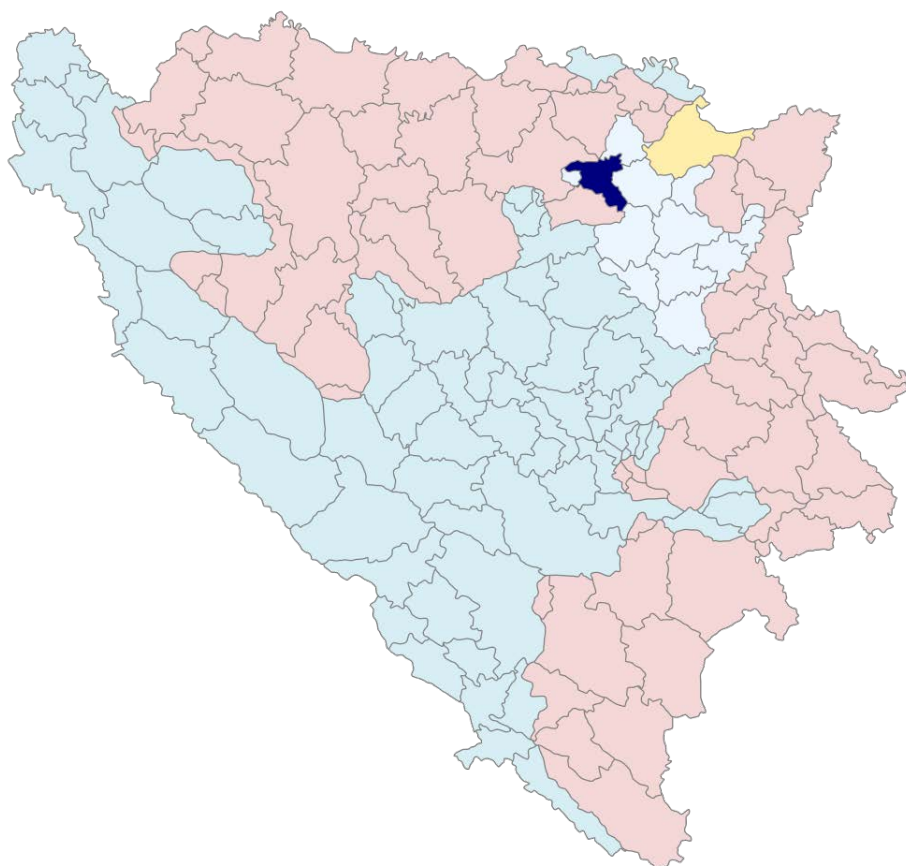


MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR  
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR CURRENT  
STATUS AND CONDITION

**GRAČANICA MUNICIPALITY**



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March 2019

Revised January 2020

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## **Acknowledgements**

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

Nermina Ramić, resident of Gračanica, for locating and photographing monuments

Adis Mujkić, resident of Lukavac, for locating and photographing monuments and transcribing a number of texts written upon them

Melisa Mujić, resident of Gračanica, for locating and photographing monuments

Slaven Ištuk, graphic designer, Sarajevo, for creating the municipality maps contained within this report

Senad Begović, Curator, International Gallery of Portrait, Tuzla, for help in locating documentation relating to NOB monuments and memorials on the territory of Gračanica municipality, and for providing scans of old photographs used within this report

Nedim Šabić, resident of Gračanica, for providing scans of old photographs used within this report

## 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 Gračanica 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 (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.

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

## Background and Summary

The present-day municipality of Gračanica is composed of the largest part (approximately 56%) of the pre-war municipality of the same name. Other portions have been incorporated into the municipalities of Doboj and Petrovo, both within the state's Republika Srpska entity. Today's municipality lies in Tuzla Canton, in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity.

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 37 being recorded upon the then-territory of Gračanica municipality in a survey conducted in October 1972<sup>3</sup>, categorized as follows:

- **Memorial plaques – 9**
- **Memorial busts – 1**
- **Fountains, wells and cisterns – 7**
- **Artistic monuments – 13**
- **Identified individual graves and mass graves – 2**
- **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, the NOB heritage of the former (larger) Gračanica municipality was the subject of the 1985 book *Biljezi slobode, Partizanska spomen-obilježja na području opštine Gračanica, Kratak hronološki pregled najvažnijih događaja u periodu 1941-1945. u gračaničkom kraju* (*Testaments to Freedom: Partisan memorials on the territory of Gračanica municipality, a short chronological overview of the most important happenings of the period 1941-1945 in the Gračanica region*), by Omer Hamzić and Ešref Ćurić. The book documents a total of 43 monuments and memorials in detail, with 19 of these lying within the boundaries of present-day Gračanica municipality. These are as follows:

MUNICIPALITY	VILLAGE/MZ	TYPE	YEAR	ARTIST(S) <sup>4</sup>
Gračanica	Babići	Ossuary	1985	Jusuf Omerčićević
Gračanica	Doborovci	Memorial plaque	1954	Ivan Vrlec
Gračanica	Doborovci	Memorial area	1984	N/A
Gračanica	Donja Lohinja	Ossuary	1983	Mirjana Papo
Gračanica	Donja Orahovica	Fountain	1961	Cvijetin Lukić, Ramo Kulić
Gračanica	Donja Orahovica	Bust	1984	Marijan Zaradić
Gračanica	Gornja Lohinja	Fountain	1959	Anton Šego
Gračanica	Gornja Orahovica	Ossuary	1983	Šaban Džafić, Džafer Džafić

<sup>3</sup> Actual dates: 13-20 October 1972

<sup>4</sup> Due to the detailed information provided in Hamzić & Ćurić (1985), 'artists' here includes all named persons involved in the creation of the monument, as opposed to the traditionally accredited architect and/or designer.

Gračanica	Gračanica	Monument	1951 <sup>5</sup>	Alfred Pilc, Danko Lazić
Gračanica	Gračanica	Memorial plaque	1959	N/A
Gračanica	Gračanica	Memorial plaque	1958	Šukrija Kenjar, Šefkija Kemalović
Gračanica	Gračanica	Memorial plaque	1957	N/A
Gračanica	Gračanica	Bust	1975	Marijan Zaradić
Gračanica	Gračanica	Memorial plaque <sup>6</sup>	1966	Abdulah Korić
Gračanica	Lendići	Memorial plaque	1959	Šukrija Kenjar, Šefkija Kemalović
Gračanica	Malešići	Cemetery	1959	Anton Šego, Ostoja Radić, Abdulah Osmičević
Gračanica	Malešići	Bust	1981	Marijan Zaradić
Gračanica	Piskavica	Ossuary	1985	Branko Marušić
Gračanica	Stjepan Polje	Memorial plaque	1957 <sup>7</sup>	N/A

It is worth noting that Hamzić & Ćurić's book, as well as providing the only known published photographic evidence of a number of monuments in their original form, provides invaluable details on not just the persons who designed monuments, but also on artisans and craftsmen involved in their on-the-ground creation, such as masons responsible for carving lettering, and, in a number of instances, persons and organizations who supplied construction materials. Additionally, it gives a brief overview of the historical events and individuals commemorated by many of the memorials.

From a study of other sources, it was possible to identify an additional three monuments upon the territory of the present-day Gračanica municipality. These are as follows:

MUNICIPALITY	VILLAGE/MZ	TYPE	YEAR	ARTIST(S)
Gračanica	Gračanica	Monument	1988	N/A
Gračanica	Gračanica	Bust	post-1959	N/A
Gračanica	Gračanica	Bust	Post-1972	N/A

Gračanica's Spatial Plan, adopted in January 2015, lists the following 12 monuments and memorials commemorating the People's Liberation War upon the territory of Gračanica municipality (Sl. Glasnik Općina Gračanica 50/13, 2015 pp.19-20)<sup>8</sup>:

- Monument and memorial ossuary of victims of WWII (1959), Gradski park, Gračanica
- Memorial plaque of victims of WWII (1954), Dobrovci
- Memorial complex for Dobrovci's victims of WWII (reconstructed 1984), Monj, Dobrovci
- Memorial ossuary with plaque of victims of WWII (1983), Donja Lohinja
- Memorial fountain commemorating victims of WWII (1961), Donja Orahovica
- Memorial plaque and memorial fountain of victims of WWII (1959), Gornja Lohinja
- Monument with ossuary of victims of WWII (1983), Gornja Orahovica
- Memorial plaque to the first Partisan cell (1959), Gaj, Gračanica
- Memorial plaque of victims of WWII (1958), Udružena škola, Gračanica
- Memorial plaque of victims of WWII (1959), Malešići
- Monument to the Victims of Fascism (n.d.), Gračanica, near the printworks

<sup>5</sup> Heavily altered in 1955, see below

<sup>6</sup> Although classified as such by Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, pp.112-113), this can be more aptly described as a tombstone.

<sup>7</sup> Heavily altered in 1984, see below

<sup>8</sup> A direct translation of the wording used in the Spatial Plan is given here, which does not necessarily reflect the original titles or commemorative aims of the monuments in question.

- Memorial plaque to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vojvodinian Assault Brigades (1957, renovated 2007), Gračanica, municipal hospital

It is interesting to note that no busts are included in the municipality's Spatial Plan, while four are known to have existed on the territory of the municipality.

It must also be mentioned that many of the monuments in Gračanica municipality have been altered or renovated in recent years. While renovations and modifications to some monuments were performed prior to 1992, of the 22 monuments recorded here, at least 9 have been in some way restored or replaced after 1995, with the overwhelming majority of restorations occurring in 2007 and 2008 (7 of the 8 for which dates could be ascertained).

