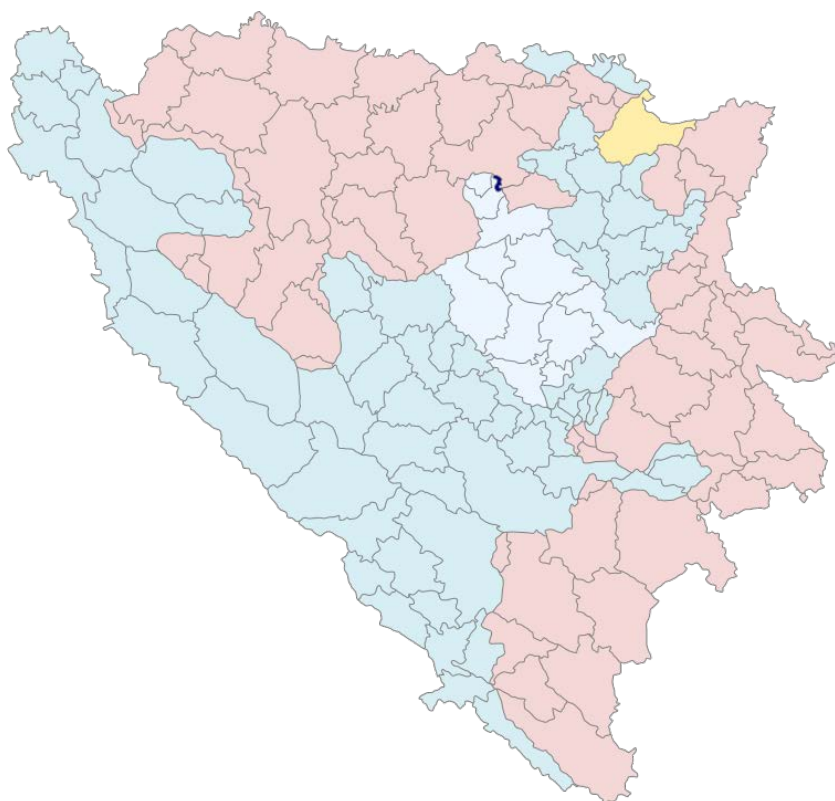


MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR
CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

DOBOJ JUG MUNICIPALITY



Andrew Lawler

June 2019

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Acknowledgements | 2 |
| Preface | 3 |
| Background and Summary | 4 |
| Monuments and Memorials in Doboj Jug Municipality | |
| 1. Monument in Matuzići | 5 |
| Current Situation – Summary | 7 |
| Municipality Map | 8 |
| List of Figures | 9 |
| Literature | 10 |

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following institutions and individuals for their assistance in compiling this report:

Lejla Džananović, resident of Doboj, for mapping and photographing sites

Aleksandar Jašarević, Senior Curator, Museum in Doboj, for providing literature essential to the report's creation

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 Doboj Jug municipality, situated in Zenica-Doboj 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 (Tihić, 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 Dobož Jug was separated from the pre-1992 municipality of Dobož as a result of the 1995 Dayton Accords, being established as a municipality in 1998. It consists of two settlements, Matuzići and Mravići, and is one of the smallest municipalities in the state, occupying an area of roughly 10.2 km² in total.

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 (Tihiić, 1981). In total, 2,049 immovable properties were recorded on the territory of SR Bosnia & Herzegovina, with 48 being recorded in the then-Dobož 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 Dobož municipality, the NOB heritage of present-day Dobož Jug municipality was the subject of the 1986 book *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju* (pp.467-542). Only 1 monument within the boundaries of present-day Dobož Jug municipality was documented as having existed at this time by this publication. This was as follows:

| MUNICIPALITY | VILLAGE/MZ | TYPE | YEAR | ARTIST |
|--------------|------------|----------|------|--------------------------------|
| Dobož Jug | Matuzići | Monument | 1984 | Drago Handanović; Petar Vajdić |

In the process of research, no currently valid documentation produced by municipal authorities could be found that mentions this monument, or any additional memorials to the People's Liberation War created after 1986. Although Dobož Jug has created a spatial plan (spanning the period 2005-2020), no copy of this could be obtained during the course of research.

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

Monuments and Memorials in Doboj Jug Municipality

1. Monument in Matuzići



Figure 1a: Monument in the 1980s



Figure 1b: Former location of the monument, 2019

This monument was the work of Drago Handanović and Petar Vajdić (Gradska galerija Bihać, 2008 p.10). It was unveiled in 1984, and was located close to the centre of the settlement of Matuzići. As described in *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju* (pp.487-488), the monument consisted of a plateau paved with granite cobbles, upon which were situated three earthen tumuli with concrete retaining walls and a five-sided concrete obelisk vertically divided into

eight segments. Upon this obelisk were situated five black dedicatory plaques of identical dimensions. One of these plaques was inscribed as follows:

*PREVOĐENI KOMUNISTIČKOM PARTIJOM JUGOSLAVIJE I DRUGOM TITOM, I
NAROD SELA MATUZIĆI DAO JE DOPRINOS POBJEDI NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKE
BORBE⁴*

A five-pointed star was carved above this inscription.

The remaining four plaques were inscribed with the names of nine fallen fighters from the village. However, these names are not transcribed in *Od ustanka do pobjede*, and no other record could be found during the course of research.

