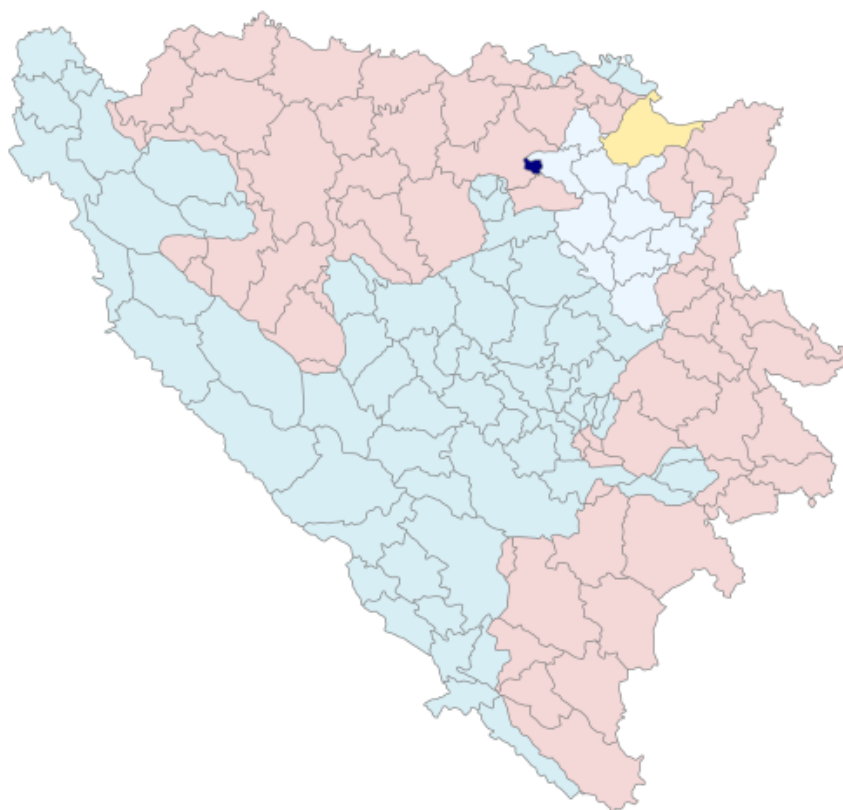


MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR
CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

DOBOJ ISTOK 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 system¹ among and between stakeholders² 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 Doboј Istok municipality, in Tuzla Canton (FBiH).

¹ 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 (Tihic, 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.

² Largely local and national organizations for Antifascists and Veterans of the NOR

Background and Summary

The present-day municipality of Doboj Istok was separated from the pre-1992 municipality of Doboj as a result of the 1995 Dayton Accords, being established as a municipality in 1998.

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 48 being recorded in the then-Doboj municipality in a survey conducted in several periods from July 1971 to September 1972³, categorized as follows:

- **Memorial plaques – 16**
- **Memorial busts – 5**
- **Fountains, wells and cisterns – 4**
- **Artistic monuments – 13**
- **Identified individual graves and mass graves – 5**
- **Graveyards for Partisans and Victims of Fascist Terror – 5**

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, as part of Doboj municipality, the NOB heritage of present-day Doboj Istok municipality was the subject of the 1986 book *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju* (pp.467-542). Within the boundaries of present-day Doboj Istok municipality, a total of 2 monuments were documented as having existed at this time. These are as follows:

MUNICIPALITY	VILLAGE/MZ	TYPE	YEAR	ARTIST
Doboj Istok	Brijesnica Velika	Monument	1960	???
Doboj Istok	Stanić Rijeka (Gavrići)	Fountain	1958	???

In the process of research, no currently valid documentation produced by municipal authorities could be found that mentions either of these monuments or memorials, or any additional memorials to the People's Liberation War created after 1986.

³ Actual dates: 8th July 1971, 24th – 29th July 1972, and 23rd August – 1st September 1972

Monuments and Memorials in Doboj Istok Municipality

1. Monument in Brijesnica Velika



Figure 1a: Monument in Brijesnica Velika, 1980s



Figure 1b: Former location of Brijesnica Velika monument, 2018

This monument was located beside the main road in Brijesnica Velika, between Dobož and Gračanica. It was unveiled in 1960.

The monument was situated in a small enclosure beside the road, and consisted of a small plateau made of concrete, with a monument approximately 2.5 metres in height, which featured a concrete block supported by two concrete legs, with a red star on top. On the block was a memorial plaque made of stone from the island of Brač, which was screwed onto the block using four large screws.