## Monuments and Memorials in Gračanica Municipality

### 1. Memorial ossuary in Babići



Figure 1a: Memorial ossuary in Babići, 1980s



Figure 1b: Memorial ossuary in Babići, 2018



**Figure 1c:** Detail of memorial plaque

This memorial ossuary was created in 1985, according to plans created by Jusuf Omerčićević (Hamzić & Ćurić, 1985 p.38). It lies close to the village's district school. The ossuary consists of a small walled enclosure, behind which is a concrete wall, with two winged protrusions flanking a large five-pointed star. A memorial plaque is inset into the wall, with the following inscription (in the Latin alphabet):

NA OVOM MJESTU SAHRANJENI  
 SU BORCI 3. BATALJONA 14.  
 SRPSKE NARODNO OSLOBODILA-  
 ČKE UDARNE BRIGADE I BORCI  
 DRUGIH JEDINICA NOV, KOJI  
 ZBRATIMLJENI U BORBAMA PRO-  
 TIV OKUPATORA I NJEGOVIH  
 SLUGU DADOŠE SVOJE ŽIVOTE  
 ZA OSLOBOĐENJE NAŠE ZEMLJE.

25. MAJA 1985. GOD.

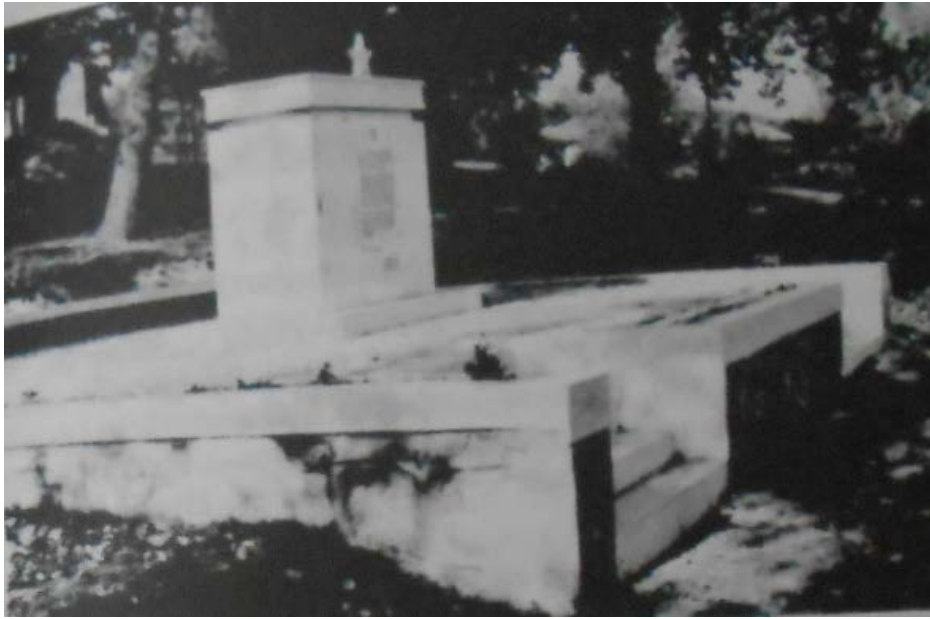
MJEŠTANI MZ BABIĆI<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Translation: At this place are buried fighters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian National Liberation Assault Brigade and fighters of other units of the National Liberation Army, who through brotherhood, in battle against occupiers and their servants, gave their lives for the liberation of our lands. 25 May 1985. Residents of MZ Babići.

It is worth noting that the word '*SRPSKE*' appears to have been intentionally erased from the inscription (see figure 1c). Furthermore, the memorial plaque's lower left corner is damaged, and the screws which would at one time have affixed the plaque to the monument seem to have been removed.

According to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.38), the ossuary contains the remains of 9 unidentified fighters, and it would appear from photographic evidence as if the monument was originally whitewashed. Apart from the damage to the plaque and erosion of the paint, the ossuary is in relatively good condition, and, from the plants present within the walled enclosure and its surroundings, appears to be well maintained.

## 2. Plaque to commemorate place of loss of 16 Partisan fighters, Donji Dobrovci



**Figure 2a:** Memorial plaque in Donji Dobrovci, 1980s



**Figure 2b:** Memorial plaque in Donji Dobrovci, 2018

This memorial plaque lies beside the main road in the village of Donji Dobrovci. It was commissioned by the local SUBNOR committee, and the lettering was carved by a mason called Ivan Vrlec, from Sarajevo (Hamzić & Ćurić, 1985 p.80). Although Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, p.80) claim that the plaque was unveiled to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a battle on the nearby Monj Hill on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1954, the monument's inscription is dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 1953. The inscription on the plaque (in the Latin alphabet) reads as follows:

8. AVGUSTA 1944 GODINE IZGI-  
NULO JE NA OVOM MJESTU ŠESNA-  
EST BORACA UDARNE GRUPE XVIII  
HRVATSKE BRIGADE

BOREĆI SE ZA PROBOJ FRONTA  
NJEMAČKIH SS JEDINICA, USTAŠA  
I ČETNIKA DUŽ CESTE GRAČANICA  
-BRČKO ONI SU OMOGUĆILI SVOJOJ  
BRIGADE I XI KRAJIŠKOJ DIVIZIJI  
POBJEDONOSNI MARŠ IZ CENTRAL-  
NE U ISTOČNU BOSNU

NAROD OVOG KRAJA NEĆE  
NIKADA ZABORAVITI NJIHOVE  
SVJETLE ŽRTVE, KAO PRIMJER  
KAKO SE TREBA BORITI ZA  
SLOBODU

8.8.1953 GODINE

SPOMEN-PLOČU  
PODIŽE NAROD  
OVOG KRAJA<sup>10</sup>

The plaque is situated upon a marble-clad monument, approximately 2 metres wide, 0.4 metres deep, and 1.6 metres in height, with a decorative architrave on top. While the plaque itself appears to be original, the monument has undergone a number of changes in appearance. First, a stone or metal five-pointed star that was centrally positioned above the architrave has been removed, and second the area around the memorial plaque has been altered significantly. While the plaque and its pedestal were originally situated upon a plateau approached by two small stairways to the left and right, the area has now been flattened to create a larger plateau, or possibly, from a comparison of photographs, the monument has been moved slightly (approximately 5-10 metres) toward the road, with the former location of the plateau lying immediately behind the monument. The plateau upon which it lies today is markedly more simple, and beside the memorial plaque lies another monument (in the shape of a 'nišan' tombstone) commemorating those lost during the 1992-95 war.

The plaque and its monumental pedestal are in good condition, although the ambience and surroundings, while well maintained, can be seen to have changed considerably when compared to their original appearance.

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<sup>10</sup> Translation: [On the] 8 August 1944 at this place were lost sixteen fighters of the Assault Group of the XVIII Croatian Brigade. They attacked the line held by German SS Units, Chetniks and Ustashe along the Gračanica-Brčko road in an attempt to enable their Brigade and the XI Krajinan Division to continue their victorious march from Central to Eastern Bosnia. The people of this area will never forget their sacrifice, as an example of how to fight for freedom. 8.8.1953. Memorial plaque erected by the people of this area.

### 3. Monj Hill memorial area, Dobrovci



Figure 3a: Part of Monj Hill memorial area, 2018



Figure 3b: Memorial plaque within Monj Hill memorial area, 2018

This memorial complex lies on Monj hill, to the north-west of Dobrovci. The complex was renovated in 1984, and consists of a number of rectangular memorial plaques set into the limestone rocks of the hill, commemorating Partisan fighters of the 18 Croatian Brigade and Posavsko-Trebavski Detachment who fell at this location in a battle against German units and members of the 13<sup>th</sup> SS 'Handžar' Division (Hamzić & Ćurić, 1985 p.83). The memorial complex's author is unknown, although it was commissioned by the SUBNOR committee of Gračanica municipality.

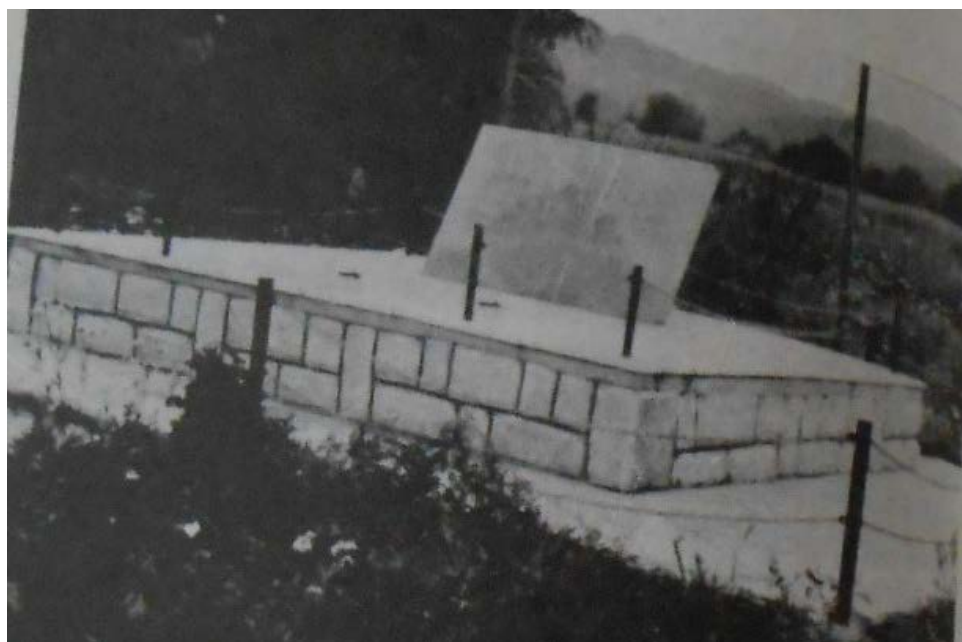
The memorial plaques are identical in shape and size, being of a white marble with black lettering, and measuring approximately 40 by 15 centimetres. The plaques are inscribed as follows:

