A person can walk along First Ave. between 72nd and 86th Sts. of an evening and pass by numbers of men—young and not so young—who seem like any others in this large city. But actually, they are very different, in one important respect. They are, or were, Hungarian freedom fighters.

These are the men who two years ago were battling Russian tanks in the streets of Budapest as they sought to free their homeland from the tyranny of a communist regime. Just how many of them there are in the city is uncertain but the figure is somewhere around 10,000.

These men are the latest infusion of new blood into the city's Hungarian colony, which is centered for the most part in this 72nd-86th Street section around First and Second Aves.

The newcomers have brought with them the problems that beset all new comers, the language barrier, economic difficulties, and homesickness.

A special organization has been set up to help them, the Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation. It is headed by Ferenc Vale, now a professor of international law at Cornell University, and Gen. Bela Kiraly. Gen. Kiraly, who headed 30,000 regular Hungarian army troops and an equal number of freedom fighters in the 1956 revolution, was the highest military leader to escape. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in history at Columbia University.
...the majority of the newcomers are serious, honest people, prepared to work their way into American life, and they are progressing," Gen. Kirby said. "There are very few who have taken the attitude 'I am a hero and I should live on that forever.'

A large number of the freedom fighters are engineers and architects have been the most successful in getting jobs. Possibly lawyers have found things most difficult. Many are working as waiters while learning American law and court procedures. Laborers, skilled and unskilled, are first to be let out.

The newcomers are helped by the fact that New York's Hungarian community is a highly organized group. Thanks for this, many of the newcomers who came here from 1938 to 1941 and founded the churches and synagogues, the social and cultural clubs, which are now flourishing. The earliest wave of immigrants was made up of the working class; then came the 'intellectuals.'

Of particular interest is the Hungarian-Polish committee, a group of political exiles working for the liberation of Hungary and the establishment of a parliamentary regime. It is headed by M. Bela Varga, speaker of...
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Here, we do not know how, why, when, but we know it will be. We will say we are sure the time will come when it will be.

The spirit of patriotism runs high among the Hungarian population. It keeps the Hungarian magazine, the Hungarian newspaper, the Hungarian restaurants.

Especially, there are a number of Hungarian shops and social, youth groups. And along with all of these, there are numerous charitable, literary, and political organizations. Hungarian politics is the same as any. And includes freedom.