

BEKE

László

of the Hungarian Army he became a leader of Freedom Fighters with the important task of organizing communications between revolutionaries in Pest and Buda.

With an even younger student, he captured an A. V. H. communications car and used its radio equipment. He tells of meeting a blond young messenger from the Kilian Barracks who said: "My father wants to send two officers to the student fighter headquarters." His father was Col. Paul Maleter, who was to become one of the legends of the revolution as the defender of the Kilian Barracks and Imre Nagy's Minister of Defense until he was treacherously arrested by the Russians.

Some of Mr. Beke's grimmest pages tell of clashes with the hated A. V. H. He tells of meeting a father, mother and their two teen-aged boys. Their eyes were tear-stained, their faces set and they all carried arms. The parents said they were trailing an A. V. H. squad car which had shot their 13-year-old daughter while she was painting a Hungarian coat of arms on a Government automobile. They had the license number of the car.

An A. V. H. major who had tried to escape from a building by using another little girl as a screen was hung up by his heels and burned alive. "As the flames licked his hair the A. V. H. major shouted 'Long live world communism!'" Beke

LASZLO BEKE'S "A Student's Diary" is also illustrated, with sketches by the author, of the fighting made on the spot or from memory. He helped to organize the students' demonstration on Oct. 23, although, as he records, "at this time no one imagined a revolution of blood second only to the French Revolution in fury of battle, dedication to ideal and sacrifices on the altar of freedom." Because he had been in the Signal Corps

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drove with three other Freedom Fighters to the home of Col. Erwin Revesz of the A. V. H. They found only his wife, standing before a mantelpiece. "We headed for the door, but the sudden hiss and whirl of an electric motor made us turn. The whole mantelpiece section, with her on it, was turning. As though we were watching a scene from an old movie, the revolving mantel whisked her out of sight."

There are also depressing passages in Mr. Beke's book. One of them reads: "We thought the best idea would be to send student runners to Gyor to establish contacts with students in that free town. They would also inform the student council there that the Budapest Insurgent Army General Staff hoped to get aid from the West at any time."

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