<i>BEŠIROVIĆ AHMED</i> <i>1917-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.GRADAČAC</i>	<i>OMIĆ ZAIM</i> <i>1927-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.GRADAČAC</i>	<i>POPOVIĆ DANKO</i> <i>1925-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.MODRIČA</i>
<i>MARINKOVIĆ NEDO</i> <i>1924-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.BOS. ŠAMAC</i>	<i>PETKOVIĆ ĐOKO</i> <i>1918-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.BOS. ŠAMAC</i>	<i>TALETOVIĆ OMER</i> <i>1923-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.GRADAČAC</i>
<i>SRNA MINA</i> <i>1924-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.ČAJNIČE</i>	<i>HANIĆ HUSO</i> <i>1926-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.GRADAČAC</i>	<i>JUSUN RASIM</i> <i>1923-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.MODRIČA</i>
<i>TIHIĆ PAŠAGA</i> <i>1922-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.BOS. ŠAMAC</i>	<i>LUJIĆ ALEXSANDAR</i> <i>1925-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.BOS. ŠAMAC</i>	<i>JOVANOVIĆ SAVO</i> <i>1920-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.MODRIČA</i>
<i>STOJANOVIĆ MILORAD</i> <i>1919-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.BOS. ŠAMAC</i>	<i>KUJUNDŽIĆ ALIJA</i> <i>1925-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.BOS. ŠAMAC</i>	<i>ILOVAC OSTOJA</i> <i>1914-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.MODRIČA</i>
<i>PANIĆ BRANKO</i> <i>1927-8.8.1944</i> <i>O.BIJELJINA</i>		

In addition to these sixteen memorial plaques, Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, pp.81-82) mention a plaque at the site commemorating Raif Bilajac (b.1920, Gradačac). Although this could not be located on a site visit in September 2018, it is mentioned as having existed at the time of a news article covering the site published a couple of years previously (Čalić, 2016), and is assumed to still exist within the memorial complex.

Although the area does not appear to be regularly maintained, it is assumed that this was the original intention of the memorial complex's designer, with the area being a semi-wilderness and an 'authentic landscape'. All of the plaques are in good condition.

#### 4. Memorial ossuary in Donja Lohinja



**Figure 4a:** Memorial ossuary in Donja Lohinja, 1980s



**Figure 4b:** Memorial ossuary in Donja Lohinja, 2018

This memorial ossuary was created in 1983, according to the design of Mirjana Papo. It contains the remains of four unidentified fighters of the 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian NOU Brigade.

The monument originally consisted of a small platform lined with dressed stones, upon which was situated a memorial plaque. The plaque appeared to have minimal support. In front of this was the lid of the ossuary crypt, which was evident from the two metal rings set into it. Two small chain fences surrounded the ossuary; one on top of the platform and one around it, forming a small enclosure.

According to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, p.84), the inscription on the memorial plaque read as follows (although the original formatting of the text is unknown):

*BORCIMA 14. SRPSKE NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKE UDARNE BRIGADE KOJI DADOŠE  
SVOJE ŽIVOTE U TOKU NOR-A ZA OSLOBOĐENJE OVOG KRAJA JANUARA 1945.  
GODINE.*

*23.11.1983. GODINE*

*MJESNA ZAJEDNICA DONJA LOHINJA<sup>11</sup>*

Today, the monument has changed slightly in appearance, largely as a result of a 2010 restoration and presumed damage which preceded it. A new memorial plaque has been placed on the monument. This has a slightly different inscription to the original, and reads as follows:

*BORCIMA 14. NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKE  
UDARNE BRIGADE KOJI DADOŠE  
SVOJE ŽIVOTE U TOKU NOR-A  
ZA OSLOBOĐENJE OVOG KRAJA  
JANUARA 1945. GODINE*

*23.11.1983. GOD*

*OBNOVLJEN*

*MJESNA ZAJEDNICA*

*MAJA 2010. GOD*

*DONJA LOHINJA*

*UABNOR GRAČANICA<sup>12</sup>*

It is worth noting that the word 'SRPSKE' has been omitted from the new inscription and this can be compared to the intentional erasure of this word from the ossuary in Babići (see above, p.7). The two small chain fences have also been removed.

Additionally, although it is impossible to determine for certain from the photographic evidence available whether this was part of the original design, it would appear as if the paving stones covering the platform and the surrounding plateau have been damaged and re-laid at a later date. The mixture of broken and complete stones in an irregular pattern does not appear to have been the original design intention for this ossuary.

The monument appears to be well maintained, although its appearance has been considerably altered by suspected vandalism and later restoration efforts.

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<sup>11</sup> Translation: *Fighters of the 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian National Liberation Assault Brigade who gave their lives during the NOR for the liberation of this area in January 1945. 23.11.1983. Local Community of Donja Lohinja.*

<sup>12</sup> Translation: *Fighters of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Liberation Assault Brigade who gave their lives during the NOR for the liberation of this area in January 1945. 23.11.1983. Local Community of Donja Lohinja. Restored May 2010 UABNOR Gračanica.*

## 5. Memorial fountain in Donja Orahovica

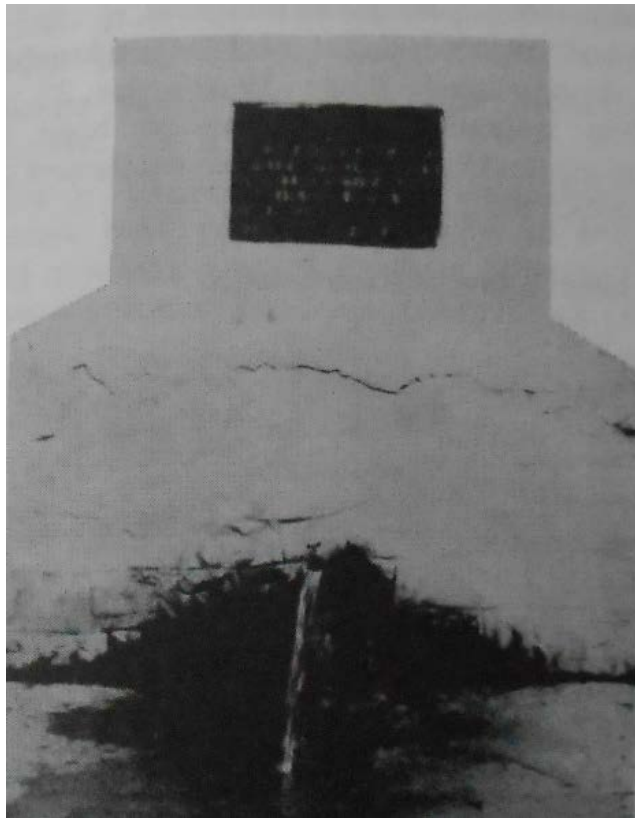


Figure 5a: Memorial fountain in Donja Orahovica, 1980s



Figure 5b: Memorial fountain in Donja Orahovica, 2019

This memorial fountain is located on the outskirts of Donja Orahovica. It was created in 1961, and was the work of Cvijetin Lukić, from Bosansko Petrovo Selo, and his assistant Ramo Kulić, from Donja Orahovica. Upon the fountain was affixed a commemorative plaque, which, according to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, p.87), was inscribed as follows:

*U ZNAK SJEĆANJA NA BORCE NOV-E 15. I 17. MAJEVIČKE, 1. VOJVOĐANSKE, 18.  
HRVATSKE, 5. KOZARČKE, 2. I 12. KRAJIŠKE I 14. SRPSKOG KORPUSA, SPOMEN  
ČESMU PODIZE NAROD DONJE ORAHOVICE  
27.7.1961 GODINE<sup>13</sup>*

Today, while the fountain functions, it is in very poor condition, and is barely recognizable. The memorial plaque has been removed, and much of the structure is missing, although it is impossible to determine whether this is due to vandalism, remodelling or deterioration over time.

---

<sup>13</sup> Translation: *As a sign of memory of the soldiers of the NOV 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Majevidan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vojvodinian, 18<sup>th</sup> Croatian, 5<sup>th</sup> Kozaran, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Krajinian and 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian corpuses, this memorial fountain was erected by the people of Donja Orahovica. 27.7.1961.*

## 6. Bust of Radovan Radovanović, Donja Orahovica



**Figure 6a:** Bust of Radovan Radovanović, 1980s



**Figure 6b:** Former location of bust of Radovan Radovanović, 2018

This bronze bust was located outside the elementary school in the village of Donja Orahovica. It was unveiled in 1984, and was the work of Marijan Zaradić. It commemorated Radovan Radovanović (1921-1965), a Partisan fighter and post-war local political figure.

The bust and its pedestal are no longer in situ, although their former location is clearly evident, as the pedestal's foundations are still present. It could not be determined what has happened to the bust, or when it was removed from its former location.

