

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR  
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR  
CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

**ČELIĆ MUNICIPALITY**



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## Preface

During the period of NR/SR Bosnia & Herzegovina (1945-1992) thousands of monuments commemorating the People's Liberation War, Struggle and Movement (commonly referred to in abbreviated form as NOR, NOB and NOP - henceforth collectively referred to as NOB) were created and unveiled on its territory. In recent decades, these monuments to the NOB have often become forgotten, ignored, or exposed to unquantifiable damage. The reasons for this 'unquantifiability' stem, in part, from the lack of a comprehensive recording system<sup>1</sup> among and between stakeholders<sup>2</sup> during the period of SRBiH, and the destruction of archives of stakeholders during the 1992-95 war and its immediate aftermath, but have been inarguably exacerbated by the administrative system in Bosnia & Herzegovina in the present day.

This paper aims to give a brief overview of the current situation of monuments to the People's Liberation War, Struggle and Movement on the territory of the present-day Čelić municipality, in Tuzla Canton (FBiH).

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<sup>1</sup> Incomplete stock-taking was made prior to 1962, when a list of Protected Monuments was drawn up, and once again from summer 1966 to late 1973, when a more comprehensive inventory was made, a summary of which was published in 1981 (Tihčić, 1981), stating that 809 memorial plaques, 207 busts, 104 fountains and similar, 453 artistic monuments, 300 identified individual graves and mass graves and 176 graveyards for partisans and victims of fascist terror (2,049 immovable properties in total) had been identified.

<sup>2</sup> Largely local and national organizations for Antifascists and Veterans of the NOR

## Background and Summary

The present-day municipality of Čelić was created from a part of the pre-1992 municipality of Lopare, gaining municipality status in 1994. It is located in Tuzla Canton, within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Between 1966 and 1973, the most comprehensive nationwide survey of immovable monuments to the NOB to date was carried out under the auspices of the Republic Institute for the Protection of Monuments. However, it was not until 1981 that a summary of this survey list was published (Tihčić, 1981). In total, 2,049 immovable properties were recorded on the territory of SR Bosnia & Herzegovina, with 19 being recorded on the territory of then-Lopare municipality in a survey conducted in several periods between 1 and 13 July 1970, categorized as follows:

- **Memorial plaques – 5**
- **Memorial busts – 0**
- **Fountains, wells and cisterns – 0**
- **Artistic monuments – 9**
- **Identified individual graves and mass graves – 3**
- **Graveyards for Partisans and Victims of Fascist Terror – 2**

Although the construction of memorials and monuments continued long after this period (with a wave of monuments being created in the wake of the death of Josip Broz Tito, and continuing throughout the 1980s), no further Republic-level survey of monuments was undertaken before the secession of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Yugoslavia in 1992.

However, the NOB heritage of Čelić municipality (as part of Lopare) was the subject of the 1990 study *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe opštine Lopare*, created by the Tuzla Institute for the Protection and Use of Culturo-Historical and Natural Heritage, which recorded a total of 44 monuments and memorials to the NOB and Revolution upon the territory of Lopare municipality at that time. Within the boundaries of present-day Čelić municipality, a total of 8 monuments were documented. These are as follows:

MUNICIPALITY	VILLAGE/MZ	TYPE	YEAR	ARTIST
Čelić	Brnjik	Memorial house	1979	Unknown
Čelić	Brnjik	Bust	1983	Zaim Mešić
Čelić	Brnjik	Fountain	1985	Unknown
Čelić	Čelić	Monument	1982	Unknown
Čelić	Čelić	Memorial complex	1954 onward	Unknown
Čelić	Šibošnica	Memorial complex	Unknown	Unknown
Čelić	Šibošnica	Monument	Unknown	Unknown
Čelić	Vražići	Monument	pre-1973	Unknown

In addition to these, three busts were noted as existing on the territory of what today composes Čelić municipality in the study (p.127), but these remained unrecorded. These busts were as follows:

- Bust of NH Krsto Bjeletić, Krsto Bjeletić elementary school, Šibošnica;
- Bust of Ahmet Kobić, Ahmet Kobić elementary school, Čelić;
- Bust of NH Fadil Jahić Španac, Fadil Jahić Španac elementary school, Vražići.

Furthermore, during field research conducted in September 2018, a memorial plaque in Šibošnica was coincidentally discovered by field researcher Emina Bećirović. This plaque has also been included within this report. A follow-up field visit by Adis Mujkić discovered evidence of changes to this memorial plaque undertaken between the two visits, clarifying its purpose.

Čelić municipality's Spatial Plan for 2012-2032 (Općina Čelić, 2016) lists the following 3 monuments and memorials commemorating the People's Liberation War upon the territory of the municipality:

- Memorial Park, Šibošnica
- Memorial Park with fountain and ossuary, Čelić
- Monument to fallen fighters of the People's Liberation War and Victims of Fascist Terror, Vražići

All of these are categorized as monuments of local importance (p.142).

