activity during the March demonstrations, as well as holding them during the April bombing.

For the Special Police Department it did not go in favor that after the March demonstration, the Central Police card file of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was destroyed, in which there was a large amount of information on the previously arrested and investigated Communists. A number of Communists were also released from prison before the April bombing began. All this was the initiative of then Minister of Internal Affairs, Srđan Budisavljević, who had sympathy for the Communist movement (edited by Čubrilović 1974: 511). The burning of the card files as well as the release of imprisoned Communists made the Special Police Department investigation much more difficult.

One of the turning points in the attitude towards the Communists was the Third Reich’s attack on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. After this, police began a thorough search for the Communists on the streets of Belgrade. This is where the IV so-called the Special Police Department Anti-Communist Division preceded, as well as the Division IV – and Gestapo headed by Eric Vinek (Petranović 1988: 57). A concentration camp was soon opened in Banjica, in which a first group of arrested and suspicious Communists were closed on July 9, 1941 (Petranović 1992: 329).

The Communists were trying to get in the Special Police Department orders, the Gestapo and other services in order to find out information by “recruiting” some of the employees who had sympathy for their work or opposed the occupying regime. In the Russian Defense Corps, the Communist Party man was Vlada Mirković. Toma Devald, a member of the German national minority “Volksdeutsche”, sent notices of SS troops’ movement.³ The Communists had links with Cvetko Crnjak, a police officer who worked in Zemun and cooperated with the local committee there. His task was to provide the Communists with the necessary passes and other permits necessary to cross the Zemun bridge illegally.⁴ They also received information from the Mitrović brothers from the police.

One of the most important links that the Communist Party was able to make was certainly the connection with its clerk, Janko Janković, chief of the card files of the IV Anti-Communist Division. The relation was first kept by Aleksandar Ranković and Đuro Strugar, and after the departure of Aleksandar Ranković from Serbia, a new secretary of the Provincial Committee for Serbia,

3 Ibid.

4 HAB, 3252/ D-XXXI-1182, Hearing of Cvetko Crnjak

Blagoje Nešković and Branislav Brana Perović, as his courier, took over the relation as strictly confidential. After Blagoje Nešković's departure to free territory in 1943, Petar Stambolić and Vera Miletić took over.

On the other hand, this "war" was two-way, and it was often the case that the Special Police Department also "recruited" some of the captured Communists who would agree to work for them and provide information. Thus, in one of the biggest "break-in", Vera Miletić was also arrested, who then revealed her relation with Janko Janković.

Janko Janković was arrested on October 18, 1943 by the Special Police Department. After interrogation by the Special Police Department and the Gestapo, he was interned at Banjica and then taken to execution on April 27, 1944.⁵

JANKO JANKOVIĆ – YOUTH AND CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF YUGOSLAVIA

Janko Janković was born on August 26, 1909 in Kragujevac to father Čedomir and mother Stojna.⁶ His family was numerous, and according to his son, there were reports that it had as many as 19 children, which is unlikely, but it is certain that Janko was the youngest child to survive.⁷ His father Čedomir was a master turner at the Military Technical Institute in Kragujevac, and his mother Stojna was a housewife (Popovski 1954: 5). Čedomir was originally from Uzice, from there he moved to Kragujevac, in a neighborhood called Erlija. According to contemporaries' testimonies, he was a supporter of the Socialist movement (Popovski 1954: 5). Mother Stojna was from Vučitrn. The family had been living in difficult financial conditions from the beginning, and the situation was further aggravated when Čedomir perished during the First World War, after which Stojna was forced to support her multi-member family. More anecdotes have been preserved about Janko's childhood, but there is relatively little historical data.

According to the records, he was not a good student, he repeated the sixth grade, and by behavior he was a lout prone to mischief. At the same time he was very active in sports and was a very good football player. He played for the Šumadija sports club, the sports society founded in Kragujevac in 1903.⁸ Janko joined this club in 1924, at the initiative of Milan Ćirić, who brought him to the club on the left wing position in the youth team (Popovski 1954: 9).

5 HAB, 3309/d-XXXII-1237, Hearing of Janko Janković, 1.

6 Ibid.

7 Interview with Dragan Janković, conducted on November 9, 2019

8 Interview with Dragan Janković, conducted on November 9, 2019

Šumadija was the highly regarded club at that time, being the champion of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in 1924/1925. (*Politika Ekspres*, 10/29/1980: 18). Since he was extremely poor, the Šumadija Club also financially supported him and thus aided his education.⁹ Janko Janković, however, was very dedicated to the club he played in, and his character is best evidenced by the following anecdote:

“Šumadija headed to Niš, where it was supposed to play a very important game with the local club ‘Sindelić’. On the way there, Janko caught cold and started vomiting in the train. At that time, especially the provincial clubs, did not have any backup players. Someone suggests calling any player from Kragujevac. Janko did not let anyone to call because he would probably be able to play. However, his condition was getting worse. What to do? Now it was too late for anyone to call. An hour before the game, Janko still decides to play. He was pale. However, when he stepped out onto the field, it looked like he got well. He played very well throughout the game and scored two goals. Immediately upon completion, he lay down, a fever shook him. ‘How the hell could you play?’

‘I decided to endure the pain, because I couldn’t fail my friends!’” (Popovski 1954: 10)

Due to his talent, Janko Janković was noticed and invited in 1928 as a student of the 6th grade by the Belgrade Sports Club (BSK).¹⁰ At BSK, well-known players such as Aleksandar Tirananić and Moša Marijanović played at that time, and Janko had an opportunity to play from the bench (he played four games for the BSK from bench), and in the first team. However, he did not stay in Belgrade for a long time, as he had to return to Kragujevac because of continuation of education and at the request of his club “Šumadija”.¹¹ Last match with BSK, Janko played against “Viktorija” from Požarevac on August 4, 1929 ended in a draw (Popovski 1954: 10). According to the testimony of his older brother Momčilo, between mid-September and the end of November 1929, Janko stayed in Warsaw, Poland, where he played for the famous Polonia club and achieved remarkable results (Popovski 1954: 10).

