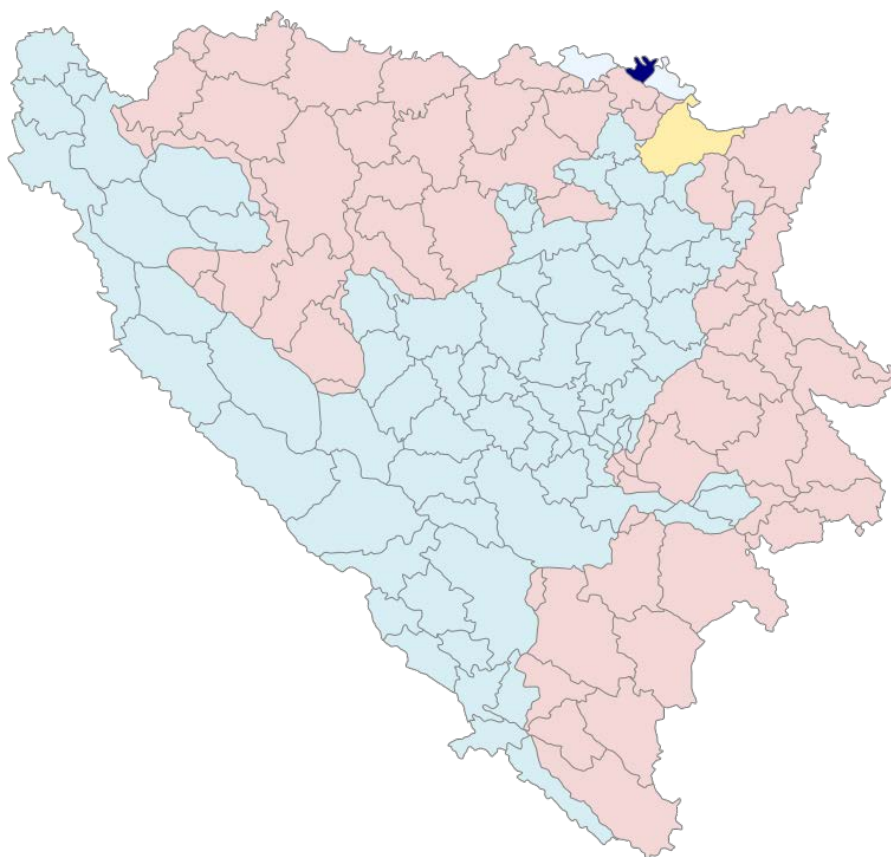


MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR
CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

DOMALJEVAC-ŠAMAC 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 Domaljevac-Šamac municipality, situated in Posavina Canton, in the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina entity.

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

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Đuro Kesić 'Pole', resident of Domaljevac, for providing photographs and additional information about monuments and memorials in Domaljevac-Šamac

Background and Summary

The present-day municipality of Domaljevac-Šamac was separated from the pre-1992 municipality of Šamac as a result of the 1995 Dayton Accords. It is one of the smaller municipalities in the state, occupying an area of roughly 41.7 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 (Tihčić, 1981). In total, 2,049 immovable properties were recorded on the territory of SR Bosnia & Herzegovina, with 26³ being recorded upon the territory of the then-Bosanski Šamac municipality in a survey conducted between 23 and 26 August 1970.

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. Furthermore, no evidence of a similar survey specifically dedicated to the pre-1992 Bosanski Šamac municipality could be found during the course of research. However, the book *Ogledalo pamćenja i zahvalnosti*, which documents monuments and memorials to the NOB on the pre-1992 territory of Šamac municipality was published in 2006. This book is the product of research undertaken in 1990-91 relating to monuments upon the territory of the municipality at that time. This book includes two monuments and memorials on the territory of the present-day Domaljevac-Šamac municipality; in Domaljevac (pp.229-233) and Grebnice (pp.26-249). In its foreword, the book notes the fact that both of these monuments were no longer in existence at the time of its publication (p.19). The book also reproduces excerpts from a decision of the Municipal Assembly of Bosanski Šamac dated to May 1985, in which the memorial plaque in Domaljevac is mentioned as an item of “Protected natural, culturo-historical and built heritage on the territory of Bosanski Šamac municipality” (pp.314-316).

Further to this, a Facebook post by Domaljevac-Šamac resident and local chronicler Đuro Kesić was published in May 2020, showing the memorial plaque that was placed upon the elementary school in Domaljevac, with the picture dating to the period between 1998 and the school’s renovation in 2004. Further correspondence with Mr. Kesić revealed that – to the best of his knowledge – no other monuments or memorials existed upon the territory of the present-day municipality. It can therefore be concluded that it is highly likely that the plaque in Domaljevac and monument in Grebnice were the only such memorials to have existed on the territory of the present-day Domaljevac-Šamac municipality.