## Monuments and Memorials in Čelić Municipality

### 1. Ahmet Kobić memorial house, Brnjik

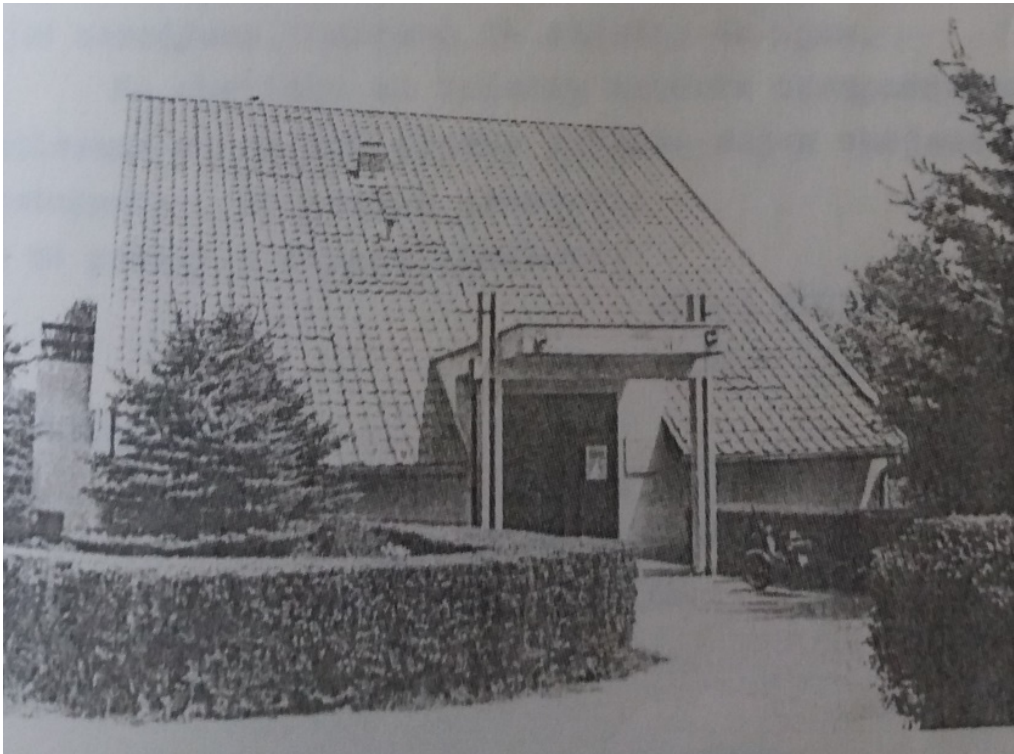


Figure 1a: Ahmet Kobić memorial house, late 1980s



Figure 1b: Ahmet Kobić memorial house, September 2018

The memorial house in Brnjik was opened in 1979. Its architect is unknown. The memorial house is a small low-set building, which today functions as a community hall, set back into a small patch of parkland, and with an entrance onto a side-street close to Brnjik's centre, beside the river Šibošnica. At some point in its past (from around 2008 until at least 2013), it also functioned as a small workshop for a private company according to local sources.

Although during a site visit in September 2018 it was impossible to gain access to the interior of the building, externally the building is in good condition, and the gardens surrounding it are well maintained. However, a patch of damp immediately to the right of the main entrance is a minor cause for concern. From a comparison of the present-day condition of the building and older photographs, it can be seen that a new roof has been added to the portico in front of the main entrance. It is also evident that the building has been re-painted in recent years, as it was white in colour until the early 2000s. In front of the memorial house lies a bust of Ahmet Kobić (see below, p.8).



## 2. Bust of Ahmet Kobić, Brnjik



**Figure 2a: Bust of Ahmet Kobić, September 2018**

This bust was unveiled in 1983, and is the work of Zaim Mešić. The bust stands in front of the Ahmet Kobić memorial house in Brnjik. The bust and pedestal are both in excellent condition, and the surrounding parkland is relatively well maintained. A site visit in September 2018 showed evidence of flowers being laid in front of the bust in recent months. It is not known whether these were laid by an individual or as part of an organized commemorative event.



### 3. Memorial fountain to Satka Nukić, Brnjik



Figure 3a: Memorial fountain to Satka Nukić, September 2018



Figure 3b: Memorial fountain to Satka Nukić (detail), September 2018

This fountain was unveiled in 1985, and is the work of an unknown author. It commemorates Satka Nukić, a local resident who joined the People's Liberation Movement and was hanged at this location in 1944.

The fountain is made of concrete and consists of two basins beneath a concrete pillar. On each side of the pillar is a tap (neither of which is any longer in function), set into an irregular trapezoidal feature. The structure itself is in good condition, although a large crack runs through the lower portion of the pillar on one side (see Figure 3b).

The pillar is inscribed on three sides. It would appear that the lettering has been re-painted in a red colour in recent years, as has the outline of the trapezoidal shapes on one side. The front of the fountain is inscribed:

*SATKA NUKIĆ  
1906-1944*

Then, the two tap-bearing sides are inscribed as follows:

*SATKINE ZADNJE RIJEČI:  
"DJECO, NE BRINITE  
DOĆI ĆE VAM MAJKA  
SLOBODA!"<sup>3</sup>*

and

*SATKU NUKIĆ  
ISTAKNUTU UČESNICU  
NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKOG  
POKRETA IZ BRNJIKA*

*POSILIJE ZVJERSKOG  
MUČENJA, MAJA 1944. GODINE,  
NA OVOM MJE-  
STU OBJESILA JE GRU-  
PA ZLOGLASNE 13.  
SS "HANDŽAR" DIVIZIJE<sup>4</sup>*

Older photographs (Tuzla Institute, 1990, p.133c) suggest that a small shelf-like structure once existed on one side of the fountain, possibly as a place to rest water bottles or other items, although this no longer survives.

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<sup>3</sup> Translation: *Satka's final words: "Children, do not worry. Mother Freedom will come to you!"*

<sup>4</sup> Translation: *Satka Nukić, prominent participant in the People's Liberation Movement from Brnjik, after bestial torture, in May 1944, at this location was hanged by a group of the infamous 13<sup>th</sup> SS 'Handžar' Division.*



#### 4. Monument to Jusuf Kobić, Čelić



**Figure 4a:** Monument to Jusuf Kobić, September 2018



**Figure 4b:** Inscription on monument to Jusuf Kobić, September 2018

This monument lies on the outskirts of the settlement of Čelić, and was unveiled in 1982. The author of the monument is unknown. It is situated on an artificial mound, and approached by a small pathway, connected to a series of 11 concrete steps that lead up the mound.

The monument itself consists of a square concrete platform, 2 metres wide and 0.3 metres deep, upon which sits a heavily fluted concrete pillar. This is topped by a cube, decorated with depictions of a five-pointed star within a circle on all sides.

The front side of the concrete platform bears the following inscription:

*KOBIĆ AHMETA JUSUF  
ROĐEN MARTA 1914 – POGINUO NOVEMBRA 1941<sup>5</sup>*

While the Tuzla Institute study claims that the monument's inscription was executed in 'large metal letters' (1990, p.135a) and the accompanying photographs suggest likewise (p.135c), today the inscription is upon a large marble plaque. It can be assumed that the metal lettering was removed during the 1992-95 war or in the years following, and local authorities decided to replace this with a less valuable material. No evidence of the metal lettering ever having existed can be seen upon the monument.

The monument is in good condition, although the mound upon which it has been constructed shows evidence of having settled considerably over the years, and therefore the condition and structural stability of both the monument and the stairs should be monitored.