While in Belgrade, Janko first met Blagoje Nešković, the future secretary of the Provincial Committee (PC) for Serbia, and a medical student at that time:

“Upon arrival in Belgrade, among other Kragujevac residents, I met at the BSK playground some Boro Nešković, student of law, who on that occasion introduced me to his older brother Blagoje Nešković, a medical student. I met with them on the playground several times, and we were also 2-3 times in Belgrade clubs with extended circle of friends. I was seeing them on the corso at that time.”¹²

9 HAB, 3309/d-XXXII-1237, Hearing of Janko Janković, 2.

10 HAB, 3309/d-XXXII-1237, Hearing of Janko Janković, 2; Interview with Dragan Janković, conducted on November 9, 2019

11 HAB, 3309/d-XXXII-1237, Hearing of Janko Janković, 2.

12 Ibid.

Janko Janković finished elementary school and six grades of high school in Kragujevac. After completing sixth grade due to difficult material conditions in which he lived, Janko moved to Belgrade, where he was appointed as a clerk of the General State Hospital, where he worked from April 6 to September 15, 1929 (Popovski 1954: 10).

Janko was in military service in Niš corpus from 2 January 1932 to 2 February 1933 when he was transferred to Skopje. He returned from the army at the end of 1933 and immediately after that he was able to get a job in the Belgrade City Administration, assisted by some of his fellow citizens (*Politika Ekspers*, October 29, 1890: 18). He was employed as a clerk in the Criminal Police Department on 28 October 1934. Janko Janković married teacher Stojanka Stefanović from Valjevo, on August 13, 1936, with whom he had son Dragan in 1937 (Popovski 1954: 11).

According to contemporary's testimony, Janko Janković was extremely influenced by the family tragedy that happened on Christmas Eve 1938. Janko unintentionally fatally wounded his wife while cleaning a gun in the next room. Not knowing that the bullet was stuck in the barrel, Janko fired his gun again, and a stray bullet went through the door of another room where he hit his wife, who was pregnant at that time. The incident happened in Valjevo, he urgently transferred his wife to Belgrade, but she died very quickly from the consequences of sepsis.¹³ Janko was marked by this tragedy forever, after that he did not remarry but took care of his son, and his mother-in-law helped him. They lived in Milan Rakić Street, 28 at Zvezdara.¹⁴ Dragan remembers his father as strict and demanding towards him, but also as righteous.¹⁵

Janko Janković connected with the CPY through his cousin Nemanja Marković. Janko Janković's father was the birth brother of Nemanja Marković's mother, and the two of them were brothers in this line. With his cousins from Kragujevac Janko was very close, especially hanging out with Vojo Marković (Nemanja Marković's brother), an engineering student in Belgrade. They were inseparable friends at that time, and Voja Marković was sympathetic to the CPY (otherwise, he was executed by shooting in Kragujevac on October 20, 1941 as a Communist).¹⁶ In 1939, Janko had already started doing services to the Communist Party, when illegal material was to be transferred at the Railway Station, Janko was waiting for the courier and was carrying it out (*Politika Ekspres*, October 30, 1980: 18). When Nemanja Marković was coming to Belgrade to stay illegally with Janko Janković, this had an additional effect on him as well.

13 Interview with Dragan Janković, conducted on November 9, 2019

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

16 IAN, K-124c, Statement of Nemanja Marković about Janko Janković, 1978, 1.

“Janko lived in Knez Mihailova Street at that time, I came there and I have to say that I felt very fine there. I was five or six years younger than Janko, but I was in some way an authority to him. He knew that I was a Communist, and whenever he and I came together he, my brother Voja, who was a Communist but was not yet a member of the Party, and some of our relatives, they always asked me to tell them the news, that is, to give them an assessment of the international and domestic political situation of the Communist Party on these issues. They always listened with great attention. Janko was always happy whenever I occasionally came to Belgrade.”¹⁷

The connection with the Communist movement and the role of Janko Janković became significant when Janko was transferred to the General Police Department of the Belgrade City Administration, known as the Political Police. Janko worked in the Criminal Police Department until the spring of 1940 and was not at all impressed by the idea of working in the Political Police.

“One morning, Janko came home very depressed. I have never seen him in my life with such a desperate look on his face. And it took me a few minutes so I could get him to tell me what had happened to him that day. Eventually he told me, ‘They are forcing me to go to the Political Police.’ „So, what did you tell them?’ ‘I told them that I would think about it, and I was looking at every possible way to get out, not to go to the Political Police, the so-called Anti-Communist Division.’

The next moment, although of course I could not be quite aware of what that would mean, I told him: ‘Listen Janko, accept this proposal and go to the Political Police’. To this he said to me, ‘What! And to fight the Communists so you spit on me later.’ ‘I said, ‘Not that, but in that way you’re going to work for us, for the Communist Party.’ ‘How can I work for you, so will your people trust me?’ I said, ‘If they trust me they will trust you, too.’ He thought deeply for a moment, blushing all over his face, ‘Are you seriously saying this?’ Janko told me, I said: ‘Yes, quite seriously, and therefore,’ I say, ‘do not declare your consent to work there tomorrow, but stay as you have already said you will think for a few days, so after four to five days you tell them that you after all decided to go to the Political Police’.”¹⁸

We do not know how accurate this conversation really was, given that the memories were written much later, but the fact is that Janko hesitated about this decision and eventually accepted to go in the Anti-Communist Division. At that point, six officers and 45 agents were working in the Division, led by Svetozar Vujković. Immediately afterwards, Janko Janković also connected with the Provincial Committee for Serbia. In addition to the influence of Nemanja Marković, the decisive role was played by the fact that Janko Janković’s sister, Bosa Đorđević, was also associated with the Communists.¹⁹