## 7. Memorial fountain, Gornja Lohinja

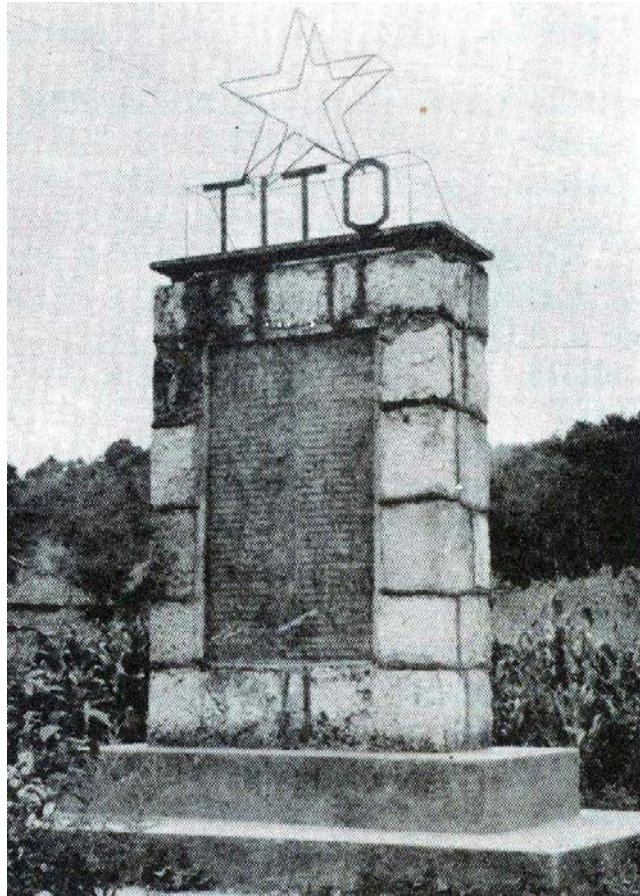


Figure 7a: Memorial fountain in Gornja Lohinja, 1980s



Figure 7b: Memorial fountain in Gornja Lohinja, 2018



**Figure 7c:** Memorial fountain in Gornja Lohinja, 2018

This memorial fountain was unveiled in 1959. It originally consisted of a memorial plaque affixed to a stele, with a memorial fountain in front of it. The inscription on the memorial plaque was carved by Anton Šego and, according to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, pp.91-92) was as follows:

NEKA JUNAČKA SMRT PALIH DRUGOVA IZ SELA GORNJE I DONJE LOHINJE, KAO ŽRTAVA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA U PRVIM DANIMA NAŠE REVOLUCIJE BUDE SVETAO PRIMJER NAŠOJ OMLADINI, KAO I CIJELOM NARODU KAKO SE VOLI DOMOVINA, ONI PADOŠE DA BI MI BOLJE ŽIVJELI.

MITROVIĆ K. MARKO	JOVANOVIĆ J. RAJKO
STANKOVIĆ J. JOVO	JOVANOVIĆ S. VOJIN
SIMIĆ MARA	JOVANOVIĆ LJ. LEKSO
TOMIĆ R. MILAN	ŽUŽA L. LUKA
PAJUNIĆ R. MOMIR	MITROVIĆ Đ. NOVAK
PAJUNIĆ R. KOSTA	POLUGIĆ S. MIHAJLO
LUKIĆ LUKA	SIMIĆ I. PERO
TEŠIĆ SPASOJE	ĐAKOVIĆ S. PERO
SIMIĆ K. JANKO	PETROVIĆ T. MILADIN
ILIĆ M. PETAR	STANKOVIĆ S. PERO
	STANKOVIĆ J. BOŽO
VASILJEVIĆ JOVAN	STANKOVIĆ P. MILOŠ
VASILJEVIĆ J. PERO	PETROVIĆ S. PERO
JOVANOVIĆ S. ILIJA	ĐURIĆ T. MIĆO
ĐURIĆ M. MILOŠ	MITROVIĆ K. JOVO
TOMIĆ S. RADE	MITROVIĆ V. PETAR
MITROVIĆ J. STANKO	MITROVIĆ Đ. SPASOJE
MITROVIĆ Đ. MIRKO	STANKOVIĆ P. OBRAD
MITROVIĆ V. DUŠAN	SIMIĆ T. MILOŠ
	PALJIĆ T. JOVAN
ĐURIĆ Đ. STOJAN	SIMIĆ B. ILIJA
MITROVIĆ R. SIMIĆ JOKA	JOVIĆ M. PERIŠA
BLAGOJEVIĆ J. STOJAN	ILIĆ MILAN
BLAGOJEVIĆ J. ILIJA	STOJANOVIĆ M. BOGOLJUB
KOSTIĆ J. STOJAN	ĐURIĆ P. ĐURO
RISTIĆ J. MILOŠ	ĐURIĆ L. ILIJA
SIMIĆ K. ČEDO	ĐURIĆ M. LAZO
SIMIĆ Č. KOSTA	STANKOVIĆ PERO
SIMIĆ Č. MILAN	STANKOVIĆ P. STOJAN
PETROVIĆ L. PERO	STANKOVIĆ P. SAVO

23. AVGUSTA 1959. GODINE

U ČAST 40 GODIŠNJICE KPJ NAROD SELA GORNJE I DONJE LOHINJE I SAVEZ BORACA PODIŽE OVU SPOMEN-PLOČU.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Translation: *The heroic deaths of fallen comrades from the villages of Gornja and Donja Lohinja, as Victims of Fascist Terror, in the first days of our Revolution will set a shining example for our youths, and also for our whole people, as to how one should love their homeland, they fell so that we could live better. [List of 58 names] 23 August 1959. In honour of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the KPJ, the people of the villages of Gornja and Donja Lohinja and the Federation of Veterans erected this memorial plaque.*



OKTOBAR UABNOR GRAČANICA I  
2008. GOD NAROD GORNJE LOHINJE<sup>16</sup>

It is unknown whether there was originally an inscription upon the fountain, and it has been heavily altered, with the basin being a mass-produced item commonly available from building supplies retailers in the region. Furthermore, a ghost-mark in the concrete directly in front of the stele suggests that this may not have been the original location of the memorial fountain, although, due to a lack of photographic material, this could not be ascertained for certain.

Overall, the monument appears relatively well-maintained, although recent additions and renovations have been poorly performed. Evidence of graffiti is present on both the stele and the memorial fountain in front of it.

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<sup>16</sup> Translation: *We erected this memorial plaque with memorial fountain as a sign of memory of victims of fascism in the war for Bosnia and Herzegovina 1992-1995. October 2008. UABNOR Gračanica and the people of Gornja Lohinja.*

## 8. Memorial ossuary, Gornja Orahovica



**Figure 8a:** Memorial ossuary in Gornja Orahovica, 1980s



**Figure 8b:** Memorial ossuary in Gornja Orahovica, 2018

This memorial ossuary was created in 1983, and is the work of Šaban Džafić and Džafer Džafić. The ossuary consists of a structure of two stone-clad wings, in front of which lies a stone cist, within which are interred the remains of six unknown Partisan fighters who lost their lives in the village and its immediate vicinity. The cist and stone-clad winged structure lie upon a landscaped plateau. Upon the cist lay a memorial plaque which, according to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 pp.94-95), was inscribed as follows:

*U ZNAK ZAHVALNOSTI BORCIMA 14. SRPSKE NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKE UDARNE  
BRIGADE I BORCIMA OSTALIH JEDINICA NOV I POJ KOJI DADOŠE SVOJE ŽIVOTE NA  
OVOM PODRUČJU TOKOM NOR-A I REVOLUCIJE 1941-1945. G. U BORBI PROTIV  
OKUPATORA I DOMAČIH IZDAJNIKA.  
7. APRILA, 1983. GODINE  
OVO SPOMEN-OBILJEŽJE SA KOSTURNICOM PODIGOŠE MJEŠTANI GORNJE  
ORAHOVICE<sup>17</sup>*

Although the monument retains much of its original appearance, the plateau has been re-paved, and it appears as if the cist has been re-clad with a granite-like stone. The lower corners of this have been broken, although, considering the condition of the rest of the memorial, this is more likely to be the result of accidental damage than intentional vandalism. As with many other plaques throughout the municipality, the plaque on top of the cist has been replaced, and the text slightly altered. The new text (in the Latin alphabet) reads as follows:

*U ZNAK ZAHVALNOSTI BORCIMA  
14. NARODNO-OSLOBODILAČKE UDARNE  
BRIGADE 23. DIVIZIJE N.O.V. I BORCIMA  
OSTALIH JEDINICA N.O.V. I P.O.J. KOJI  
DADOŠE SVOJE ŽIVOTE NA OVOM PODRUČJU  
TOKOM NOR-A I REVOLUCIJE 1941-1945. G.  
U BORBI PROTIV OKUPATORA.  
  
OVO SPOMEN-OBILJEŽJE SA  
KOSTURNICOM PODIGOŠE MJEŠTANI  
GORNJE ORAHOVICE  
07. APRILA 1983. GOD.*

*07.04.1983.G. NAROD G. ORAHOVICE I  
OBNOVLJEN SAVEZ BORACA GRAČANICA  
2008.GOD. UABNOR GRAČANICA<sup>18</sup>*

The monument is in good condition, although weeds and other vegetation were seen to be growing around the sides of the cist upon a site visit in September 2018.

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<sup>17</sup> Translation: *As a sign of gratitude to fighters of the 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian People's Liberation Assault Brigade and fighters of other units of the NOV and POJ who gave their lives on this area throughout the NOR and Revolution 1941-1945 in battles against the occupiers and domestic traitors. 7 April 1983. This memorial with ossuary was erected by the inhabitants of Gornja Orahovica.*

<sup>18</sup> Translation: *As a sign of gratitude to fighters of the 14<sup>th</sup> People's Liberation Assault Brigade of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Division of the NOV and fighters of other units of the NOV and POJ who gave their lives on this area throughout the NOR and Revolution 1941-1945 in battles against the occupiers. This memorial with ossuary was erected by the inhabitants of Gornja Orahovica. 7 April 1983. 07.04.1983, restored 2008. People of G. Orahovica and the Federation of Fighters of Gračanica, UABNOR Gračanica*

## 9. Monument and ossuary on Trg Maršala Tita, Gračanica



**Figure 9a:** Monument and ossuary in Gračanica, 2018

This monument and ossuary stands in Gračanica's Town Park (formerly Trg Maršala Tita from the mid-1980s, when the park within which the monument lies was redefined as a town square). The monument itself was unveiled in Gračanica in 1951, and was subsequently turned into an ossuary in 1955. The bronze statue is the work of Alfred Pilc (incorrectly transcribed as 'Filc' on the commemorative plaque that is placed on the monument today), while other parts of the ossuary are attributable to Danko Lazić and Mehmed Fazlić (Hamzić & Ćurić, 1985 pp.104-105).