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<sup>5</sup> Translation: *Kobić Ahmet* (son of) *Jusuf*; *Born March 1914 – Fell November 1941*



## 5. Memorial park, Čelić



**Figure 5a:** Plaque at main entrance to memorial park, September 2018



**Figure 5b:** Memorial fountain, September 2018

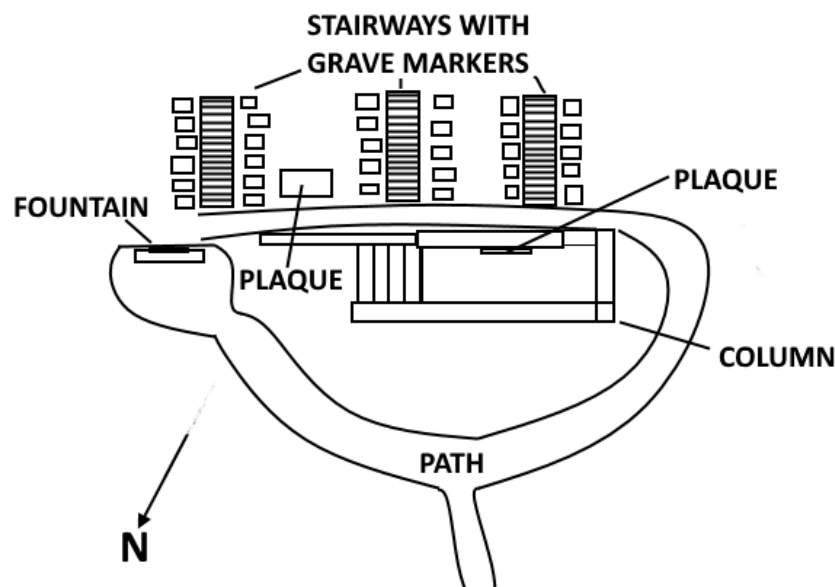




**Figure 5c:** Commemorative plaque, September 2018



**Figure 5d:** Stairway with memorial plaques on either side, September 2018



**Figure 5e:** Plan of memorial park (not to scale)

This memorial park was originally opened in 1954, and is today situated at the edge of Čelić's town centre. It consists of a small entranceway with memorial plaque, memorial fountain with memorial plaque, and a landscaped hillock with a collective grave and three sets of steps each flanked by grave markers. The designers involved in its creation are unknown.

The fountain is located immediately to the left of the memorial park, and, although accessed by the same pathway from the road, could essentially be considered a separate memorial. The fountain functions, and above it lies a memorial plaque engraved with the following text (in the Latin alphabet):

*SPOMEN ČESMA  
BORCIMA NOR-A  
1941 – 1945  
GRAĐANI OPĆINE  
ČELIĆ<sup>6</sup>*

The memorial park itself is accessed by a stairway on the right hand side of the hillock. Set into the wall of this stairway is a memorial plaque commemorating those buried here. Its text (in the Latin alphabet) is as follows:

*SEDAMDESET I SEDMORICI BORACA VOJVODANSKIH  
BRIGADA PALIM ZA SLOBODU I BRATSTVO  
NAŠIH NARODA  
SAVEZ BORACA NARODNO-OSLOBODILAČKOG  
RATA LOPARSKOG SREZA  
ČELIĆ 29 NOVEMBRA 1954 GODINE<sup>7</sup>*

<sup>6</sup> Translation: *Memorial fountain of fighters of the NOR 1941-1945. Citizens of Čelić municipality*



At the corner of the stairway is a stone pillar.

A pathway above the stairs leads around the edge of the hillock, connecting all three sets of steps flanked with grave markers, and terminating immediately above the memorial fountain. Between the second and third set of steps is a large memorial plaque, inscribed with the following text:

*MILOJKO, ŽIVOJIN, DUŠAN, MILORAD,  
RADIŠA I GRUJICA, BORCI 17 NOU  
DIVIZIJE IZ OPŠTINE GORNJI MILANOVAC  
POGINULI SU ZIME 1945 JER LJUBAV I  
MRŽNJA SRELI SU SE OVDJE, UMRILI SU  
ZA CILJEVE SVETE, ZA OVAJ NAROD  
U IME SLOBODE, NJIHOVA SNAGA  
I HRABROST BIĆE POUKA ALI I  
OBAVEZA MLADIM GENERACIJAMA  
NARODNI RATNI  
DRUGOVI I GRAĐANI  
ČELIĆA<sup>8</sup>*

Each set of steps leading up the hillock is flanked on both sides by individual grave markers; 33 in total. While it was impossible to determine whether all of these are present, in its study, the Tuzla Institute provides a list of all plaques and their inscriptions, which are as follows:

ŠAHOVIĆ ABAZ 1904-1944	ŠADIĆ ĐULAGA 1923-1945
ŠADIĆ A. AVDO 1926-1945	MUJGINOVIĆ NOVALIJA 1925-1944
LJALJIĆ HUSNIJA 1920-1945	GAVRIĆ MARKO 1905-1944
BOŠNJAKOVIĆ SAFETA 1925-1943	ŠADIĆ A. ALIJA 1916-1945
MUJAŠKOVIĆ SADIK 1915-1945	JOVANOVIĆ DUŠAN 1922-1943
DŽELIĆ HASAN 1925-1945	ARSLANOVIĆ HADŽIB 1908-1942
ŠABANOVIĆ HUSNIJA 1912-1945	SULJEVIĆ ADIL 1915-1945
MAKALJEVIĆ MEHO 1925-1943	JAŠAREVIĆ BEĆIR 1907-1945
ĆOSIĆ FETAHIJA 1929-1945	AHMETOVIĆ RABIJA 1925-1945
SARAČEVIĆ SADIK 1918-1945	MEŠKOVIĆ RAŠID 1916-1945
IBRIŠIMOVIĆ SAFET 1924-1944	ČEHAJIĆ MUSTAFA 1922-1945
ABDURAHANOVIĆ MUHAMED 1923-1944	REDŽIĆ HALID 1913-1945
MARIĆ GOJA 1920-1944	IBRIŠIMOVIĆ BAJRO 1917-1945
ČOKIĆ OSMAN 1916-1944	ABDURAHMANOVIĆ DŽEMAL 1912-1944
NULDMEROVIĆ A. ALIJA 126-1945	NAKSIMOVIĆ LAKO 1920-1945
HAMIDOVIĆ ENVER 1925-1945	ČAUŠEVIĆ MUJO 1922-1944
ABDURAHMANOVIĆ KADRIJA 1925-1944	

<sup>7</sup> Translation: *Seventy-seven fighters of the Vojvodinian Brigades fallen for the freedom and brotherhood of our people. Association of Fighters of the People's Liberation War from the Lopare region, Čelić, 29 November 1954*

<sup>8</sup> Translation: *Milojko, Živojin, Dušan, Milorad, Radiša and Grujica, fighters of the 17<sup>th</sup> NOU Division from the municipality of Gornji Milanovac, died in the Winter of 1945 because love and hate met here, they died for sacred aims, for these people in the name of freedom, their strength and bravery will be a lesson, but also an obligation, for younger generations. Comrades from the People's War and Citizens of Čelić.*

At the summit of the hillock is an ornamental garden, with a number of trees presumably planted at the time of the memorial park's creation.