In the process of research, no currently valid documentation produced by municipal authorities could be found that mentions any monuments or memorials to the People’s Liberation War existing (or having existed) on the territory of the municipality. While no spatial plan for Domaljevac-Šamac currently exists, it was decreed in March 2020 that work would begin on the creation of a spatial plan for the municipality (covering the period 2020-2040) in the near future (Sl. Glasilo 2020/1, decree no. 04-02-69/20).

³ Typologically, these included the following: 7 memorial plaques; 4 busts; 11 artistic or commemorative monuments; 4 collective graves or ossuaries.

Monuments and Memorials in Domaljevac-Šamac municipality

1. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Domaljevac



Figure 1a: Memorial plaque as it was between 1998 and 2004



Figure 1b: Students laying a wreath at the plaque, 1980s

This memorial plaque was situated on the wall of the Braća Ribar elementary school (constructed in 1971) in the settlement of Domaljevac, which was renamed Braće Radića elementary school in 1993. It was unveiled in 1981, although its author remains unknown.

The plaque commemorated fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror from Domaljevac. It was made of a hard black stone, inscribed in the Latin script, with the text infilled in white, and a red five-pointed star at the top. The inscription read as follows:

*U NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKOM RATU
1941. – 1945. GODINE
ZA SLOBODU DADOŠE SVOJE ŽIVOTE
NAŠI DOMALJEVČANI*

*PALI BORAC
MIKA KOTURIĆ
ROĐEN 1923. GOD.
BORAC NOR OD 1942.
POGINUO 1943.*

*ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA
STANA BABIĆ 1878 – 1941.
NIKOLA BABIĆ 1871 – 1941.
LUKA ĐURKOVIĆ
1884 – 1944.*

*DOMALJEVAC
9. MAJA 1981.*

*POVODOM 40-TO GODIŠNJICE USTANKA
A U ZNAK VJEČNE ZAHVALNOSTI
SPOMEN PLOČU PODIGOŠE RADNI LJUDI I
GRAĐANI DOMALJEVCA⁴*

While the plaque survived the 1992-95 war, and remained in situ until at least 1998, the school was extensively renovated after this date, reopening in 2004 (OŠ Braće Radića, 2013). By the time of completion of these renovations, the plaque was no longer in situ. Whether the plaque was removed prior to or during these renovations could not be determined during the course of research, although the latter seems likely. It is not known whether the plaque was placed in storage or destroyed.

An account of the decision to create the memorial plaque and its unveiling ceremony held on 9 May 1981 is provided by Borojević (2006, p.230).

⁴ Translation: *In the People's Liberation War 1941 – 1945 for freedom gave their lives our Domaljevacans: Fallen fighter Mika Koturić, born 1923, fighter of the NOR from 1942, died 1943; Victims of Fascist Terror Stana Babić 1878 – 1941, Nikola Babić 1871 – 1941, Luka Đurković 1884 – 1944. To mark the 40th anniversary of the Uprising and also as a sign of eternal gratitude, this memorial plaque is erected by the working people and citizens of Domaljevac. Domaljevac, 9 May 1981.*

2. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Grebnice



Figure 2a: The monument in the 1980s



Figure 2b: Foundations of the monument, with new school building in the background, July 2020

This monument lay outside the Ivo Andrić elementary school in the village of Grebnice, which has since been reincorporated as a district school of Braće Radića elementary school in Domaljevac. It commemorated fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror from Grebnice and the surrounding area. The monument was unveiled in 1987, and was designed by Cvijetin Savić, with Salko Grabovac being responsible for carving the inscription on the dedicatory plaque (Borojević 2006, p.248).

The monument consisted of a large concrete rectangular base, with a large concrete stela clad in stone around the edges. A wedge-shaped block of concrete, upon which the dedicatory plaque was situated, jutted out of this, making the monument appear near-triangular in shape when viewed from the side. On top of the stela stood a red-painted star, which was three-dimensional, with nine points, five of which were visible from most angles, in a design commonly used throughout the Šamac area.