17 Ibid, 3.

18 Ibid, 4.

19 Bosa Đorđević’s mother, Leposava, and Janko’s father, Čedomir, were born brother and sister. Bosa joined the Communist Movement in 1937, while her husband, Pavle Đorđević, was an engineer and officer of the former Yugoslav Army, working in Kragujevac, where his

She joined the Communist movement before 1937, and her apartment at 13 Vela Nigrin Street served as a party shelter.²⁰

“A large number of illegal party workers were coming to our apartment. At first it was Đuro Strugar, with whom Uncle Janko was in extremely good relations and was desperate when Đuro was arrested. Besides Strugar dr. Blagoje Nešković came to us on several occasions, then Brana Perović, Petar Stambolić, and during 1943 Vera Miletić as well.”²¹

Spasenija Cana Babović also was coming round the apartment, who actually invited Nemanja Marković to come to Belgrade from Kragujevac, and later suggested Nemanja to bring Janko Janković to that apartment to meet each other.²² Spasenija Cana Babović was also Janko Janković’s first connection to the CPY. There are also opinions that she actually had a crucial influence on accepting Janko to work for the CPY, though it is certainly clear that the Marković family had a very big influence on Janko.

According to Nemanja Marković’s memories, he was the one who, on his return to Kragujevac, first conveyed to Moma Marković, a member of the Provincial Committee at that time, the idea that Janko Janković worked for the PC. Moma Marković conveyed this to the Provincial Committee, after which Spasenija Babović told Nemanja Marković to come to Belgrade and to say to Janko Janković to come to Bosa Đorđević’s apartment.

“I told Janko to come to my sister - Bosa Đorđević apartment since she was his sister from uncle, and Cana knew my sister very well from 1936-1937 when my sister worked in the women’s movement, she was the president of the women’s movement in Kragujevac. When I told him he had to go to Bosa, that he was going to get a party connection, he said to me, ‘Just make sure there is no one to discover me on the first slap’.

family lived until 1937. After a short stay in Skopje and Vreoci, the family moved to Belgrade in 1940. Pavle Đorđević spent the Second World War in captivity in Germany and had no interest in the Communist movement. Upon his release, he was the Yugoslav People’s Army officer, retired as a colonel. Bosa Đorđević cooperated with the illegal movement, which is why she was arrested and resided in the Banja Luka concentration camp from October 15, 1943 until October 1944. She died in Belgrade in 1975. (IAB, K-124, Memories of Ljiljana Đorević, 1.)

20 HAB, K-124, Memories of Ljiljana Đorević, 1.

21 HAB, K-124, Memories of Ljiljana Đorević, 1.

22 Nemanja Marković became a member of the CPY since 1937. Since the winter of 1939/1940 the police wanted to intern him in the Bileća concentration camp, he escaped and hid for a short time in Kragujevac. About thirty days later, a dispatch from “Aunt” arrived (illegally nickname of Spasenija Cana Babović, a member of the CPY Provincial Committee for Serbia) to come to the apartment of her sister Bosa Đorđević. Cana knew Bosa very well and many times used her apartment as a safe shelter because it was an important party checkpoint where Communist executives used to come (*Politika ekspres*, October 30, 1980: 18).

'No, I say - you will get someone on the connection' - I say - 'who already has a proven police posture'. 'Is that so?' 'That's right' - I said - and he came up to my sister and we connected Janko and Cana, in the room next to the street in my sister's apartment. I immediately retired, said goodbye and left. That's how Janko started working for the Party.²³

The Communist Party had been very cautious when it comes to choosing its connections, especially those in the police force. The Provincial Committee initially had suspicion of Janko Janković, fearing that he would be used by the Special Police Department, to put him among the Communists. This caution was justified, given that police often sought to engage the Party through recruited members and that it was a great danger to the Communist movement. An additional suspicion must have been raised by the fact that Janko Janković, who was the godfather of Božidar Bećarević, later the notorious head of the Anti-Communist Division. From the very beginning, about the relationship with Janko Janković knew a very narrow circle of people in the party leadership.

THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN THE SPECIAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Janko Janković connected with the Provincial Committee in 1940, although he performed certain services for the CPY and in 1939 mostly like courier. His pre-war action was to report about the blockades of certain areas in Belgrade, as well as the detention of arrested Communists in the police force.²⁴ One of the first actions was to deliver the regulation to the Provincial Committee for Serbia, about establishing communist labor camps. The idea of forming a camp came from the time of the Milan Stojadinović's government (Bozović 1995: 229). The Cvetković-Maček government had implemented a regulation calling on the Communists for a "military training" and in reality sending them to labor camps in the vicinity of Ivanjica, Smederevska Palanka, Kučevo for forced labor (Popovski 1954: 16). The Ministry of Internal Affairs forwarded this regulation to the Belgrade City Administration, which was expected to help implement the idea. Janko Janković informed the Communist Party of this regulation, which then issued a leaflet warning his members not to go to the training (Popovski 1954: 16).

However, the activities of Janko Janković became important with the outbreak of the Second World War, and especially after June 22, 1941, when the policy towards the Communists was tightened.

The first major raid of the Special Police Department was in September and early October 1941, when members of the Party's Local Committee were detained and arrested, led by Secretary Miloš Matijević Mrša. Members of the

23 IAB, K-124c, Statement of Nemanja Marković on Janko Janković, 1978, 5.

24 Ibid.

Local Committee Vukica Mitrović, David Pajić, Miloš Mamić, Voja Leković, Luka Šunka and Đuro Strugar, who at that time was the link between Janko Janković and the Communist Party, were also arrested in the raid. Đuro Strugar was wounded in the leg during his arrest and then beaten violently in the Special Police Department in order to reveal his connections. Đuro Strugar did not betray anyone, including Janko Janković, who had a difficult time suffering from having to watch his torture.

“It was half-dark. Đuro, all mutilated by the beating, was curled up in a corner. He didn’t even move when the door opened.

Janko was heartrending.

-Đuro!-said in a trembling voice. – It is me, Janko!