The current appearance of the memorial park differs somewhat from the description given in the study created by the Tuzla Institute (1990, p.136). In this report, the main features of the memorial park are the same, although there is some difference in their locations. The plaque in the centre of the hillock is described as being positioned above the fountain, and the text differs slightly (with one name present on the plaque omitted from the written description, and the final wording differing slightly). However, this may be attributed to errata in the transcription. Considering the fact that Čelić is described as a 'municipality' in the present memorial plaque above the fountain and the fact that this plaque is not mentioned in the 1990 study, it can be assumed that the previous plaque was moved after 1995 to its current location, with a new plaque being added to the fountain at the same time.

One memorial plaque seemingly no longer present within the memorial park contained, according to the Tuzla Institute study, the following text:

<i>BORCI IZ OPŠTINE GORJNI MILANOVAC IZ II KRAJIŠKE BRIGADE</i>		
<i>SMILJANIĆ MILOJKO</i>	<i>1926 - 1944</i>	<i>TAKOVO</i>
<i>VIDOJEVIĆ ŽIVOJIN</i>	<i>1924 - 1945</i>	<i>SVRAČKOVIĆI</i>
<i>ŽIVANOVIĆ DUŠAN</i>	<i>1926 - 1944</i>	<i>TEOČIN</i>
<i>MIJAJLOVIĆ MILORAD</i>	<i>1926 - 1944</i>	<i>GRABOVICA</i>
<i>POPOVIĆ RADIŠA</i>	<i>1926 - 1945</i>	<i>MAJDAN</i>
<i>IZ XV MAJEVIČKE BRIGADE</i>		
<i>MILOSAVLJEVIĆ GRUJICA</i>	<i>1926 - 1945</i>	<i>PRANJANJI<sup>9</sup></i>

This was formerly situated where the memorial plaque that was originally positioned above the fountain is situated today.

A relief depicting battle scenes was said to have been located close to this plaque, but was deemed to be of little artistic value, and detrimental to the site's ambience (p.136). It is not known when these two features were removed. There was also a red star located atop the pillar of the main entranceway.

Although the memorial park and accompanying fountain are in good condition, and the site bears evidence to suggest it is regularly maintained, park infrastructure (such as benches and litter bins) are in poor condition. There are also small amounts of litter throughout the site. Furthermore, graffiti is evident on some of the grave markers and memorial plaques.

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<sup>9</sup> Translation: *Fighters from the municipality of Gornji Milanovac, from the II Krajinan Brigade: Smiljanić Miloško 1926-1944 Takovo; Vidojević Živojin 1924-1945 Svračkovići; Živanović Dušan 1926-1944 Teočin; Mijajlović Milorad 1926-1944 Grabovica; Popović Radiša 1926-1945 Majdan; from the XV Majevečka Brigade: Milosavljević Grujica 1926 - 1945 Pranjanji*

## 6. Memorial plaque, Šibošnica



Figure 6a: Memorial plaque in garden, September 2018



Figure 6b: Close-up of memorial plaque, September 2018



**Figure 6c:** Close-up of memorial plaque with arrow now in-filled, June 2019

This memorial plaque lies in the village of Šibošnica, approximately 150 metres to the north-west of the monument to Victims of Fascist Terror (see below, p.20). The date of its creation and the person or group who made it are unknown. The memorial consists of a small marble plaque set into a stone, which, in turn is set upon a small cuboidal concrete base.

The plaque is inscribed (in the Latin alphabet) with the following text:

*PROLAZNIČE STANI  
OVDJE POČIVAJU JUNACI  
NOR-A, SINOVI I KĆERI  
OVOG KRAJA I VOJVODINE<sup>10</sup>*

From the text on the plaque alone, it could be interpreted that this is either a marker for a collective grave or a plaque to denote the (former) entrance to the memorial park located nearby (see below, pp.20-26). On a site visit in September 2018, it was not noticed that below this text was an arrow pointing in the direction of the nearby memorial park. By June 2019, however, this arrow had been in-filled by persons unknown, making it far easier to determine that this is a plaque created to denote the entrance to the park. A local resident stated that a cleaning activity had taken place in the village, which included parts of the Memorial Park, in April 2019 (Delić, pers. comm., 2019), and it is most likely the case that this in-filling of the arrow was performed as part of this.

The writing on the plaque is heavily faded, and there is evidence of damage on the lower portion of the plaque, which has been restored at some point in the past in an amateurish manner. The area around the plaque (a private garden) is well maintained, and the plaque is clearly visible from the road.

<sup>10</sup> Translation: *Travellers stop. Here are resting Heroes of the NOR, sons and daughters of this region and Vojvodina*



## 7. Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror, Šibošnica



Figure 7a: Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror, September 2018



Figure 7b: Detail of inscription





**Figure 7c:** Overgrown memorial plaque, June 2019

This monument lies on the outskirts of the village, and commemorates 128 Victims of Fascist Terror. No information could be found relating to the author of the monument or the date of its construction. The monument itself consists of thirteen vertical columns of concrete, of varying width and height, with two horizontal blocks, each encased in a white stone. The rear block is blank, while the front block is carved with the names of the people the monument commemorates. These names are in the form 'SURNAME, NAME', with no other information or separation between the names, making them difficult to read and interpret. The height at which the names are carved (slightly below chest height) further compounds this issue. The names inscribed on the monument (in the Latin alphabet) are as follows:

*JANJIĆ RUŽA, STEVANOVIĆ TOŠO, ANTIĆ RISTO, JAZIĆ SAVO, JOVANOVIĆ ŽIVKO, JOVANOVIĆ CVIJA, KNEŽEVIĆ MARA, RIKIĆ PAJO, MITROVIĆ CVJETIN, VLAČIĆ VOJAN, MEHIĆ MUJO, MARKOVIĆ BOŠKO, MARKOVIĆ DANILO, ILIĆ SPASENIJA, STOKANOVIĆ SAVICA, KNEŽEVIĆ ILIJA, POPOVIĆ SPASOJE, ALEKSIĆ STOJA, PETROVIĆ BLAGOJE, PEKIĆ MILAN-POP, DELIĆ HAMZA, MARKOVIĆ LJUBO, ĐURIĆ CVJETIN, JEVTIĆ JOKA, MIHAILOVIĆ ŽOKO, GAVRIĆ ŽIVAN, PETROVIĆ SAVO, MITROVIĆ MITAR, DELIĆ HANKA, PETROVIĆ ĐOKO, GARIĆ, VLAČIĆ JOCO, MAKSIĆ OSTOJA, SIMIĆ JOVO, SIMIĆ NIKOLA, MILOŠEVIĆ PREDRAG, FILIPOVIĆ IVAN, TOMIĆ BENDO, FILIPOVIĆ JAKOV, ĐURIĆ CVIJA, MITROVIĆ ĐUKA, ANTIĆ ZOVAN, ĐOKIĆ LAKO, BLAGOJEVIĆ JOVO, BLAGOJEVIĆ ŽIVKO, RIKIĆ STOJAN, PETROVIĆ VINKO, PAULINOVIĆ MARKO, KRSTIĆ BOŠKO, BLAGOJEVIĆ SIMO, SPASOJEVIĆ STEVAN, MALIŠEVIĆ RISTO, MARKOVIĆ SAVO, JANJIĆ JOVO, TADIĆ ŽIVKO, MITROVIĆ MITAR, STANIŠIĆ MARKO,*

LAZAREVIĆ VOJO, LAZAREVIĆ TEŠO, SPASOJEVIĆ STEVAN, GARIĆ NEĐO, LUKIĆ SIMO, ĐOKIĆ SAVA, MAKSIMOVIĆ VASO, ANTIĆ PAJO, MAKSIMOVIĆ DUŠAN, VASILIC MILAN, NIKOLIĆ VASO, KRSTIĆ BOŽO, JOVANOVIĆ ANĐA, MITROVIĆ CVIKO, MITROVIĆ PETRA, ĐOKIĆ LAZAR, LUKIĆ PAJO, ĐOKIĆ NIKOLA, ĐOKIĆ BOŽO, ĐOKIĆ MILJAJN, ILIĆ JOVICA, PANTIĆ NEĐO, ĐURIĆ OBREN, ĐURIĆ STOJAN, MALINKIĆ ZINETA, MITROVIĆ MARA, MITROVIĆ ANĐA, MITROVIĆ STANKO, SIMIĆ NEĐO, SIMIĆ MARKO, TODIĆ LAZO, LAZIĆ PETKO, TODIĆ KOSTA, ĐURIĆ PANTO, VASIĆ JOVAN, HASANOVIĆ AGAN, MITROVIĆ STANA, MITROVIĆ JOVANKA, MARKOVIĆ RISTO, GARIĆ NEĐO, GARIĆ GAJO, FILIPOVIĆ AVRAM, MIJATOVIĆ LAZAR, FILIPOVIĆ MARA, FILIPOVIĆ MILA, MIHAILOVIĆ ĐOKO, BLAGOJEVIĆ KOSTA, BLAGOJEVIĆ ILIJA, MIHAILOVIĆ PETKO, STOKANOVIĆ ĐOKO, FILIPOVIĆ STOJA, FILIPOVIĆ MARA, TEŠIĆ GAJO, KRSTIĆ ILIJA, KOJIĆ STANA, PERIĆ STOJA, VASIĆ MILOVAN, ĐOKIĆ VASILJE, MITROVIĆ MARA, ĐOKIĆ MITAR, FILIPOVIĆ ĐORĐE, FILIPOVIĆ CVIJA, BLAGOSOJEVIĆ TODA, TEŠIĆ VASO, MIHAILOVIĆ VAJA, MIHAILOVIĆ JOKA, GAJIĆ JOVAN, MITROVIĆ SIMO, ĐOKIĆ PETRA, ILIĆ VOJKO, LAKIĆ BOŠKO

In an older photograph of the site from the Tuzla Institute study (1990, p.163c), there appears to be a small stone or concrete block positioned in front of the monument, with '*Spomenik Žrtvama Fasističkog Terora 1941 – 1945*' inscribed upon it. This block is no longer present, and, without any inscription upon the monument beside the names, it is impossible for the casual observer to know what the monument is dedicated to. However, beside the road is another small dedicatory plaque. Due to overgrowth, it was impossible to see what was inscribed on this during a site visit undertaken in June 2019 (see Figure 7c).

While some of the names stand out from the stone, others are difficult to read. However, it is impossible to determine whether the names that are more visible are thus due to a paint or lacquer, or as a result of the development of a patina, and, if the latter, whether this was the author's intention. It would appear from the photograph in the Tuzla Institute's study (1990, p.163c) that the lettering was not originally painted, however.

Although the landscape in the vicinity of the monument appears heavily overgrown, the monument's plateau is clear of overgrowth, and the presence of a planter on the plateau containing plants that are not from the locality would suggest that the site is (semi-)regularly maintained.

## 8. Memorial to fallen fighters of the NOR, Šibošnica



**Figure 8a:** Memorial wall, 1980s



**Figure 8b:** Communal grave and memorial wall, 1980s



**Figure 8c:** Memorial wall and communal grave, June 2019





**Figure 8d:** Memorial wall and communal grave, June 2019



**Figure 8e:** Memorial wall, with communal grave in the foreground, June 2019

This collective grave lies within Šibošnica's memorial park. The date of its creation is unknown, although, due to the materials used, it is safe to assume that the memorial wall is contemporaneous to the nearby monument to Victims of Fascist Terror (see above, p.20), which it lies approximately 20 metres to the south east of.