The dedicatory plaque was inscribed (in the Latin script) as follows:

*PALI SMO ZA ONO ŠTO STE VI STEKLI,
ZA SVA VREMENA MI SMO SVOJE REKLI,
BRATSTVU, JEDINSTVU ZAVJET SMO DALI.
NEKA ONO SVAKU GENERACIJU VODI, NA
ONOM ŠTO IMATE STVARAJTE BUDUĆNOST*

*BOLJU I ZNAJTE CIJENU IZVOJEVANOJ
SLOBODI.*

POGINULI BORCI NOR

<i>EVIĆ I ĐURO</i>	<i>1925 – 1944.</i>
<i>KOBAŠ M. PAVO</i>	<i>1924 – 1945.</i>
<i>KOBAŠ I. MATO</i>	<i>1921 – 1946.</i>
<i>PAVIĆ M. PAVO</i>	<i>1922 – 1944.</i>
<i>STOJANOVIĆ P. VLADO</i>	<i>1926 – 1943.</i>

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

<i>ANTONIĆ I. JOCO</i>	<i>1889 – 1944.</i>
<i>BRKIĆ M. KATA</i>	<i>1908 – 1945.</i>
<i>BRKIĆ M. ANICA</i>	<i>1940 – 1945.</i>
<i>ČANČAREVIĆ S. DUŠAN</i>	<i>1910 – 1944.</i>
<i>DOMINKOVIĆ F. IVO</i>	<i>1910 – 1944.</i>
<i>EŠEGOVIĆ M. MANDA</i>	<i>1907 – 1945.</i>
<i>EŠEGOVIĆ M. LUJA</i>	<i>1933 – 1945.</i>
<i>EŠEGOVIĆ M. MANDA</i>	<i>1943 – 1945.</i>
<i>JOVANOVIĆ V. BRANKO</i>	<i>1900 – 1941.</i>
<i>KOBAŠ I. ŠIMO</i>	<i>1937 – 1946.</i>
<i>MIĆIĆ K. KATA</i>	<i>1909 – 1945.</i>
<i>MIĆIĆ S. LJUBIŠA</i>	<i>1920 – 1944.</i>
<i>NIKOLIĆ M. VOJKO</i>	<i>1919 – 1944.</i>
<i>STOJANOVIĆ P. MILOŠ</i>	<i>1907 – 1944.</i>
<i>STOJANOVIĆ S. BOSILJKA</i>	<i>1912 – 1943.</i>
<i>STOJANOVIĆ S. PERO</i>	<i>1942 – 1943.</i>
<i>VIDAKOVIĆ J. GLIGOR</i>	<i>1891 – 1944.</i>
<i>VIDAKOVIĆ G. SOKA</i>	<i>1891 – 1944.</i>
<i>VIDAKOVIĆ L. TEODOR</i>	<i>1914 – 1944.</i>
<i>VUKOVIĆ R. JOKA</i>	<i>1896 – 1945.</i>

*U ZNAK ZAHVALNOSTI ZA ONO ŠTO
STE DALI, OVA I BUDUĆE GENERACIJE ČUVAĆE
I RAZVIJAĆE BRATSTVO I JEDINSTVO I
NJEGOVA TI TEKOVINE NOR-A*

U GREBNICAMA 11. APRILA 1987. GODINE

*RADNI LJUDI I GRAĐANI
MJESNE ZAJEDNICE GREBNICE⁵*

⁵ Translation: We fell for your benefit, for eternity we gave our vow to Brotherhood and Unity, let this lead every generation to realize a better future and know the price with which freedom was won. Fallen fighters of the NOR: [5 names]; Victims of Fascist Terror: [20 names]. As a sign of eternal gratitude to your sacrifice, this

Today, no trace of the monument survives, except for a patch of concrete which previously served as its foundations. The school building was devastated during the 1992-95 war, and was entirely reconstructed in 2004. It could not be determined when precisely the monument was destroyed, but, as implied in *Ogledalo pamćenja i zahvalnosti*, this event occurred prior to 2006.

An extensive account of the initiative to create a monument in Grebnice and the unveiling ceremony held on 11 April 1987 are provided by Borojević (2006, pp.248-249).