The statue, which stands at a height of over 2 metres, consists of two figures; a fallen fighter with his chest exposed and holding a rifle in his left arm, and another fighter standing immediately behind him, posed to throw a hand grenade with his right arm. This is placed atop a narrow pedestal, of similar dimensions to the statue, which is clad in a light marble, and upon which two memorial plaques have been placed. These are not original to the monument.

The plaque which originally adorned the front of the monument was, according to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.98) inscribed as follows:

*ZA BOLJI I SRETNJI ŽIVOT NAŠIH NARODA JUNAČKI SU GINULI U NOB-I, VOĐENOJ  
POD RUKOVODSTVOM KP I DRUGA TITA I MNOGI SINOVI I KĆERI NAŠEG SREZA.  
NEKA NAS NJIHOVI SVIJETLI PRIMJERI NADAHNUJU HEROJSTVOM I  
SAMOPRIJEGOROM U ODBRANI I IZGRADNJI NAŠE SOCIJALISTIČKE DOMOVINE.*

*NA DESETGODIŠNJICU NARODNE REVOLUCIJE 1951. GODINE, NEROD [sic] SREZA  
GRAČANIČKOG.<sup>19</sup>*

The two plaques on the monument today are inscribed as follows:

Front:

*ZA BOLJI I SRETNJI ŽIVOT  
NAŠIH NARODA JUNAČKI SU GINULI  
U NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKOJ BORBI,  
VOĐENOJ POD RUKOVODSTVOM  
KOMUNISTIČKE PARTIJE I  
DRUGA TITA I MNOGI SINOVI I  
KĆERI NAŠEG SREZA.  
NEKA NAS NJIHOVI SVIJETLI  
PRIMJERI NADAHNUJU HEROJSTVOM  
I SAMOPRIJEGOROM U ODBRANI I  
DALJOJ IZGRADNJI SOCIJALISTIČKE  
DOMOVINE. NA DESETGODIŠNJICU  
NARODNE REVOLUCIJE 27.07.1951. GOD.,  
NAROD SREZA GRAČANIČKOG.<sup>20</sup>*

Side:

*U SPOMEN KOSTURNICA SAHRANJENI SU  
POSMRTNI OSTATCI 121 BORCA NOR-A*

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<sup>19</sup> Translation: *For the better and happier life of our peoples, heroically were lost in the NOB, under the leadership of the KP and Comrade Tito, many sons and daughters of our region. Let their shining example inspire us to heroism and self-sacrifice in the defence and development of our Socialist homeland. On the tenth anniversary of the People's Revolution in 1951, people of the area of Gračanica.*

<sup>20</sup> Translation: *For the better and happier life of our peoples, heroically were lost in the People's Liberation Struggle, under the leadership of the Communist Party and Comrade Tito, many sons and daughters of our region. Let their shining example inspire us to heroism and self-sacrifice in the defence and further development of our Socialist homeland. On the tenth anniversary of the People's Revolution, 27.07.1951, people of the area of Gračanica.*

07.04.1955. GOD. OD ČEGA JE  
IDENTIFIKOVANO NJIH 77.  
10 BORACA JE SA PODRUČJA  
OPĆINE GRAČANICA, 30 IZ OPĆINA  
BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE, 22 IZ SRBIJE,  
A OSTALI IZ DRUGIH KRAJEVA JUGOSLAVIJE.  
POGINULI BORIC BILI SU PRIPADNICI  
14 RAZLIČITIH JEDINICA NOVJ.  
AUTOR RJEŠENJA SPOMEN KOSTURNICE JE  
AKADEMSKI VAJAR ALFRED FILC IZ ZAGREBA.

OBNOVLJEN 01.03.2008. GOD.  
UABNOR OPĆINE GRAČANICA<sup>21</sup>

According to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.98), there are 121 Partisan fighters interred in the ossuary. Of these 77 are named. These names are given in **Annex 1** of this report (p.57). The names and basic information are transcribed as they are given by Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 pp.99-104), although it has been possible to derive additional details for a small number of individuals from Mirčetić (1986, pp.321-385) and Mirčetić (1989, pp.352-388). It is not possible to determine from the evidence available whether these names were originally inscribed upon the monument.

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<sup>21</sup> Translation: *In this memorial ossuary were buried the mortal remains of 121 fighters of the NOR on 07.04.1955, of whom 77 were identified. 10 fighters from the territory of Gračanica municipality, 30 from [other] municipalities of Bosnia & Herzegovina, 22 from Serbia and the rest from other parts of Yugoslavia. The fallen fighters were members of 14 different units of the NOVJ. The author of the memorial ossuary is academic sculptor Alfred Filc [sic] from Zagreb. Renovated 01.03.2008. UABNOR Gračanica municipality*

## 10. Memorial plaque in Lipa, Gračanica



Figure 10a: Memorial plaque in Lipa, 1980s



Figure 10b: Memorial plaque in Lipa, 2019

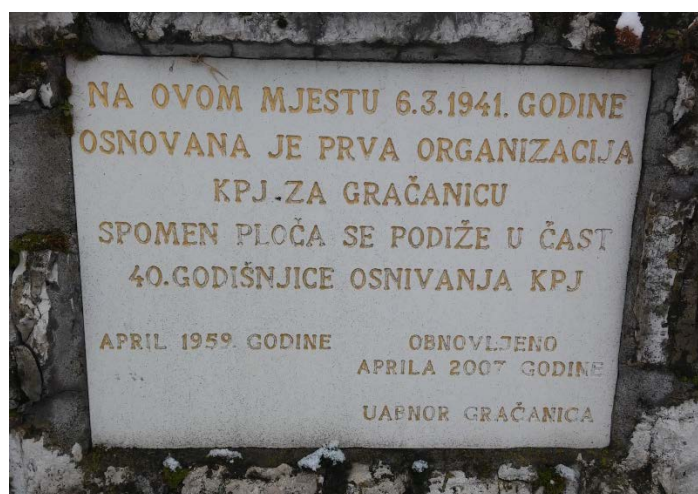


Figure 10c: Memorial plaque in Lipa, 2019

This memorial plaque is situated in the suburb of Gaj, on the outskirts of Gračanica, at a place known as Lipa. It was unveiled in 1959, although its author is unknown. The plaque commemorates the location at which the first local committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (KPJ) was formed in March 1941, and was unveiled on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the KPJ's existence. According to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.106), the plaque was originally inscribed (in the Latin alphabet) as follows:

*NA OVOM MJESTU JULA 1941. GODINE OSNOVANA JE PRVA  
ORGANIZACIJA KPJ ZA GRAČANICU. SPOMEN PLOČA SE PODIŽE U ČAST  
40. GODIŠNJICE OSNIVANJA KPJ.  
APRILA 1959. GODINE  
ODBOR ZA PROSLAVU 40-GODIŠNJICE KPJ GRAČANICA<sup>22</sup>*

However, the plaque was replaced as part of a restoration of the monument in 2007. It could not be determined whether the original plaque was damaged or destroyed, or if it was simply replaced. The present inscription reads as follows:

*NA OVOM MJESTU 6.3.1941 GODINE  
OSNOVANA JE PRVA ORGANIZACIJA  
KPJ ZA GRAČANICU  
SPOMEN PLOČA SE PODIŽE U ČAST  
40. GODIŠNJICE OSNIVANJA KPJ  
APRIL 1959. GODINE                      OBNOVLJENO  
APRILA 2007. GODINE  
UABNOR GRAČANICA<sup>23</sup>*

It is interesting to note the revision of the date between the two plaques, from July 1941 to 6 March 1941.

The plaque lies beside the main road leading north out of the town, in an area which was once forested. Today, although a part of the area has been developed, the area immediately surrounding the memorial plaque is heavily overgrown, and, due to the terrain, the plaque is relatively hard to access.

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<sup>22</sup> Translation: *At this place in July 1941 was established the first organization of the KPJ for Gračanica. This memorial plaque was erected to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the KPJ. April 1959. Committee for the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the KPJ, Gračanica*

<sup>23</sup> Translation: *At this place on 6.3.1941 was established the first organization of the KPJ for Gračanica. This memorial plaque was erected to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the KPJ. April 1959. Renovated April 2007, UABNOR Gračanica*

## 11. Memorial plaque to commemorate second liberation of Gračanica, Gračanica



Figure 11a: Memorial plaque to commemorate second liberation of Gračanica, 2019



Figure 11b: Memorial plaque to commemorate second liberation of Gračanica, 2019

This plaque is located on the building of the former (elementary) school society of Gračanica, today located at the address 22. *divizije* 9. It is the work of Šukrija Kenjar and Šefkija Kemalović, and was

unveiled in 1958 (Hamzić & Ćurić, 1985 p.108). The memorial plaque is inscribed (in the Latin alphabet) as follows:

*NA DAN 21. AUGUSTA 1943.  
GODINE JEDINICE XV MAJEVIČKE  
BRIGADE OSLOBODILE SU GRAČANICU  
UNIŠTIVŠI OKUPATORSKI GARNIZON  
U ZNAK SJEĆANJA NA TAJ DAN NAROD  
GRAČANICE PODIŽE SPOMEN PLOČU  
NA OVOJ ZGRADI U KOJOJ JE BILO  
SJEDIŠTE ŠTABA XV MAJEVIČKE BRIGADE<sup>24</sup>*

Today, while the plaque is in good condition, it appears forgotten. The building upon which it is situated has changed function, and now houses the offices of various citizens' associations, non-governmental organizations and political parties.