The site consists of a raised square plateau covered in flagstones, and a memorial wall. This wall is cut into a hillock (or alternatively an artificial mound has been created behind it), and is inscribed

with names (or descriptions in the case of unknown fighters) of 101 fallen fighters. These are set onto individual white marble plaques, which have been cut with a high degree of precision so as to fit smoothly together on the wall. The names are inscribed in four rows, with no discernible order. These names are documented in *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe opštine Lopare* (1990, pp.164-165) as follows:

PANIĆ STEVAN	D. TRNOVA	-1944	LAZAREVIĆ SREČKO	1923-1943
MIHAJLOVIĆ ŽIVAN		1909-1944	MIĆANOVIĆ JOVAN	1925-1943
MIĆANOVIĆ NEĐO		1920-1943	MIĆIĆ MILIVOJE	D. TRNOVA -1944
PETROVIĆ ANA		1925-1944	LUKIĆ VAJKO	1926-1944
MARKOVIĆ STOJAN		1914-1944	STOJANOVIĆ KOJO	BRUSNICA -1944
SPASOJEVIĆ MITAR		1919-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
DUGONJIĆ ANTO		1922-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
MIHAJLOVIĆ NIKO		1909-1944	NIKOLIĆ MILAN	D. TRNOVA -1944
MILOŠ KOM. BATALJONA		-1944	ĐOKIĆ CVIKO	1922-1944
DUŠAN IZ KRAJINE		-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
JOVO IZ KORDUNA		-1944	SIMIĆ MITAR	1900-1943
BAŠIĆ ANTO		1924-1943	RIKIĆ CVIJETIN	1920-1943
SIMIĆ BORO		1923-1943	SUKANOVIĆ BAJRO	1923-1944
NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE			ĐOKIĆ NEĐO	1923-1944
PETROVIĆ SIMO		1924-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
MILJANOVIĆ STOJAN		1903-1943	MITROVIĆ TEŠO	1920-1944
JANJIĆ RISTO		1895-1945	KRSTIĆ MILOVAN	1924-1943
MEDIĆ HAŠIM		1925-1944	NAKIĆ TEŠO	1922-1944
NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE			MAKSIMOVIĆ NEĐO	1921-1943
MITROVIĆ BOŽIDAR		1919-1944	SLAVKO IZ VOJVODINE	
MITROVIĆ JOVO		1923-1944	PETROVIĆ PAVO	1922-1944
IMŠIROVIĆ SALIH		1922-1945	HALILOVIĆ ŠABAN	1925-1944
JANJIĆ CVIJAN		1920-1945	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
MITROVIĆ TODOR		1924-1944	JOVANOVIĆ ĐOKO	1923-1945
ĐURIĆ MIĆA		1924-1945	SPASOJEVIĆ IKO	1919-1944
ĐOKIĆ RISTO		1920-1944	KRSTIĆ JOVAN	1924-1943
MILAN IZ VOJVODINE		-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
ĐOKIĆ MILAN	D. TRNOVA	-1944	ŠERIFOVIĆ SAMID	1925-1945
NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE			IMŠIROVIĆ HAJRULAH	1925-1945
MAKSIMOVIĆ NEĐO		1914-1943	ĐOKIĆ ŽIVKO	1924-1944
DRAGICA IZ VOJVODINE		-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
TOMO IZ VOJVODINE		-1944	GAVRIĆ MIHAJLO	1923-1944
OKČIĆ RAHMAN		1925-1944	HODŽIĆ JUNUZ	1917-1945
MAKSIMOVIĆ SAVO		1919-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
MIHAJLOVIĆ ILIJA		1914-1943	SIMIĆ ALEKSA	1914-1944
RUS IZ SSR-A			ĐOKIĆ MILAN	1925-1944
VODNIK PERO IZ VOJVODINE			KRSTIĆ JOVO	1925-1945
ŠERIFOVIĆ REDŽO		1925-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
KOJIĆ MIJAT		1904-1944	SUKANOVIĆ ALAGA	1921-1945
TODIĆ VAJKO		1920-1943	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
POPADIĆ CVIKO		1927-1943	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
ĐOKIĆ TRIPUN		1920-1943	SPASOJEVIĆ JOVO	1923-1944

HUMČEVIĆ DŽAFER	1925-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE		MURATOVIĆ MUJO	1912-1945
TODIĆ MILAN	1914-1943	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
BLAGOJEVIĆ ĐOKAN	1923-1944	NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE	
NEPOZNATI BORAC IZ VOJVODINE		MUJBEGOVIĆ SULEJMAN	-1943
EMINOVIĆ MURADIF	1925-1945	SMAJIĆ ALJO	1923-1945
SPASOJEVIĆ RAJKO	1918-1943	IMŠIROVIĆ MEHMED	1928-1945
KRSTIĆ NIKOLA	1926-1944	VLADIĆ ALEKSA	D. TRNOVA -1944
FEJZIĆ HASAN	1924-1945		

Today, the monument is heavily overgrown and in a poor state of repair. A number of plaques have been lost from the memorial wall. The fact that no residue from these could be seen at the foot of the wall during a site visit would suggest that the plaques that are no longer situated on the wall have been intentionally cleared from the site at some point in the past, possibly in the cleaning action undertaken in April 2019 (see above, p. 19) or an earlier event. The collective grave is also overgrown, with small trees having taken root around the edges of the plateau and many of the flagstones being badly cracked.



## 9. Memorial to fallen fighters of the NOR and Victims of Fascist Terror, Vražići



Figure 9a: Memorial in its original location, 1980s



Figure 9b: Engraved stećak tombstone, with monument in the background, 1980s



**Figure 9c:** Monument in its present-day location





Figure 9d: Inscription around the base of the monument



Figure 9e: Stećak today, with monument in the background





**Figure 9f:** Positioning of stećak today

This monument – whose artist is unknown – was unveiled at an unknown date, although it certainly pre-dates 1973; the date of the earliest photograph that could be found during the course of this research that depicts it. It consists of a pentagonal concrete base inscribed with names of 79 individuals. Above this, five concrete ribs join together to form an abstract decorative element. There is no text on the monument beside the names of those it commemorates.

The names inscribed on the monument, according to a list within the Tuzla Institute's study (pp.166a-166b) and additional field research carried out in September 2018, are as follows:

**SIDE I**

*SALKIĆ M. ŠEĆO  
MUSLIĆ H. BEHADER  
IBRIŠIMOVIĆ M. MEHMED  
MUSLIĆ H. BEGO  
MUJKIĆ E. ZENUN  
SIVČEVIĆ M. ALIJA  
ZAHIROVIĆ B. AHMO  
PAŠALIC H. OMER*

*SPAHIĆ Z. ZAIM  
LIVADIĆ M. JUSUF  
KOČIĆ O. AHMET  
BEĆIROVIĆ B. HASAN  
BJELIĆ M. KADRO  
MUMINOVIĆ A. IBRAHIM  
KOVAZOVIĆ M. MEHO*

**SIDE II**

*MUJKIĆ V. OMER  
ŠEĆKANOVIĆ S. MUJO  
BEGOVIĆ J. LEJLIJA  
SIVČEVIĆ J. AHMET  
ARNAUTOVIĆ S. BEĆO  
ARNAUTOVIĆ H. AHMET  
MEHELJIĆ AHMET  
CVJETKOVIĆ V. PEJO*