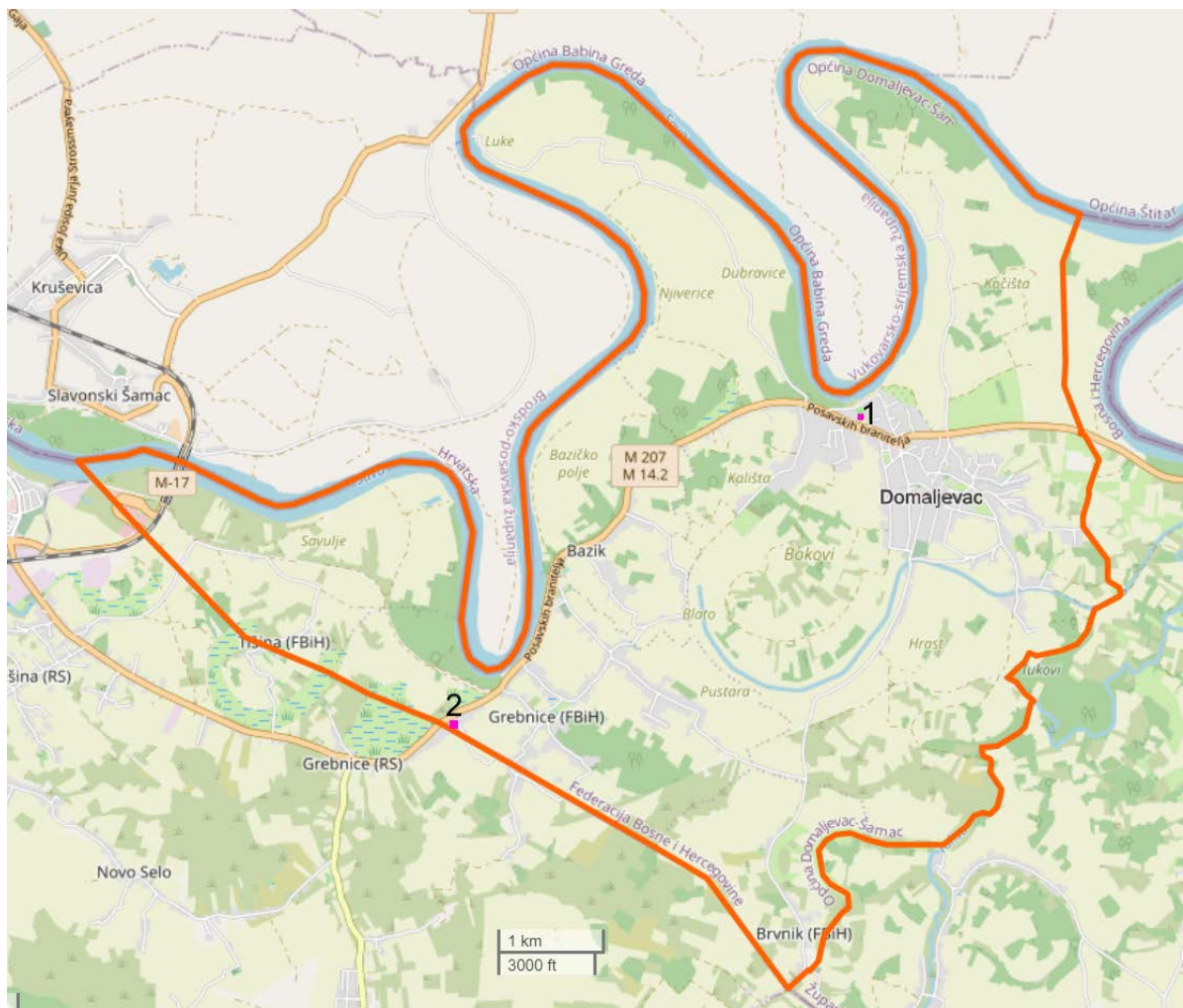
and future generations will guard Brotherhood and Unity, and develop and nurture the achievements of the NOR. In Grebnice, 11 April 1987, workers and citizens of the Local Community of Grebnice.

Current Situation - Summary

The following can be said of the single monument to the NOB identified as existing (or having existed) on the territory of the present-day Domaljevac-Šamac municipality:

- The **plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror on the elementary school in Domaljevac** was removed from its location at some point in time after 1998, most likely during extensive renovations to the school that were completed in March 2004. It could not be determined whether this plaque has been retained in storage or destroyed.
- The **monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror in front of the elementary school in Grebnice** has been entirely destroyed. No trace of it remains, except for its concrete foundations. Whether the destruction occurred during the 1992-95 war or in its aftermath could not be determined during the course of research.

Municipality Map



KEY

- 1 – Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Domaljevac
- 2 – Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Grebnice

Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the authors.

List of Figures

Cover image: 'BiH municipality location Domaljevac-Šamac.svg', created by Wikipedia user 'BošnjakArmin'. Available: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BiH_municipality_location_Domaljevac-%C5%A0amac.svg. Accessed 12 July 2020.

Figure 1a: Đuro Kesić 'Pole', resident of Domaljevac, unknown date between 1998 and 2004

Figure 1b: Unknown author, unknown date in the 1980s. Photograph provided by Đuro Kesić 'Pole'

Figure 2a: Taken from *Ogledalo pamćenja i zahvalnosti* (2006), p.246

Figure 2b: Marko Matolić, June 2020

Municipality map: Created by Andrew Lawler using data originally created by OpenStreetMap contributors (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/2528187>) [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)]

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