Đura barely moved his head. A smile shined in his eyes.

-You! Why did you come?- he asked him with an effort.

-Let’s run! I brought two revolvers. We will break through.

Đuro tried to turn around a little bit. Janko approached to help him.

-Listen!- and Strugar looked at him with his smart eyes, in which there was still life and strength.-You have your assignment. You must never forget it. The fight is just beginning. The life must go on. F... it. I don’t have much life strength in me. But you must fight! You must not leave your place! Assignment as well. There will be more difficulties and casualties.

Janko couldn’t hold back his tears.

-Đuro...

-To persist must despite anything.

Footsteps are heard in the hallway. Janko stood up and wiped his eyes.

-Say goodbye to your friends and bravely go forward!- and then Đuro’s head fell down.

-What is it, Janko?- Asked Grujić, who was standing at the door.

-He is still unconscious- Janko answered and got out of the cell.” (Popovski 1954: 45)

This is romanticized review, created after the war about the Special Police Department events. Although written in an apologetic tone, it is quite certain that Janko Janković was heartrending if the person he knew was arrested. Especially one could never know who and when will he give in to the police torture.

The psychophysical torture in the Special Police Department was very cruel, and it was a rule that the more important a personality of the illegal movement was, the more severe he was treated. The agents sought to find out the connections and plans of the illegal movement, and they also searched for the party technique.

“Whoever enters the Glavnjača does not come out as an honest man. The only questioning in Glavnjača is: ‘tell who is your “higher” and who is your “lower” connection, when and where you have a meeting with it, etc.’ [...] Everyone arrested, no matter why he was charged, whether a functionary, a regular member or a sympathizer of the Party, was asked to choose: either beat him and then executed him by shooting

or to accept to 'cooperate' with them - to be a spy. In this way, they were able to recruit all the aforementioned known spies and provocateurs- traitors. On the one hand they cut off their heads and on the other hand get rid of the provocateurs. The provocateurs work very skillfully. They do not denounce those whose work would immediately point to them, but those with whom their acquaintances and friends have any political connections."²⁵

On the other hand, the arrested illegals knew what kind of treatment awaited them if they came into the hands of the police. Most often, their tactics were to give information about the people they were out of police reach (often already sent to squads or already killed), so such confessions could not have harmed them. So, they tried to talk about what happened or had already been known, limiting themselves to their personal work, not to mention others (Božović 2014: 435). Of course, there were those who could not stand the very cruel torture in the Special Police Department, so they gave everything they knew, even agreed to work for the police and denounce their former party mates (Božović 2014: 496). To the Party they were traitors, to whom it could not be forgiven, and for those people, who had agreed to work for the police, the PC was ordering liquidations.²⁶

Janko Janković's information about how individuals were being held in the Special Police Department was of great importance to the Party, which, according to the obtained information, could protect members and sympathizers, for which the police would hear from the interrogated people. He also made lists of persons to be arrested, more important announcements and reports. One of the ways of helping the National Liberation Movement was that Janko Janković gave the compromised illegals a blank apartment application form so that they had neatly filed lists that were not entered in the central registration records, thus avoiding data entry.²⁷ As the head of the card file cabinet, he had access to the documents, because nothing could leave the section without his signature. He also enjoyed confidence in the Special Police Department because he had been employed there before the war, and was the godfather and countryman of Božidar Bećarević. Thanks to Janko Janković, secretary of the PC for Serbia, Blagoje Nešković was managing to find out who was arrested and when someone was arrested, thus accordingly organized and changed courier meetings.

Janko Janković often brought hearings of arrested persons, which showed what they had told on. On the other hand, he sought to help the arrested as much as possible by suggesting what to say during the hearing. Contemporaries' memories also speak of this segment of Janko Janković's work.

Stojanović Svetomir in his memories of Janko Janković says:

25 HAB, 1773/D-IV-218, Transcript from the report of the PC Serbia CC of CPY from June 1943, 5.

26 Ibid.

27 HAB, K-IV/124k, Statement of Radmila Delić on Janko Janković, 1.

“My first encounter with him was during my last hearing with Department Chief Radan Grujičić. During the hearing, Grujičić was beating me with a group of agents, and at that moment Janko came in, probably with some official job demanding that they take me out or that they go out so he can ask Grujičić something official. They all went out, and I stayed alone in the office, all bloody beaten up, and after five minutes he came in and said to me, ‘Sveto, your people are fine, and you just go on like this, I believe we will save your head’. After that, Grujičić came in, Janko started grudging me before Grujičić, calling me all kinds of names, which at that moment his reorientation towards me was incomprehensible, and which was later made clear to me.”²⁸

Janko Janković used the opportunity if he could give verbal support to the arrested Communists, which was a very risky task because he could be spotted.

“I first heard about the name of Janko Janković in the Special Police Department prison in the winter of 1942-1943 in Đušina Street and that he was in the police force.

At that time, I was lying in cell 11 with several friends, including Mija Bošnjak, a carpenter. He told me about comrade Janko that he encouraged the arrested comrades to persevere, that he was saying in private: ‘Keep up, you did well tonight, you must not confess, and you will perish and who knows how many others as well, do not believe lies of the investigator, confess one they will seek a second, a third, and it never ends.’”²⁹

Janko Janković also indirectly assisted not only the Communists but also other citizens if they wanted to leave Belgrade. Since the announcement by the Belgrade City Administration was required to travel to the interior parts of Serbia, Janko Janković advocated those who wish to obtain these permits, thereby indirectly assisting them to leave Belgrade.³⁰ He also often assisted directly large groups of the Communists, unless great guilt was proven. “In 1943, a group of people from the village of Guncate was brought in, including Radovan Đorđević, who was processed by Janko and by his advocacy they were released. This group consisted of 30-40 people.”³¹

Janko Janković was in a very risky place and could easily be discovered, many times he had to play a double role and be rude to the arrested, and it was often the case that such rudeness saved their lives. The memory of Ivan Stojaković colorfully testifies this:

“Janko ruthlessly slapped a peasant with an apron. At every slap he insulted her, ‘Are you a whore?’ ‘Yes, sir.’ ‘Do you see you’re a slut?’ ‘I see, sir.’ ‘Are you a witch?’ ‘Yes, sir.’ – and so on. I didn’t understand everything, but I realized that Janko was doing something for a purpose and that it was necessary. Finally, he turned the peasant to the door, kicked her hard in the back, and he almost screamed at her, ‘Go home and take care of your children and husband’. Only then did I notice that a uniformed German was standing in the corner of the office. The German exited the office confusedly,

28 HAB, K-IV/124, Statement of Stojanović Svetomir on Janko Janković, June 26, 1964, 1.

29 HAB, K-IV/124s, Statement of Voja Tutunović on Janko Janković, April 12, 1964, 1.

30 HAB, K-IV/124a, Statement of Degić Petar on Janko Janković, June 13, 1963, 1.

31 Ibid.

looking like someone whose pray had escaped at the last minute. Janko just told me, 'I had to. She reported the husband with whom she has six children to work with the Communists. 'By his rudeness he saved both husband and wife and children.'³²

The biggest chances of leaving the Special Police Department had those who were not known to the police from earlier and who had a good attitude during the hearing, that is, did not acknowledge their connections to the Communists. They did not know that Janko was cooperating with the Communist movement, and he tried not to give up what could be fatal for him.

"They took me two more times to a hearing at him. But I didn't admit anything. After 15 days of my first hearing, one night I was taken out of the room at about 1 o'clock and brought to Janko Janković's office. He took me into the office and told me to sit down, and after a while he handed me a note that was written into a quarter of a sheet, told me to read it and then sign it.

The report was written so that everything was in favor of me, that I am not a participant in the movement. I read the record several times until I signed it. Janko then asked me, 'Do you agree with this record and will you sign it?'

I answered him: 'I want to sign this kind of record'.

Then he handed me a pen and told me to sign at the bottom. I wanted to sign on that part of the record that was blank. When he saw this, he hit me with a slight slap and said, 'Go to hell.' I signed the record as he demanded and in the end he told me this: 'You will get out of here, but don't come back.'³³

Janko Janković was not the only one who cooperated with the NLM in the Special Police Department, but his role and contribution were the biggest. He was good friend with Borivoje Mitrović, who also worked in the police (he survived the war and later was a secretary of the Faculty of Forestry). In the war years, Janko Janković is remembered mostly as a serious and concerned man, as evidenced by Branka Đorđević's memory:

"Janko was always very serious, it somewhat stuck in my mind that I never saw him smiling. He was always kind of preoccupied with his thoughts, very nervous, unhappy because of his personal tragedy, seen to be torn by some internal conflicts, suffering. At first, we did not know what his position was, but later, often when discussing with him, I often came to know his views, understandings, I saw that he was very fair-minded, that he endlessly hated the Germans and all other fascists, that he suffered because of the occupation of the country. On several occasions, my husband told me that Janko actually helps wherever he can and that he has already saved many of them. However, until a few months before his arrest, we did not know that he was a Communist and that he worked for the Special Police Department as such. I just thought he was an advanced man, a Democrat and a good patriot, and above all, good and noble man."³⁴

32 HAB, K-IV/124k, Statement of Ivan Stojaković on Janko Janković, June 26, 1964, 2.

33 HAB, K-IV/124p, Statement of Petar Vujkov on Janko Janković, 2.

34 Hab, K-IV/124đ, Statement of Branka Đorđević on Janko Janković, 2.

THE ARREST AND EXECUTION OF JANKO JANKOVIĆ

The turning point in Janko Janković's work was the departure of Blagoje Nešković from Belgrade in 1943. The connection with Janko Janković was then taken over by Petar Stambolić and Vera Miletić. Vera Miletić was a member of the District Committee for Pozarevac; she came to Belgrade at the decision of the secretary of the PC for Serbia, Blagoje Nešković, with the aim of taking over the secretary of the Local Committee.³⁵ Vera Miletić was given the demanding task of managing the situation in Belgrade. Blagoje Nešković entrusted her with it, including his connection with Janko Janković, and he left the territory of Belgrade and Serbia, which later turned out to be fatal to Belgrade's illegal organization. The moment she came to Belgrade, Petar Stambolić and Vasilije Buha were there. Petar Stambolić had the same connection with Janko Janković, but because he was compromised by the police and wounded in the leg, he left that connection to Vera Miletić, who met with Janko Janković 7-8 times during that period (*Nedeljnik*, May 28, 2017: 1). Vera Miletić was illegally staying with the couple Parezanović, at 9 Lastina Street, where Party Technique was also located.³⁶

The couple, Parezanović, was arrested on the night of October 4-5. Vera heard the police and managed to sneak into a secret shelter, which police officers did not find. However, Vera did not know that the Special Police left one agent in the apartment when they left. When Vera came out from the shelter in the morning, believing that she was out of danger, that agent arrested her. Vera had a note typed on her typewriter. On the same day, Vasilije Buha, the PC member for Serbia, fell into the hands of the police. It was clear to the Special Police that the document found with Vera Miletić was originally from the Special Police Department and that somebody from their ranks was giving information. According to the testimonies, they did not suspect Janko Janković at first, until Vera Miletić spoke. According to Nebojša Nešković, both Vera Miletić and Vasilija Buha endured torture in the police for six days, which was an unwritten rule, because their associates, they would have told on before, had enough time to get to a safe place.³⁷

Vera Miletić was silent at first, but at the hearing on November 23, 1944, she began to reveal all that she knew, including her relation with Janko Janković:

35 Archive of Serbia, Fond of Security Intelligence Agency, 183/11, Hearing of Vera Miletić.

36 The couple, Perzanović, was caught by police after being betrayed by Lazar Dožić, formerly a member of the VI District Committee, recruited by the Special Police. After he saw on one occasion Olivera Parezanović on the street, he remembered that her apartment had been used as a checkpoint and reported it to the Special Police, who subsequently burst into that apartment.

