Hills woman: 'my heart bleeds' for Croatians

Conlinued from Page 1

Still, Sharpe's relatives whole that the soldiers are equally ruthless with Serbians who oppose domination.

"Anyone who wanted to save their lives fied from Petrinja, Croatians and also many Serbs, whoever wanted to keep from suffering a brutal death from hanging, or knifing, as the Cetniks spared no one, not even the Serbs who opposed them," wrote Sharpe's cousin, Marija.

Sharpe has written to President George Bush, U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, and is in contact with associations, such as the Friends and Alumni of Croatian Universitiest.

Sharpe and others are asking Americans to contact the White House (1-202-156-1111) to task government of the Contact of the White House (1-202-156-1111) to task government of the Contact of the White House (1-202-156-1111) to task government of the Contact of the White House (1-202-156-1111) to task government of the Contact has the contact here will be contact the White House (1-202-156-1111) to task government of the Contact has been considered to the contact here.

"You don't bear anything strong condemning it. There hast't been enough outery as to their plight." Sharp said "I hope the United Nations will send in peace keeping troops otherwise the aggressor continues." She's also been writing back to rel-

She's also been writing back to reltives, many who are now refugees. I told them we're doing all we can beducate Americans to their suffer-

Brillsh newscasts show the conflict more in-depth.

"The press looks differently on Eastern Europe than it does on Western Europe," Sharpe said. "But suffering is suffering no matter where it is."

SHE HAS WATCHED the reports which she taped — over and over again.
"You see that and you can't be-

lieve your eyes. Look at what's left of that city," Sharpe said as she pointed to a news report showing the near-destroyed city of Vukovar, In the report about Vukovar, there's a group of men marching through the city's rulis carrying a flag. Over and again, Sharpe looked at the flag searching for something familiar.
What she sinally neglect.

familiar.
What she finally noticed was that
the black flag displayed a skull and
crossbones. They're not the regular
army. Look at how they're dressed.
From another relative, Sharpe
was told that they are no longer living in the family hometown of
Petrinia.

ing in the family hometown of Petriols.

"As I had written you, Kruno (ber son) and I escaped from Petriola are with friends in a village near Sisak. I go to work each day and one know if I will return allve to my son, my child. The army in Petriola wow is daily striking us in Sisak with mortars, heavy artillery and attacks by air." Sharpe's relative, Vera, wrote.

"We sit each day in cold, damp cellars and truly don't know how long we can exist this way. The people of Europe and America, and the governments, doo't hear our cries and lamentations for help. I can only hope that God will help, as I pray to him," Vera continued.

THE LETTERS, Sharpe says,

ange that took with raigh, as I gray to thim, "Vera continued.

THE LETTERS, Sharpe says, break her heart. She recalls her mother describing life in Petrinja years ago when people from both Croatian and Serbian backgrounds lived together without conflict.

Sharpe, and her husband, David, along with her mother, Cecilia, have traveled back to their roots. The last time they were there was 1978, for Cecilia's 80th birthday.

Sharpe has long been watching the events unfold. But she recalls watching CNN news reports in August and

was just starting then," she said.
While the deaths and terror break
Sharpe's heart, so too does the de-struction of cultural, historical and artistic treasures, including the city of Dubrovulk, a port on the southern end of a thin strip of Croatia leading to the Adriatic coast. The United Na-tions had declared the city a cultural gem. But bombs are wiping out the Renalsance port.

Sharpe also is concerned about portions of news stories and columns that allude to Croatian and Nazi col-laboration during World War II. She

'You don't hear anything strong condemning it. There hasn't been enough outcry as to their plight. I hope the United Nations will send in peace keeping troops otherwise the aggressor continues."

Jeannette Sharpe

says people on all sides collaborated with the Nazis and they were indi-viduals, not a province of people. "That can't be used as an excuse to

slaughter people today," Sharpe

She also has copies of appeals from the Jewish Community in Za-

"The Jewish Community in Croa-tia enjoys all rights of a religious or national minority without hindrance or any discrimination," according to the appeals.

Sharpe urges Americans to get in-volved by making phone calls to the White House and writing govern-ment representatives — not to men-tion prayers.

"People must become more aware of the things happening over there." she sald. "Maybe the world can act to stop that horrible war."



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