The inscription on the block (in the Latin alphabet) read as follows:

*U ZNAK ZAHVALNOSTI I PRIZNANJA BORCIMA
IZ XIV I XX SRBIJANSKE BRIGADE KOJI DADOŠE
SVOJE ŽIVOTE U BORBAMA ZA OSLOBOĐENJE
OVOG KRAJA I KLOKIĆ SADIKU UČESNIKU N.O.B-e
KOJI JE MUČKI UBIJEN OD USTAŠA 1944 GODINE.
OVU SPOMEN PLOČU PODIŽE NAROD SELA:
MALE BRIJESNICE, VELIKE BRIJESNICE I
KLOKOTNICE.*

BRIJESNICA 27 JULI 1960 GODINE.⁴

The monument was destroyed during or shortly after the 1992-95 war (in 1992, according to a local source). In its place, a monument to victims of the recent war has been raised.

⁴ Translation: As a sign of thanks and recognition to the fighters of the XIV and XX Serbian Brigades who gave their lives in the battle for the liberation of this area, and Kloković Sadik, participant in the NOB, who was horrifically murdered by the Ustashe in 1944. This memorial plaque was raised by the villages [of]: Mala Brijesnica, Velika Brijesnica and Klokotnica. Brijesnica, 27 July 1960.

2. Fountain in Gavrići, Stanić Rijeka



Figure 2a: Fountain in Gavrići, 1980s



Figure 2b: Fountain in Gavrići, August 2018

This fountain is located in the settlement of Gavrići, within the village of Stanić Rijeka. It is of unknown date. The fountain was created by modifying a pre-existing water source, creating a concrete structure with memorial dedication inscribed upon a plaque.

The original dedication was illegible at the time of the writing of *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju*, but the lower inscription (see Figure 2a) was in the Cyrillic alphabet, and the letters '(b?)ra(ć?)a Gavrići' are evident. The book states that preparations were being made for the reconstruction of the fountain at the time of its writing (1986, p.502). Upon a site visit in August 2018, the inscription was determined to read:

1/5 1931
BRAĆA GAVRIĆI⁵

However, the letter 'И' ('I') was mistranscribed as 'N', and it is unknown what the date (if it is indeed a date) refers to.

As of a site visit in August 2018, the fountain was in a similar condition to that in the 1980s, and still in working order. Although from a comparison of the two photographs above it would appear that the fountain had been moved, a local resident explained that this was in fact the result of the landscape having been altered heavily, with the land in front of the fountain having been built up. It could not be ascertained whether this was the 'reconstruction' alluded to in the 1986 publication.

An attempt was made to read the inscription on the plaque. Although impossible to read by eye, a rubbing was made by Adis Mujkić on a site visit in January 2019. The inscription (in the Cyrillic alphabet) reads as follows:

IZ OVOGA MJESTA DALI SU
SVOJE ŽIVOTE ZA SLOBODU NAŠE
ZEMLJE OD 1941-1945 BORCI:
GAVRIĆ B. BOGDAN
GAVRIĆ C. MILAN
GAVRIĆ S. DAMLJAN
GAVRIĆ O. MIRKO
U ZNAK PRIZNANJA I SJEĆANJA NA
PALE BORCE PODIŽEMO OVU SPOMEN
ČESMU
GAVRIĆI
VIII 1958
SAVEZ BORACA NOR
I NAROD OVOG MJESTA⁶