37 Interview with Nebojša Nešković, son of Blagoje Neškovic, conducted on April 14, 2018.

“At the meeting I found out that from now on I would have to keep in touch with the intelligence officer from the IV Division of the City Administration, Janko Janković.³⁸ I have been told so much about him. that he is a very honest man, a little naive, that he sympathizes our battle, that he is significant to us because of his profession, but that I need to be very careful with him. Because it turns out that he was afraid or he does not want to give us everything we need. So when talking to him, I have to make sure I just get it and I don't give anything. Even Mihajlo himself was not clear on what motives drove Janko to do us favors. He even once assumed that Janko was not making this possible simply to find out something from us for the police. Because of this insecurity, Mihajlo forbade me to see Janko other than in his cousin's apartment (Mrs. Đorđević, 13 Vela Nigrin Street), because if he wanted to bring us the police, he wouldn't do it because of his cousin. I needed to keep in touch with Janko Janković because I was still uncompromised and could move more easily than 'Braca'³⁹ and 'Jakov'. After every meeting with Janko, I immediately met up with 'Braca' to hand him what I received. I met with Janko 7-8 times, by appointment: I had no pre-arranged meetings. And in case something was urgent I would call him on the phone. I received several hearings from him from certain people who had fallen in the previous raids (Voja Ilić, Žarko Katanić, Ana Bulović, Stevan Rađenović and I think there was someone else but I don't remember who he was). I received the names of those whose hearings were needed and gave the note to Janko. At the meeting I transcribed these hearings and Janko returned them. He also brought me to read a paper on the forces and actions of the partisans in Bosnia, addressed to the Gestapo. He had to give it back immediately. And at the first meeting when Mihajlo was still there, he brought a list of those arrested in 15 days, and a new number of police courier. From the information he gave us, we did not have any particular benefit: because since I am in contact with him they looked like this: In the IV Division, almost nothing is being done, the officials are mostly on the terrains, the chief is ill, his deputy Grujičić looks like he does not have such a great willingness to take on new work, agents are lazy, do not arrive on time for work and they all feel pessimistic because of situations on the fronts [...] Janko kept telling me that he could never know new things and that he could only be informed privately. That is why our connection with him was inadequate. That was my work with Janko Janković.”⁴⁰

Revealing that Janko Janković was helping the Communists must have been a big shock to the Special Police Department, especially to the head of the department, Božidar Bećarević, who was both his godfather and friend. Janko Janković missed the opportunity to hide, and hoped that Vera Miletić would not speak up and that the investigation could turn in another direction (Popovski 1954: 103). According to some well-preserved memories, Janko Janković had tuberculosis, and thought it was risky to get away, because he also feared for his family.⁴¹

38 She thinks of the meeting with Blagoje Nešković that preceded his departure from Serbia. Otherwise, Vera Miletić did not know the real identity of Blagoje Nešković, but only his conspiratorial name, Mihajlo.

39 Nikola Jovanović Braca was one of the fake names of the PC CPY member for Serbia Vasilije Buha.

40 AS, Fond of Security Intelligence Agency, 183/11, Hearing of Vera Miletić, 16.

41 hab, k-iv/124K, Statement of Ivan D. Stojaković on Janko Janković, June 26, 1964, 3.

However, he was wrong, Vera Miletić spoke up and revealed her connection with him. Božidar Bećarević issued a warrant for his arrest, which was conducted by a group of agents led by Radan Grujičić, who broke into Janko's apartment and arrested him on the night of October 8. Janko Janković was first questioned by the Special Police and then taken over by the Gestapo on 18 December. Although no details of the hearing itself were provided anywhere, the first phase of the investigation lasted until 25 October 1943, when the record of the hearing was also made. Under what kind of psychophysical torture Janko Janković had to be and how his former colleagues treated him, we can only guess.

The description of Janko Janković's meeting with Vera Miletić is also interesting:

“However, at the end of August or at the beginning of September, it was unfortunate for me that the mentioned Nešković came for the third and last time with another girl I did not know, and for whom I found out here that her name was Miletć Vera (arrested, the remark of the notary), and he introduced me to her with the word: ‘It’s Janko Janković’. Out of curiosity, I asked Neskovic what her name was, but he replied that it didn’t matter. At this meeting, which lasted for about an hour, the first thing he had to tell me was that he was reproaching me for poor results and for lack of effort, adding they had notifications from other people about particular interesting things and news from the administration, and that I do not even mention them, as well as I am avoiding giving them something. I replied to him that I was overburdened with office work and that I personally did not know anything that would interest him, and at the outset I said that I would do only within the limits of my possibility.”⁴²

According to the preserved information from the hearing, Janko Janković denied that he was a Communist, but justified his activities solely by his strong patriotic feelings. Given the circumstances in which this statement was made, it is clear that he wished to protect himself as much as possible. Since he was familiar with the methods in the Special Police Department, he gave only a minimum of information that was otherwise useless to the police. Since there was evidence against him, he sought to admit only those details that were already known to the police, that is, his connection to Vera Miletić. He also admitted meeting with Blagoje Nešković, but those details that could not have harmed him. Janko Janković did not give away any persons, including brothers Bora and Drago Mitrović, who worked with him in the Special Police Department and occasionally assisted him. He also denied his sister Bosiljka Đorđević's connections to the Communist movement.⁴³ Also, Janko Janković acknowledged his affiliation with the Communist Party only from 1943, that is, from June to October, the Special Police Department never found out about his earlier activities.

At the same time, Dušan Jovanović Žuća and Cvetko Crnjak were interrogated by the Special Police. They worked separately and their contributions

42 HAB, 3309/d-XXXII-1237, Hearing of Janko Janković, pg. 5-6.

43 Ibid.

were different and different initiatives to assist the NLM, but were discovered, arrested and questioned together, first in the Special Police Department, then at the Gestapo, then at the Banjica concentration camp and they were executed.