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<sup>24</sup> Translation: *On the day of 21 August 1943, units of the XV Majevecan Brigade liberated Gračanica, destroying the occupiers' garrison. As a sign of memory of that day, the people of Gračanica erect this memorial plaque upon this building, in which was located the headquarters of the XV Majevecan Brigade.*

12. Memorial plaque on Dom Zdravlja, Gračanica

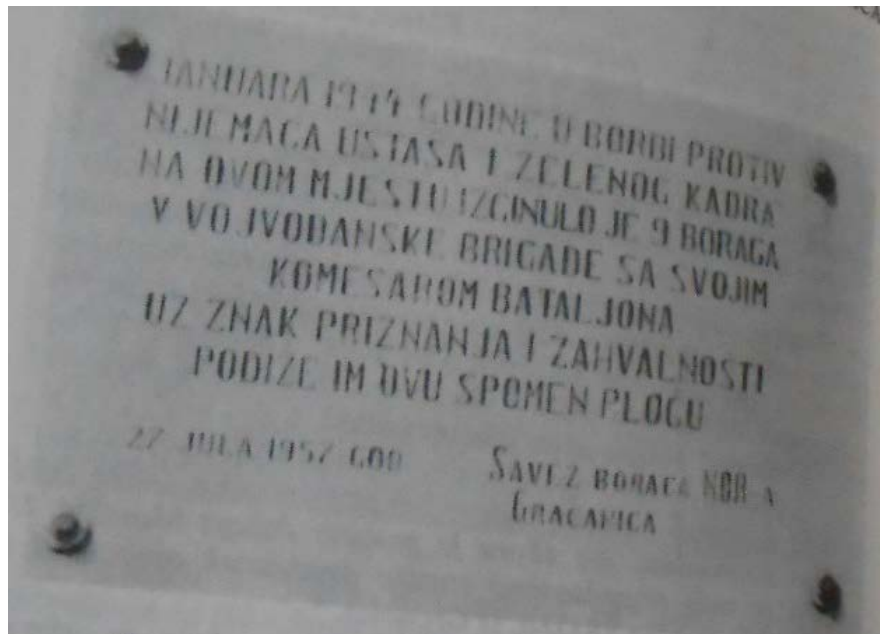


Figure 12a: Memorial plaque on Gračanica's Dom Zdravlja, 1980s



Figure 12b: Memorial plaque on Gračanica's Dom Zdravlja, 2018



**Figure 12c:** Memorial plaque on Gračanica's Dom Zdravlja, 2018

This memorial plaque lay on the side of Gračanica's *Dom zdravlja* (health centre), and was unveiled in 1957, although its creator is unknown.

The plaque's original text read (in the Latin alphabet) as follows:

JANUARA 1944. GODINE U BORBI PROTIV  
 NIJEMACA, USTAŠA I ZELENOG KADRA  
 NA OVOM MJESTU IZGINULO JE 9 BORACA  
 V VOJVOĐANSKE BRIGADE SA SVOJIM  
 KOMESAROM BATALJONA  
 U ZNAK PRIZNANJA I ZAHVALNOSTI  
 PODIŽE IM OVU SPOMEN PLOČU  
 27. JULA 1957. GOD    SAVEZ BORACA NOR-A  
 GRAČANICA<sup>25</sup>

The original memorial plaque no longer exists, and in 2007 was replaced by a plaque whose text differs considerably from that of the original. The new text reads as follows:

<sup>25</sup> Translation: *In January 1944, in a battle against Germans, Ustaša and Green Cadres\* at this place were lost 9 fighters of the V Vojvodinian Brigade, with the Commissar of the Battalion. As a sign of recognition and gratitude, we raise this memorial plaque. 27 July 1957 Association of Veterans of the NOR Gračanica*

\* Muslim militia units loyal to the Independent State of Croatia

*NOĆU, IZMEĐU 16. I 17. FEBRUARA 1944.  
GODINE, U BORBI PROTIV DOMOBRANA,  
BOSANSKIH PLANINACA I NIJEMACA,  
NA OVOM MJESTU POGINULO JE  
OSAMNAEST BORACA 5. I 2. VOJVOĐANSKE  
NARODNOOSLOBODILAČKE  
UDARNE BRIGADE.  
U ZNAK SJEĆANJA,  
PODIZEMO IM OVU SPOMEN-PLOČU.*

*27. JULA 1957. GODINE  
OBNOVLJENA, 25.11.2007. GODINE  
SAVEZ BORACA NOR-A GRAČANICA  
UABNOR-A GRAČANICA<sup>26</sup>*

It is fair to assume that the new text was chosen in part to address historiographical errors noted as having been contained in the original inscription by Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 pp.110-111).

The new plaque is in good condition, although rust marks are evident around the screws used to affix it to the wall of the health centre.

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<sup>26</sup> Translation: *On the night between 16 and 17 February 1944, in a battle against members of the Home Guard, Bosnian Planinaci\* and Germans, on this location fell 18 fighters of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vojvodinian People's Liberation Assault Brigades. As a sign of memory, we erect this memorial plaque. 27 July 1957. Restored 25.11.2007. Federation of Fighters of the NOR Gračanica, UABNOR Gračanica.*

\* roughly approximates to 'mountain people', implying irregular forces

**13. Bust of NH Todor Panić, Gračanica**



**Figure 13a:** Bust of NH Todor Panić, 1980s



**Figure 13b:** Former location of bust of NH Todor Panić, 2018

This bust was unveiled in the park in front of the town's grammar school (at that time *Gimnazija Todor Panić*, renamed *Gimnazije "Dr. Mustafa Kamarić"* at the start of the 1990s) in 1975, and, according to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, p.111) was the work of Marijan Zaradić<sup>27</sup>. It commemorated National Hero Todor

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<sup>27</sup> However, the author of this report believes it to possibly have been the work of Tuzla-based sculptor Pero Jelisić, due to the strong visual similarities between this piece and his works from the photographic evidence available.

Panić (1911-1942), who was born in Boljanić, a village which at that time lay upon the territory of Gračanica, and assassinated on nearby Mount Ozren.

The bust and its pedestal are no longer present at this location, and in its place stands a memorial to fallen soldiers and civilian victims of the 1992-95 war. The site of this new monument was chosen in 2007, and it was ceremonially opened in 2010. In his history of the new monument's creation, Omer Hamzić (2010, pp.216-230) does not mention whether the bust was still present at the location immediately prior to the preparation of the area for the creation of the new memorial. The bust's fate could not be ascertained during research for the creation of this report.

#### 14. Memorial plaque on the grave of Adem Alić, Gračanica



Figure 14a: Grave of Adem Alić, 1980s



Figure 14b: Grave of Adem Alić, 2019

This memorial plaque lies upon the grave of Adem Alić (1918-1943), a local Partisan fighter executed by German forces in December 1943. The plaque (which can also be considered a headstone or grave

marker) was unveiled in 1966, and was the work of Abdulah Korić. According to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.113), the memorial plaque was inscribed as follows:

*ADEM S ALIĆ  
ROĐEN 1918 GODINE, CLAN KPJ.  
STRIJELJAN DECEMBRA 1943 GODINE  
OD NJEMAČKIH FAŠISTA.  
UMRO JE STOJEĆI DA  
BUDUČA POKOLJENJA  
NE BI ŽIVJELA NA KOLJENIMA  
ZATO MU VJEČNA SLAVA I HVALA<sup>28</sup>*

The plaque was replaced in 2007 with a new one, much smaller and simpler in design. The reason for the replacement of the original plaque could not be determined. The new plaque, while bearing a very similar inscription, has some slight variation in text from that as transcribed by Hamzić & Ćurić, as well as a different formatting of the text. The inscription is as follows:

*ADEM S ALIĆ  
ROĐ 1918 GOD. CLAN KPJ  
STRIJELJAN DECEMBRA 1943 GOD.  
OD NJEMAČKIH FAŠISTA. UMRO JE  
STOJEĆI DA BUDUČA POKOLJENJA  
NE BI ŽIVJELA NA KOLJENIMA  
OBNOVLJEN 2007 GOD.  
UABNOR GRAČANICA<sup>29</sup>*

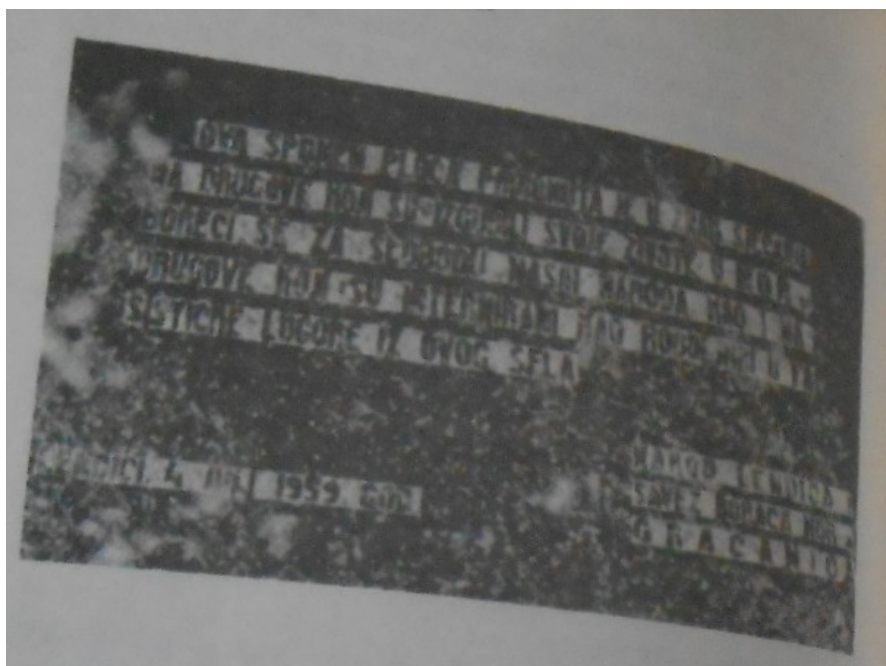
The grave is in relatively good condition, and is located within an active cemetery.