The monument has been entirely destroyed, and a local hospital has been built on its former location. No traces of the monument or its plateau survive whatsoever. It was not possible to precisely determine the date of the monument's destruction, but a photograph reproduced in Begić (2008, p.104) and photographs on the website of the hospital (poliklinikadobojjug.ba) suggest that the plot of land upon which the monument previously lay was cleared for the construction of the hospital in the immediate wake of the 1992-95 war.

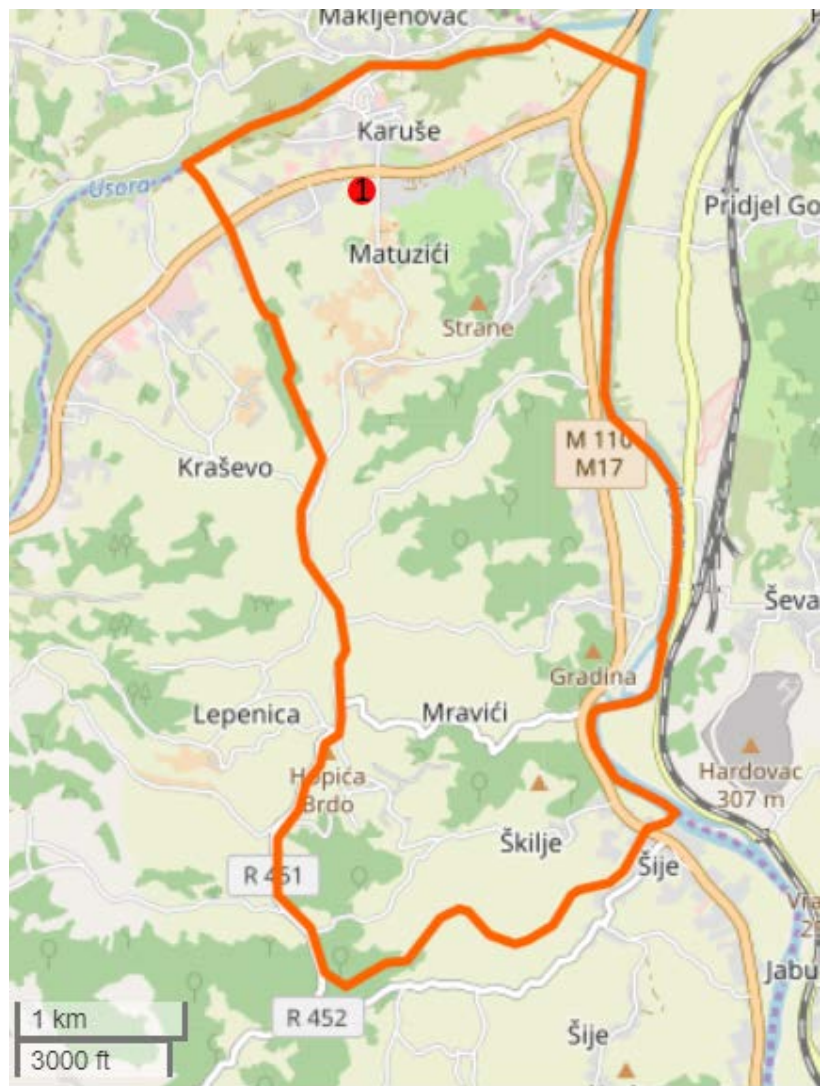
⁴ Translation: *Led by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and Comrade Tito, the people of the village of Matuzići also gave their contribution to the victory in the People's Liberation Struggle.*

Current Situation - Summary

The following can be said of the single monument to the NOB identified as having existed on the territory of present-day Doboj Jug municipality:

- The **monument in Matuzići** has been completely destroyed, and no traces of it survive at its former location, which has now been redeveloped and a small hospital built upon it. It is not known what happened to materials from the monument, nor if any of the memorial plaques may have survived and been placed in storage somewhere. This is a potential avenue for further research, as is determining the inscriptions upon the plaques that were not transcribed in *Od ustanka do pobjede*.

Municipality Map



KEY

1 – Monument in Matuzići

Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the author.

List of Figures

Cover image – ‘BiH municipality location Doboj Jug.svg’, created by Wikipedia user ‘BošnjakArmin’. Available:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d6/BiH_municipality_location_Doboj_Jug.svg. Accessed 8 June 2019.

Figure 1a: Taken from Unknown Author(s) (1986) *Od ustanka do pobjede - zbornik sjećanja iz NOR-a u dobojskom kraju* p.487

Figure 1b: Lejla Džananović, resident of Doboj, June 2019

Municipality map: Created using data originally created by OpenStreetMap contributors (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/2528184>) [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)]

Literature

Begić, Miralem (2008). Iz prošlosti Matuzića, sjedišta današnje općine Doboj Jug. In *Gračanički Glasnik* 25/13, pp.103-106.

Gradska galerija Bihać (2008). *Drago Handanović: Umjetnička Keramika* (exhibition catalogue), 12 pp. Bihać: Gradska galerija Bihać. Available: https://ggbihac.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/Drago_Handanovi%C4%87.pdf. Accessed 10 June 2019.

Poliklinika Doboj Jug (n.d.) *O Nama*. Available: <http://www.poliklinikadobojjug.ba/index.php/o-nama>. Accessed 10 June 2019.

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