They were all transferred to the Gestapo on December 18, 1943, however, neither the original data nor their Gestapo hearings were preserved, but we can guess what kind of torture they were subjected to there. The record was preserved that Janko Janković and Cvetko Crnjak at one point had a chance to escape from the Gestapo concentration camp. That is, the building where the Gestapo prison was, was damaged by bombing and at one point the wall was destroyed, which was used by some prisoners, including Cvetko Crnjak, to go outside (Popovski 1954: 106). Cvetko Crnjak did not want to escape alone, but wanted to rescue Janko Janković, because he noticed that the entrance to his room was buried. He started to dig it up, but soon the Germans came in and arrested him again (*Politika ekspres*, November 15, 1980, 18).

All three of them, Janković, Crnjak and Jovanović, were transferred to the Banjica concentration camp on April 17, 1944, where they were escorted by the Gestapo.⁴⁴

We have preserved memories of the contemporaries about their stay in Banjica, which shows that Janko Janković and Cvetko Crnjak were well received by other detainees, which was not the case with Dušan Jovanović Žuća whom they considered a traitor.⁴⁵

“For the sake of illustration, I would just like to state a relation to ‘Žuća’. In addition to being placed next to the trash can to sleep, we all boycotted him. If the game of chess is being played and he stops to watch, the players demolish the figures and remain silent until he leaves, and after that they set up the figures and continue the game. No one spoke to him from entering the room to the moment of his execution. I think we have punished the traitor in our own way as well.”⁴⁶

Upon their arrival in Banjica, they were placed in the so-called “room for the death convicts”, where the convicts were intended to be executed.

“Janko was the first to enter. He was only in his shirt. He was followed by Crnjak, and the third one with a full two suitcases in his hands, trimmed to the head, Duško Jovanović-Žuća. In the meantime, we had heard about Janko’s work, and at the same time found out about his task in the Special Police Department, and we gladly accepted him, and started to hang out with him and Crnjak.”⁴⁷

44 HAB, Internment Book VIII of prisoners of the Banjica concentration camp: reg. no. 21.488 (Janko Janković), 21.498 (Dušan Jovanović), 21.429 (Cvetko Crnjak).

45 Dusan Jovanovic Žuća changed sides several times, first being a Communist, then agreeing to work for the Special Police, and again cooperating briefly with the Communists.

46 HAB, K-IV/124g, Statement of Miloš Radosavljević on Janko Janković, 1.

47 HAB, K-IV/124e, Statement of Stojanović Svetomir on Janko Janković, 2.

On the first day after their arrival, Svetozar Vujković came to the room, who had a particular hatred for Janko as his former colleague.

“On the first day when they arrived, he came to Vujković’s room and addressed Janko: ‘Birdie, I will shoot you personally.’” Janko replied calmly: “I did not expect or ask for mercy from such persons. Vujković shouted in his squeaky voice: ‘Traitor, traitor.’”⁴⁸

Other detainees gladly accepted Janković and were interested in the news he could give them, as well as information about who was being held by the police. Janko Janković was aware of his position since he knew what kind of fate is awaiting him. His sister, Bosa Đorđević, was in the Banja Luka concentration camp for a while, who, according to his testimony, only briefly managed to contact him when she saw him in the hall of the camp, to which he only managed to warn her that he did not give anyone away, that it was Vera Miletić.⁴⁹ Janko Janković did not spend long in the room of the death convicts, and soon the police called all three of them (Janko Janković, Cvetko Crnjak and Dragan Jovanović Žuća) to be executed.

The testimonies of contemporaries about the execution of Janko Janković were also shocking.

“There were more persons taken with Janko from the room into the hall, and he wasn’t alone. Even in the room before taking out, they were simply ‘broken’. When he was out, Janko could barely keep his feet, so he leaned on the door box. There they hit him with an iron bar and he fell, than rose. He was in that white shirt, except it wasn’t even a shirt anymore: skimmed parts of a shirt cloth hung over his pants. His chest was bloody, and so was his face. He stood still at the head of that small group. They tied him up while Vujković beat him. Blood was pouring down his face, and he lifted his head and sang ‘Banjičanka’. They hit him several times, but he got up and sang again. The rest sang and stayed with him, until they left the basement.”⁵⁰

Janko Janković, Cvetko Crnjak and Dušan Jovanović Žuća were brought to the firing squad on April 27, 1944, in Marinkova bara, and were also the first prisoners from the Banjica concentration camp to be executed at this place. Most of the agents of Special Police Department, led by Ilija Paranos, Radan Grujičić, Božidar Bećarević and Svetozar Vujković, former superiors and colleagues of Janko Jankovic, came to the execution. His execution should serve as the example to anyone who dares to cooperate with the Communist movement. Before the execution, Svetozar Vujković, the head of the Banjica concentration camp, read the death sentence. It is not possible to accurately reconstruct the details of the execution itself, but according to preserved testimonies, which emerged later after the war, he allegedly shouted before the shooting: “Death to fascism.”

48 HAB, K-IV/124g, Statement of Miloš Radosavljević on Janko Janković, June 11, 1964, 1.

49 HAB, 2848/MG-XL-404, Memories of Bosa Đorđević, 2.

50 HAB, K-IV/124p, Statement of Radosav M. Belovuković on Janko Janković, May 7, 1968, 1.

It is also stated that on provocations' of his fellow agents that he was a traitor he answered, "No, I'm not a traitor, you are. I am dying as an honest man and a friend of the people." (*Politika ekspres*, November 11, 1980: 18). The execution was carried out by a Serbian State Guard platoon led by Captain Šuput (Božović 2014: 587). What is certain is that Janko Janković did not repent for a moment because of his cooperation with the NLM or his role. According to Božidar Milovanović, the cemetery clerk, all three police officers, are buried in a separate graves (Božović 2014: 587). Janko Janković's grave was moved several times during the following period, according to his son Dragan Janković.⁵¹