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<sup>28</sup> Translation: *Adem S Alić Born 1918, member of the KPJ. Executed December 1943 by German fascists. He died standing so that future generations do not have to live on their knees. For this we are eternally grateful and thankful.*

<sup>29</sup> Translation: *Adem S Alić Born 1918, member of the KPJ, executed December 1943 by German fascists. He died standing so that future generations do not have to live on their knees. Renovated 2007 by UABNOR Gračanica*

## 15. Memorial plaque on the public reading room, Lendići



**Figure 15a:** Memorial plaque in Lendići, 1980s

This memorial plaque was unveiled on the public reading room (*čitaonica*) in the village of Lendići, to the west of Gračanica town centre. It commemorated those who lost their lives in the NOR and people from the village interned in (concentration) camps by occupying forces, and was made of a black marble. From the photograph provided in Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.134), the plaque can be seen to have been inscribed (in the Latin alphabet) as follows:

*OVA SPOMEN PLOČA PODIGNUTA JE U ZNAK SJECANJA  
NA DRUGOVE KOJI SU IZGUBILI SVOJE ŽIVOTE U NOR-U  
BOREĆI SE ZA SLOBODU NAŠIH NARODA, KAO I NA  
DRUGOVE KOJI SU INTERNIRANI KAO RODOLJUBI U FA-  
ŠISTIČKE LOGORE IZ OVOG SELA*

*NAROD LENDIĆA I  
SAVEZ BORACA NOR-A*

*LENDIĆI, 4 JULA 1959. GOD*

*GRAČANICA<sup>30</sup>*

According to a local resident, the reading room was demolished either during or shortly after the 1992-95 war, and it can be assumed that the plaque no longer exists.

<sup>30</sup> Translation: *This memorial plaque was erected to commemorate those who lost their lives in the NOR fighting for the freedom of our people, and also those who were interned as patriots in Fascist camps from this village. The people of Lendići and Association of Veterans of the NOR, Gračanica. Lendići, 4 July 1959.*

## 16. Partisans' cemetery, Malešići

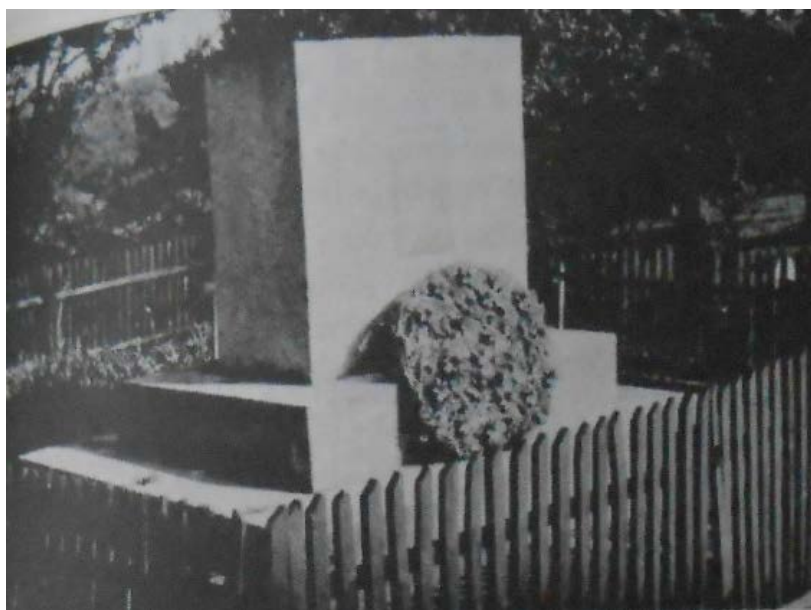


Figure 16a: Partisans' cemetery in Malešići, 1980s



Figure 16b: Partisans' cemetery in Malešići, 2018

This cemetery lies at the southern side of the local Muslim cemetery in Malešići. It was established in 1959 by the local community and Gračanica's SUBNOR committee. The cemetery contains the remains of eight Partisan fighters (two known and six unknown), and originally included a series of grave markers as well as a central memorial plaque erected upon a pedestal. While Hamzić & Ćurić (1985, pp.137-138) do not give the precise inscriptions of the grave markers, they provide the following details of those interred: Milinko Vulinović 'Mišo', member of the 14 Serbian Brigade, who fell in March 1945; Jovanka Ilić, member of the 14 Serbian Brigade, who fell in March 1945; Unknown Fighter, member of the 14 Serbian Brigade, who fell in March 1945; Five Unknown Fighters, members of the Vojvodinian Brigade, who fell in 1943.

Also, the central memorial plaque was inscribed as follows (although the original layout of the text could not be determined from the literature or photographic evidence):

*VAŠA DJELA SU BESMRTNA, U NAJTEŽIM DANIMA ISTORIJE, U NEZAVIDNOJ BORBI  
DADOSTE SVOJE ŽIVOTE ZA BRATSTVO I JEDINSTVO, DIVAN PRIMJER I NA PONOS  
ČITAVOM NARODU.  
VULINOVIĆ MILINKO, ZVANI MIŠO  
ILIĆ JOVANKA I  
ŠEST NEPOZNATIH BORACA 14. VOJVOĐANSKE I 14. SRPSKE BRIGADE KOJI  
POLOŽIŠE SVOJE ŽIVOTE 1943. I 1945. GODINE U OVOM SELU.  
26. JUN 1959. GODINE.  
NAROD MALEŠIĆA I SAVEZ BORACA  
NOR-A GRAČANICA<sup>31</sup>*

The lettering on the grave markers and the central memorial plaque were engraved by Anton Šego, while the stele to which the plaque was affixed was created by Ostoja Radić and Abdulah Osmičević, using materials donated by the local community (Hamzić & Ćurić, 1985 pp.138-139).

Today, the central memorial plaque and the stele upon which it is situated have changed considerably in appearance, largely as a result of a restoration undertaken in 2008. It is not inconceivable, however, considering the extent of changes, that this is an entirely new element. The new plaque is inscribed as follows:

*VAŠA DJELA SU BESMRTNA.  
U NAJTEŽIM DANIMA ISTORIJE  
U NEZAVIDNOJ BORBI DADOSTE  
SVOJE ŽIVOTE ZA BRATSTVO  
I JEDINSTVO, DIVAN PRIMJER  
I NA PONOS ČITAVOM NARODU.*

*POGINULIM BORCIMA 25. I 25. DIVIZIJE  
NOV U 1944. I 1945. GODINI.*

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<sup>31</sup> Translation: *Your contribution is immortal, in the hardest days of history, in an unenviable struggle you gave your lives for Brotherhood and Unity, a beautiful example and a pride of the whole nation. Vulinović Milinko, known as Mišo, Ilić Jovanka, and 6 unknown fighters of the 14<sup>th</sup> Vojvodinian and 14<sup>th</sup> Serbian Brigades who laid down their lives in 1943 and 1945 in this village. 26 June 1959, the people of Malešići and Federation of Fighters of the NOR, Gračanica*



**17. Bust of Adem Alić, Malešići**



**Figure 17a:** Bust of Adem Alić in Malešići, 1980s



**Figure 17b:** Bust of Adem Alić in Malešići, 2018



**Figure 17c:** Bust of Adem Alić in Malešići, 2018

This bust is located in front of what used to be Adem Alić elementary school, which was renamed Malešići elementary school in 1993 (Arhiv Tuzlanskog Kantona, 2016). It was unveiled in 1981, and is the work of Marijan Zaradić (Hamzić & Ćurić, 1985 p.140).

The bust lies in front of the elementary school today, although, through a comparison of the photograph published in Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.140) and the present-day appearance of the bust, a number of changes appear to have occurred. First, the lettering on the pedestal appears to have been replaced or renewed at some point in the past, seemingly having been painted on using a stencil. In the picture reproduced by Hamzić & Ćurić, although unclear, the inscription appears to have been more professionally applied, possibly through the use of cast bronze letters and numbers. Second, the bust appears to have been affixed to the base using some form of cement, a technique not evident from the photograph from the 1980s. Although the bust appears to be in good condition, there is evidence of a reaction between it and the cementation used to affix it to the base, which may need to be addressed at some point in the future.

## 18. Memorial ossuary in Piskavica



**Figure 18a:** Memorial ossuary in Piskavica, 1980s

This ossuary was built in front of the district school in the village of Piskavica. It was designed by Branko Marušić, and was unveiled in 1985. The ossuary contained the remains of three unidentified soldiers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Serbian Brigade of the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVJ Division.

The monument consisted of two pairs of stepped pillars on either side of a pedestal, atop which was a central feature. Both sets of pillars and the central feature were clad in stone. The central component had a rectangular memorial plaque affixed to it. According to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.143), this memorial plaque was inscribed as follows:

*U ZNAK ZAHVALNOSTI SVIM PALIM BORCIMA JEDINICA NOVJ KOJE SU  
VODILE BORBE NA OVOM PODRUČJU TOKOM NOR-A I REVOLUCIJE 1941 –  
1945. GODINE*

*7. APRILA 1985. GODINE*<sup>33</sup>

The ossuary no longer exists, and the school in front of which it lay lies in ruins. A mosque has been built over the location at which the monument once lay. It could not be ascertained whether the monument was destroyed prior to the construction of the mosque, or was removed to facilitate the mosque's construction.