⁵ Translation: 1/5/1931, Brothers Gavrić

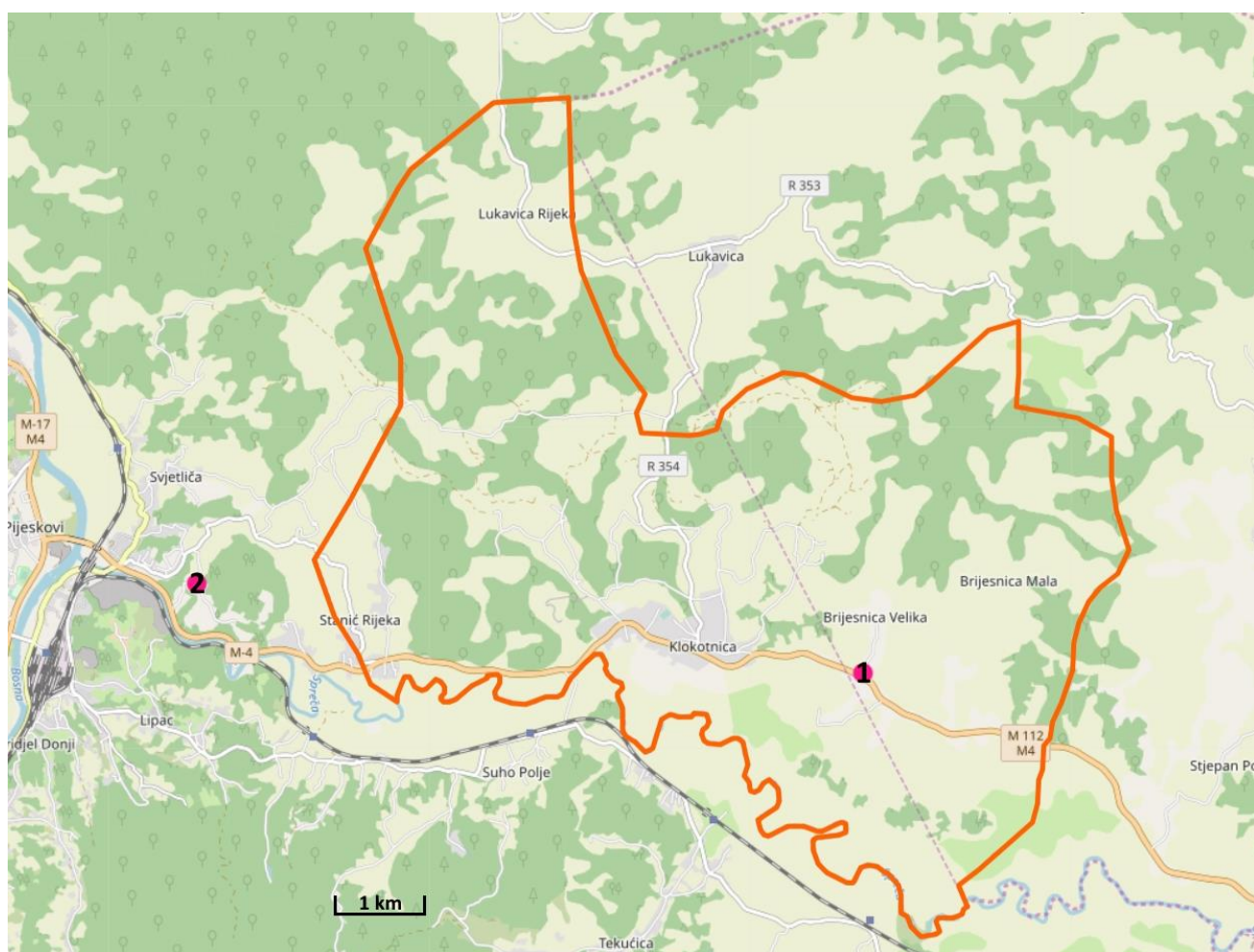
⁶ Translation: From this place gave their lives for the freedom of our lands from 1941 to 1945 the fighters: Gavrić B. Bogdan; Gavrić C. Milan; Gavrić S. Damljan; Gavrić O. Mirko. As a sign of recognition and memory of these fallen fighters, this memorial fountain was raised. Gavrići VIII 1958 Association of Fighters of the NOR and the people of this place.

Current Situation - Summary

The following can be said of the two monuments and memorials to the NOB identified as having existed on the territory of present-day Dobož Istok municipality (one monument and one fountain):

- The **monument in Brijesnica Velika** has been completely destroyed, and no trace of it remains.
- The **fountain in Gavrići, Stanić Rijeka**, although apparently in poor condition at first sight, can be easily restored. Efforts should be made to replace the rendering, and to ensure the fountain's long-term stability. Furthermore, efforts should be made to determine the reason for the '1/5 1931 *BRAĆA GAVRIĆI*' inscription, which would appear to post-date the 1958 inscription on the fountain's dedicatory plaque.

Municipality Map



KEY

- 1 – Monument in Brijesnica Velika
- 2 – Fountain in Gavrići, Stanić Rijeka⁷

Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the author.

⁷ Although this monument appears to *de jure* lie upon the territory of the neighbouring Dobojevo municipality, its location is *de facto* under the administration of Dobojevo Istok municipality.

List of Figures

Cover image – ‘Doboj_Istok_municipality.svg’, created by Wikipedia user ‘Yerevani Axjik’. Available: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/85/Doboj_Istok_municipality.svg. Accessed 7 June 2018.

Figure 1a: Taken from Unknown Author(s) (1986) *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju* p.501

Figure 1b: Almasa Dervišević, Doboj Istok resident, August 2018

Figure 2a: Taken from Unknown Author(s) (1986) *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju* p.502

Figure 2b: Almasa Dervišević, Doboj Istok resident, August 2018

Municipality map: Created using data originally created by OpenStreetMap contributors (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/2528183>) [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)]

Literature

Tihić, Smail (1981) *Dovršena akcija na poslovima terenske evidencije i analizi spomen obilježja NOR-a i revolucije* in Naše Starine XIV-XV (1981) pp.253-256.

Unknown Author(s) (1986) *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju*, pp.467-542. Doboj: Opštinska konferencija Socijalističkog Saveza radnog naroda BiH Doboj