*BEGANOVIĆ M. MEHMED  
SALKIĆ S. ALJO  
MUKIĆ H. MUSTAFA  
SLOMIĆ R. ALIJA  
SALKIĆ S. GALIB  
BUJAKOVIĆ A. BEGO  
SALKIĆ J. ALJO  
ARNAUTOVIĆ O. HUSNIJA*

SIDE III

MUMINOVIĆ I. HUSNIJA  
BEĆIROVIĆ M. MELČA  
MEHELJIĆ S. ZAIM  
ARNAUTOVIĆ JUSUF  
BEĆIROVIĆ K. MUMA  
ARNAUTOVIĆ R. IBRAHIM  
MUMINOVIĆ I. ALIJA  
JUSUFOVIĆ B. LEJLIJA

TODIĆ D. MILA  
GRANIĆ MUNIB  
LIVADIĆ S. ARIF  
MUMINOVIĆ BEGO  
ČUKUŠIĆ O. ŠEVKO  
KOČIĆ M-. MUJO  
NUKIĆ H. SINAN  
SMAJIĆ A. MUJO

SIDE IV

ARNAUTOVIĆ H. SULEEJMAN  
MURATOVIĆ H. ZEJČIR  
CVJETKOVIĆ P. MILUTIN  
MUMINOVIĆ V. MEHMED  
HALILOVIĆ Š. MEŠAN  
KURTIĆ S. IBRAHIM  
LIVADIĆ A. ALIJA  
BEĆIROVIĆ R. REDŽIO

SLOMIĆ R. EMIN  
KOČIĆ M. OMER  
KEHIĆ MUSA  
SLOMIĆ I. SALKO  
KOČIĆ M. ALIJA  
KEVRIĆ H. ALIJA  
NUKIĆ A. HUSEJN  
TODIĆ Đ. MILAN

SIDE V

TODIĆ Đ. RADOVAN  
HUSEJNAGIĆ A. HUSEJN  
KEVRIĆ O. JUSUF  
KOČIĆ O. MUSTAFA  
HALILOVIĆ A. HUSEJN  
ARNAUTOVIĆ S. VEHBIJA  
BEGANOVIĆ E. NOVALIJA  
ARNAUTOVIĆ M. SAFER

BEGIĆ S. NESIB  
TODIĆ Đ. VELJKO  
MUJKIĆ S. NURIJA  
SPAHALIĆ O. FEHIM  
KOČIĆ O. BEGO  
BEĆIROVIĆ K. MEHO  
ŠEHIĆ B. SULEJMAN  
ARNAUTOVIĆ I. HAKIJA

A planter with plants was seen to have been placed on the pedestal of the monument during a site visit in September 2018. By June 2019, this had been removed.

Beside the monument is a memorial plaque commemorating 28 Victims of Fascist Terror killed in an attack by the 13th SS Handžar Division on the village on 18 March 1944 in reprisal for its support for the Partisan movement (Kovačević 2005, pp.44-45). Of particular note regarding this memorial plaque is the fact that it was carved into a medieval stećak tombstone. No comparable examples are currently known to the researchers of this form of re-use of memorials upon the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The text inscribed on the stećak is as follows:

SVIM ZNANIM I NEZNANIM BORCIMA  
NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKOG RATA KAO  
I DVADESETSEDMORICI RODOLJUBA  
IZ VRAŽIĆA KOJI NA OVOM MEJSTU  
18. MARTA 1944. GODINE PADOŠE  
KAO ŽRTVE OKUPATORSKOG NASILJA<sup>11</sup>

The monument (as well as the accompanying stećak tombstone) has been moved from its original location. This occurred at some point between 2000 and 2013. Nowadays, it lies at the foot of a

<sup>11</sup> Translation: *All known and unknown fighters of the People's Liberation War and also twenty-eight patriots from Vražići who at this place on 18 March 1944 fell as victims of the occupiers' violence*



memorial to the 1992-95 war and a row of shops and cafes built alongside this memorial. The stećak lies several metres in front, beside an electricity distribution box.

Overall, although the monument is in a good structural condition, its new location is not suitable. First, some of the names can only be read with extreme difficulty, as the monument is placed beside a stairway, and second the immediate environs are damp, meaning that the rendering with victims' names painted on it has deteriorated significantly.

#### **10. Bust of NH Krsto Bjeletić, Šibošnica**

This bust was located in the Krsto Bjeletić Krcun elementary school in the village of Šibošnica. Its artist and year of creation are unknown.

The school ceased to function in May 1992 (Sukanović & Mujčinović, 2015 p.23), due to its proximity to the front line during the 1992-95 war. After the war, the school was renovated and re-opened, and now functions as a satellite school of Humci elementary school, under the name Šibošnica district school.

The bust is no longer situated inside the school, and its existence and whereabouts could not be confirmed. Furthermore, no photographic evidence of the bust could be obtained during the course of research for this report. Employees of the school had no recollection of it ever having existed, but a local resident confirmed that it was indeed once located within the school (Delić, pers. comm., 2019).

### **11. Bust of Ahmet Kobić, Čelić**

The Tuzla Institute study (p.127) mentions that this bust lay inside Čelić elementary school (formerly Ahmet Kobić elementary school). Its artist and year of creation are unknown.

The bust is no longer situated inside the school, and its existence and whereabouts could not be confirmed. Furthermore, no photographic evidence of the bust could be obtained during the course of research for this report.

## 12. Bust of NH Fadil Jahić Španac, Vražići



Figure 12a: Bust of NH Fadil Jahić Španac, Vražići, c.1982



Figure 12b: Bust and pedestal, 2018



**Figure 12c:** Bust of NH Fadil Jahić Španac, Vražići, 2018

This bust is located inside the former Fadil Jahić Španac elementary school (nowadays Vražići elementary school) in Vražići. The date and author of the bust are unknown. The bust is still in situ, on its original plinth, which is set into the wall. It commemorates Fadil Jahić 'Španac' (1910-1942), a National Hero of Yugoslavia and a volunteer in the Spanish Civil War.

The bust and plinth are both in excellent condition.