CONCLUSION

After the Second World War, an initiative was launched to declare Janko Janković the National Hero, the case was handed over to the Central Committee of the SC Yugoslavia in October 1966 by a group established at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, signed by Vilotije Beličić and Ljubiša Ilić.⁵² However, the proclamation never came. The Communist Party remained silent on this initiative, just as it remained silent on the initiative later filed by Blagoje Nešković, the former secretary of the PC for Serbia. Namely, just before his death on January 15, 1984, Blagoje Nešković submitted a request for his rehabilitation, within which he proposed, among other things, that the Order of the National Hero be awarded to Janko Janković⁵³. Blagoje Nešković, was never returned to the Party's membership, nor his proposal to award an Order was adopted. One of the possible reasons could be the family relationship between Mirjana Marković (wife of Slobodan Milošević) and Vera Miletić (Mirjana Marković was the daughter of Vera Miletić and Moma Marković) since Blagoje Neskovic was a "betrayal witness" of Vera Miletić, and Janko Janković is the greatest victim of that betrayal, as her actions were interpreted during that period. Since Mirjana Marković viewed her mother as a role model and did not hold her responsible for anything, she was "obsessed with the idea that everything about her mother was fabricated", there is a possibility that this too had some influence on the rehabilitation process and the rewarding of this order (Antić-Bogdanović 2018: 309).

The epilogue is that Janko Janković was never awarded the Order of the National Hero by the Communist Party. The Communist Party made relatively modest reparations for his involvement during the Second World War. According to his

51 Interview with Dragan Janković, conducted on November 9, 2019.

52 HAB, K-IV/124o, To the Central Committee of SK Yugoslavia, Central Committee of League of Communists of Serbia, Proposal for the Proclamation of the National Hero of the Comrade Janko Janković, October 1966.

53 HAB, Fond 2157, Legacy of Blagoje Nešković and Branislava Brana Perović, Request for Rehabilitation, K-1, 1-6.

son, a total of 7 streets in different parts of Serbia were named after Janko Janković after the war, however, a memorial at the place where he lived and where he was executed was never built. Janko Janković was remembered most by those whom he had saved by his activities. The first and the only memorial to Janko Janković was built in the village of Zavalaka, on the road between Loznica and Valjevo, on April 29, 1972, thanks to the surviving detainees and detainee of the Banja Luka concentration camp, Vojislav Petrović. “The Janko Janković’s Memorial House” and a granite monument three meters high in front of the memorial house were built.⁵⁴

There is no exact record of how many people Janko Janković saved with his activity, post-war Communist authorities cited the figure of about 2,000 people, but this information should be taken with a critical reservation because the exact number could not be determined. His contribution to the release of the Special Police Department’s arrests and cooperation with the NLM cannot be disputed. After his death, from his family members only his son Dragan Janković remained, who is now retired.

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Ена С. МИРКОВИЋ

ЈАНКО ЈАНКОВИЋ (1909 – 1944) – ОБАВЕШТАЈАЦ У РЕДОВИМА СПЕЦИЈАЛНЕ ПОЛИЦИЈЕ

РЕЗИМЕ

Почетак Другог светског рата и окупација Југославије донели су промене у Управи града Београда. Формирано је ново одељење, тзв. Специјална полиција, позната по свом озлоглашеном IV Антикомунистичком одсеку. На његовом челу најдуже је био Божидар Бећаревић. Посао овог одсека је био: сузбијање комунистичке акције и пропаганде, проналажење и хватање комуниста, ислеђивање њихове крвице, кажњавање. У одсеку је радио на месту шефа картотеке Специјалне полиције, Јанко Јанковића, иначе кум и пријатељ Божидара Бећаревића.

Јанко Јанковић је рођен у Крагујевцу где је завршио основну школу, након чега је прешао у Београд и запослио се при Управи града Београда. Од 1940. године био је шеф картотеке Опште полиције при Управи града Београда. Исте године се преко свог рођака, револуционара Немање Марковића повезао се са члановима Покрајинског комитета Комунистичке партије Југославије за Србију и почео да им пружа обавештења о раду Специјалне полиције и Антикомунистичког одсека. Преко курира био је повезан са секретаром Покрајинског комитета за Србију, Благојем Нешковићем. Обавештења која је давао су се односила на спискове лица чије се хапшење припремало, важнија саопштења Специјалне полиције и извештаје. Нарочито важни су били досијен о томе како су се ухапшени комунисти држали у Специјалној полицији, шта су све и кога све од својих сарадника одали, на основу чега је Комунистичка партија могла да заштити своје чланове. Сматра се да је Јанко Јанковић на овај начин помогао посредно и непосредно око 2000 лица, махом комуниста. Његова активност је остала неоткривена све до 1943. године, када је у великој провали ухапшена Вера Милетић, која је тада држала везу са Јанком Јанковићем и која је на саслушању одала овај податак. Сазнање да Јанко Јанковић помаже комунистима, био је велики шок за Специјалну полицију, нарочито за шефа отсека Божидара Бећаревића, који му је био уједно и кум и пријатељ. Божидар Бећаревић је издао налог за његово хапшење, што је спровела група агента на челу са Раданом Грујичићем која је у ноћи 8. октобра упала у Јанков стан и ухапсила га. Јанко Јанковић је најпре саслушаван у Специјалној полицији, а затим га је 18. децембра преузео Гестапо, а потом је био пребачен су у логор на Бањици, 17. априла 1944. године. Упркос великој психофизичкој тортури којој је био изложен, није одао ниједног сарадника за кога полиција није већ знала, а сарадњу са комунистичким покретом признао је само за 1943. годину. Јанко Јанковић је стрељан 27. априла 1944. године у Маринковој бари. За заслуге учињене Комунистичкој партији никада није одликован, а иза њега је остао син Драган.

Кључне речи: Јанко Јанковић, агент, Управа града Београда, Специјална полиција, Комунистичка партија Југославије, Антикомунистички одсек.