## Current Situation - Summary

The following can be said of the 12 monuments and memorials to the NOB identified on the territory of Čelić municipality (four busts, one memorial plaque, one memorial fountain, four monuments, one memorial house and one memorial park):

- The **memorial house to commemorate Ahmet Kobić in Brnjik** is in seemingly good condition and is still in use within the community, albeit possibly not for a purpose best-suited to preserving the memory of Ahmet Kobić. However, the damp patch evident to the right of the door is a minor worry, and horticultural intervention may be required to alleviate this, and ongoing regular monitoring of its condition is recommended. The idea of installing a plaque to indicate the reason for the building's construction should also be considered.
- The **bust of Ahmet Kobić** in Brnjik is in excellent condition. No action needs to be taken, apart from occasional monitoring for signs of vandalism or attempts at theft.
- The **memorial fountain commemorating Satka Nukić in Brnjik** is in very good condition. No action needs to be taken regarding its current situation. However, the idea of restoring the taps and water supply should be considered, in order to return the monument to its original intended function.
- The **monument to Jusuf Kobić on the outskirts of Čelić** is in good condition, and no action needs to be taken regarding its situation. However, the hillock upon which the monument is situated should be monitored for signs of subsidence, and likewise the steps leading up to the monument itself.
- The **memorial park in Čelić** is in good condition overall. However, a number of key elements have been moved, removed or altered since the Tuzla Institute undertook a survey of the site in the 1980s. Further research needs to be undertaken regarding the history of the site and alterations to it. Particular elements in this respect are the plaque commemorating fallen fighters of the Krajina and Majevisa Brigades and the memorial relief which was previously located close to it. The study created by the Tuzla Institute (p.136a) recommended obtaining agreement from SUBNOR Gornji Milanovac (Serbia) to facilitate the relief's removal. There may be further documentation relating to this within the archives of this organization. The site should be regularly maintained by authorities, not only due to its function as a memorial site, but also because it provides a valuable green space for the town.
- The **memorial plaque, Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror** and **memorial grave of fallen fighters of the NOR in Šibošnica** should arguably be categorized as a single memorial park. Without adequate signage, it is impossible for visitors to fully understand the individual components of this. Although the minor renovations to the memorial plaque at the entrance undertaken between September 2018 and June 2019 help clarify the plaque's purpose, it is still difficult to perceive the memorial park as a 'whole'. There is a need for improved visibility of signage, and the creation of a new dedicatory panel on the memorial grave. It would be beneficial if an interpretive panel were to be placed within the memorial park, highlighting the key features and presenting a brief history of the park itself and the events it commemorates. In addition, many of the features in the park are heavily overgrown with vegetation. This should be cleared in a manner so as not to cause further damage to the features (in particular the collective grave) and a full assessment of any damages so far sustained should be made, with complete documentation. If necessary, the collective grave

should be restored. Efforts should also be made to determine whether the plaques missing from the memorial wall still survive, and the idea of restoring the wall should be considered.

- The **Memorial to Fallen Fighters of the NOR and Victims of Fascist Terror in Vražići** is in relatively poor condition, and its current location is not conducive to its long-term survival. The monument should be relocated if possible, and efforts should be undertaken to stabilize the inscription of names around the base. The **memorial plaque inscribed on the medieval stećak tombstone** should also be relocated, as its current positioning next to an electrical utility box detracts from its visual impact and significance.
- The **busts of NH Krsto Bjeletić** in Šibošnica elementary school and **Ahmet Kobić** in Čelić elementary school are no longer in situ. Efforts should be made to determine whether or not these still exist, and whether they are in storage somewhere.
- The **bust of NH Fadil Jahić Španac** in Vražići elementary school is in excellent condition. No action needs to be taken regarding either the bust or its pedestal, although it would be advisable to determine the author and the exact date of its creation.



## Municipality Map



### Key:

- |   |  |    |  |
|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | Ahmet Kobić memorial house, Brnjik       | 7  | Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror, Šibošnica                 |
| 2 | Bust of Ahmet Kobić, Brnjik              | 8  | Memorial to fallen fighters of the NOR, Šibošnica                |
| 3 | Memorial fountain to Satka Nukić, Brnjik | 9  | Memorial to fallen fighters & Victims of Fascist Terror, Vražići |
| 4 | Monument to Jusuf Kobić, Čelić           | 10 | Bust of NH Krsto Bjeletić, Šibošnica                             |
| 5 | Memorial park, Čelić                     | 11 | Bust of Ahmet Kobić, Čelić                                       |
| 6 | Memorial plaque, Šibošnica               | 12 | Bust of NH Fadil Jahić Španac, Vražići                           |

Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the author.



## List of Figures

Cover image – ‘Celic\_Municipality\_Location.png’ created by Wikipedia user ‘Mhare’. Available: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e3/Celic\\_Municipality\\_Location.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e3/Celic_Municipality_Location.png)

Figure 1a: Taken from Zavod za zaštitu i korištenje kulturno-istorijskog i prirodnog nasljeđa Tuzla (1990) *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe opštine Lopare* p.132

Figure 1b: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 2a: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 3a: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 3b: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 4a: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 4b: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 5a: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 5b: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 5c: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 5d: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 5e: Andrew Lawler, adapted from site sketch drawn by Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 6a: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 6b: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 6c: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 7a: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 7b: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 7c: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 8a: Taken from Zavod za zaštitu i korištenje kulturno-istorijskog i prirodnog nasljeđa Tuzla (1990) *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe opštine Lopare* p.165

Figure 8b: Taken from Zavod za zaštitu i korištenje kulturno-istorijskog i prirodnog nasljeđa Tuzla (1990) *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe opštine Lopare* p.165

Figure 8c: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 8d: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 8e: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 9a: Taken from Zavod za zaštitu i korištenje kulturno-istorijskog i prirodnog nasljeđa Tuzla (1990) *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe opštine Lopare* p.166

Figure 9b: Taken from Zavod za zaštitu i korištenje kulturno-istorijskog i prirodnog nasljeđa Tuzla (1990) *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe opštine Lopare* p.166

Figure 9c: Emina Bećirović, September 2018

Figure 9d: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 9e: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 9f: Adis Mujkić, June 2019

Figure 12a: Published on the ‘Vrazici ba On line’ Facebook page, 27 January 2013. Available:

[https://scontent.fbeg4-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/424573\\_365490076891968\\_996147495\\_n.jpg?\\_nc\\_cat=101&oh=f6023fdb3c66f12d3bb6a4e2a137bdcf&oe=5C224F5C](https://scontent.fbeg4-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/424573_365490076891968_996147495_n.jpg?_nc_cat=101&oh=f6023fdb3c66f12d3bb6a4e2a137bdcf&oe=5C224F5C)

Figure 12b: Sevlata Arnautović, December 2018

Figure 12c: Sevlata Arnautović, December 2018

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## Personal communications

Amir Delić, resident of Šibošnica, June 2019