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<sup>33</sup> Translation: *As a sign of gratitude to all fallen fighters of units of the NOVJ who led battles on this area throughout the NOR and Revolution 1941-1945. 7 April 1985.*

## 19. Memorial plaque in Stjepan Polje

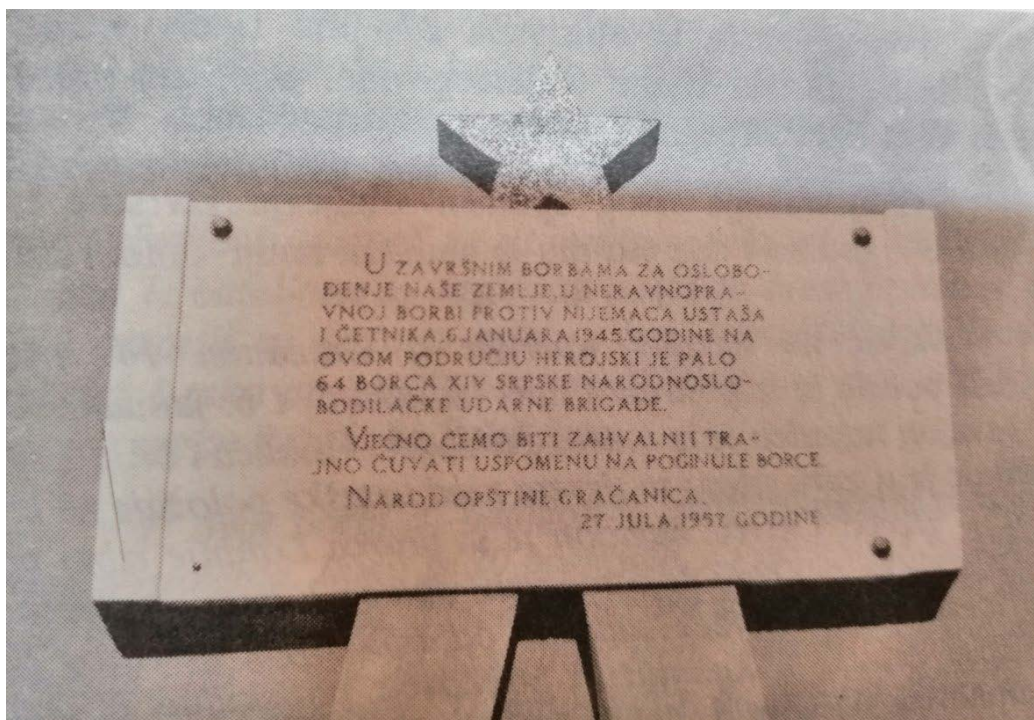


Figure 19a: Memorial plaque in Stjepan Polje, 1980s



Figure 19b: Memorial plaque in Stjepan Polje, 2018

This monument lies beside the main road in the settlement of Bare, directly below the village of Stjepan Polje. The memorial plaque was originally created in 1957, although it was modified considerably in

1984, when it gained its present-day appearance. Although no photographs of its original appearance could be found during the course of research, it can be assumed that the plaque was situated upon a smaller plateau, similar to a number of other monuments that could be found upon the territory of the municipality.

The monument in its 1984 form consisted of a small plateau, upon which a concrete pedestal was raised. This pedestal consisted of two legs, upon which was supported a rectangular area onto which the memorial plaque was installed through the use of iron screws or bolts. The pedestal was approximately 3 metres in height, atop which was a five-pointed star, which, judging from photographic evidence, would have been approximately 0.5 metres in height. According to Hamzić & Ćurić (1985 p.157), the memorial plaque, which dated to 1957, was inscribed (in the Latin alphabet) as follows:

*U POSLJEDNJIM BORBAMA PROTIV NIJEMACA, USTAŠA I ČETNIKA 7.  
JANUARA 1945. GODINE PADOŠE NA OVOM MJESTU 47 BORACA XIV  
SRPSKE BRIGADE SA SVOJIM KOMESAROM BATALJONA. U ZNAK  
PRIZNANJA I ZAHVALNOSTI NAROD OPŠTINE GRAČANICA PODIŽE IM  
OVU SPOMEN-PLOČU  
27. JULA 1957. GODINE<sup>34</sup>*

However, the photograph accompanying this transcription evidently shows a significantly different text. From the image, the following inscription can be seen:

*U ZAVRŠNIM BORBAMA ZA OSLOBO-  
ĐENJE NAŠE ZEMLJE, U NERAVNOPRA-  
VNOJ BORBI PROTIV NIJEMACA USTAŠA  
I ČETNIKA, 6 JANUARA 1945. GODINE NA  
OVOM PODRUČJU HEROJSKI JE PALO  
64 BORCA XIV SRPSKE NARODNOSLO-<sup>35</sup>  
BODILAČKE UDARNE BRIGADE.*

*VJEČNO ĆEMO BITI ZAHVALNI I TRA-  
JNO ČUVATI USPOMENU NA POGINULE BORCE*

*NAROD OPŠTINE GRAČANICA,  
27. JULA, 1957. GODINE<sup>36</sup>*

Today, the monument is in very poor condition, with the memorial plaque destroyed and pedestal upon which it was installed bearing signs of damage, particularly in the area where the plaque was affixed,

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<sup>34</sup> Translation: *In the final struggle against Germans, Ustaša and Četniks, on 7 January 1945 fell at this place 47 fighters of the XIV Serbian Brigade, along with the Commissar of their battalion. As a sign of recognition and thanks, the people of the municipality of Gračanica erected this memorial plaque to them. 27 July 1957.*

<sup>35</sup> [sic]

<sup>36</sup> Translation: *In the final battle for the liberation of our lands, in an outnumbered battle against Germans, Ustaša and Četniks, on 6 January 1945, in this area heroically fell 64 fighters of the XIV Serbian People's Liberation Assault Brigade. We will be eternally thankful and forever guard the memory of the fallen fighters. People of the municipality of Gračanica, 27 July 1957.*

with a five-pointed red star having been graffitied onto it at some point after the plaque's destruction. The original five-pointed star atop the monument has also been removed.

Trees presumably planted directly behind the memorial plaque to enhance its immediate environs survive, as does a small plateau directly in front of it. It would appear that the area is occasionally maintained, although a litter bin placed beside the bench is somewhat incongruous to its surroundings.

## 20. Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror, Gračanica



Figure 20a: Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror and commemorative plaque, 2018



Figure 20b: Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror, 2018

This monument lies beside a former printworks, on the outskirts of Gračanica's urban core. It was unveiled in 1988, although its artist is unknown. It consists of a small walled garden, entered from the side, with a stone statue of a hand at the centre. At the entrance to the garden is a limestone memorial plaque, inscribed (in the Latin alphabet) as follows:

*OVDJE SE USTAŠKI  
ZLOČINCI 25. AVGUSTA  
1941 G. STRIJELJALI  
6 BORACA I RODO-  
LJUBA IZ GRAČANICE  
I OKOLINE  
U ZNAK SJEĆANJA  
NA PALE ŽRTVE SPOMEN-  
OBILJEZJE PODIZE  
NAROD OPSTINE GRA-  
ČANICA.  
23 AVGUSTA 1988 GOD.<sup>37</sup>*

Much of the wall around the garden appears to have been demolished, although it was not possible to ascertain whether the wall pre-dated the monument or was built at the same time to act as an enclosure.

The central sculpture consists of a carved stone hand, approximately 1.2 metres in height. The hand forms the shape of a semi-clenched fist, with the index finger and thumb touching to form a circle. The hand sculpture sits atop a small concrete plateau, trapezoidal in profile, covered by four large white flagstones.

The monument is in relatively poor condition, and both the stone hand and memorial plaque bear evidence of graffiti.

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<sup>37</sup> Translation: *Here, Ustaša criminals on 25 August 1941 executed 6 fighters and patriots from Gračanica and the surrounding area. As a sign of memory of the fallen victims, this memorial was erected by the people of Gračanica. 23 August 1988.*

## 21. Bust of Hasan Kikić, Gračanica



**Figure 21a:** Bust of Hasan Kikić, 2019

This bust is situated in the car park of Hasan Kikić elementary school, in the centre of Gračanica. It was created in 1986 by Doboj-based artist Drago Handanović (Kaišarević, 2019 p.37).

The bust has been moved at least once during its existence; photographs dating to the late 1990s or early 2000s show the bust as being situated several metres to the right of the school's main entrance, against the wall of one of the school buildings, although this in itself is most likely to be a secondary location. The earliest evidence that could be found during the course of research of the bust being situated in its current location dates to October 2017.

The bust itself is in good condition, although a number of chips are evident upon the granite pedestal. These are possibly a result of the bust's relocation in the past.

## 22. Bust of Salih Žilić, Miričina



**Figure 22a:** Bust of Salih Žilić, Miričina

This bust lies in front of Miričina Elementary School (formerly Salih Žilić Elementary School), in the village of Miričina. Its date of unveiling is unknown, although it certainly post-dates 1973, the year of its subject's death. Although the artist could not be definitively confirmed, the bust bears strong similarities to works of Pero Jelisić, a Tuzla-based artist who created a large number of busts throughout the region.

The bust commemorates Salih Žilić (1910-1973), a participant in the NOB and member of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, who later went on to become a prominent school director in the region. The bust and its pedestal are both in good condition.

## Current Situation – Summary

A total of 22 monuments and memorials to the People’s Liberation War and Revolution have been identified as having existed on the territory of the present-day Gračanica municipality. Of these, four (two busts, one memorial plaque and one ossuary) have been destroyed, with no trace remaining, while one memorial plaque (that in **Stjepan Polje**) has been damaged to such an extent that only the plaque’s support survives, and this in very poor condition, and one fountain (in **Donja Orahovica**) is in equally poor condition, with its memorial plaque having been destroyed.

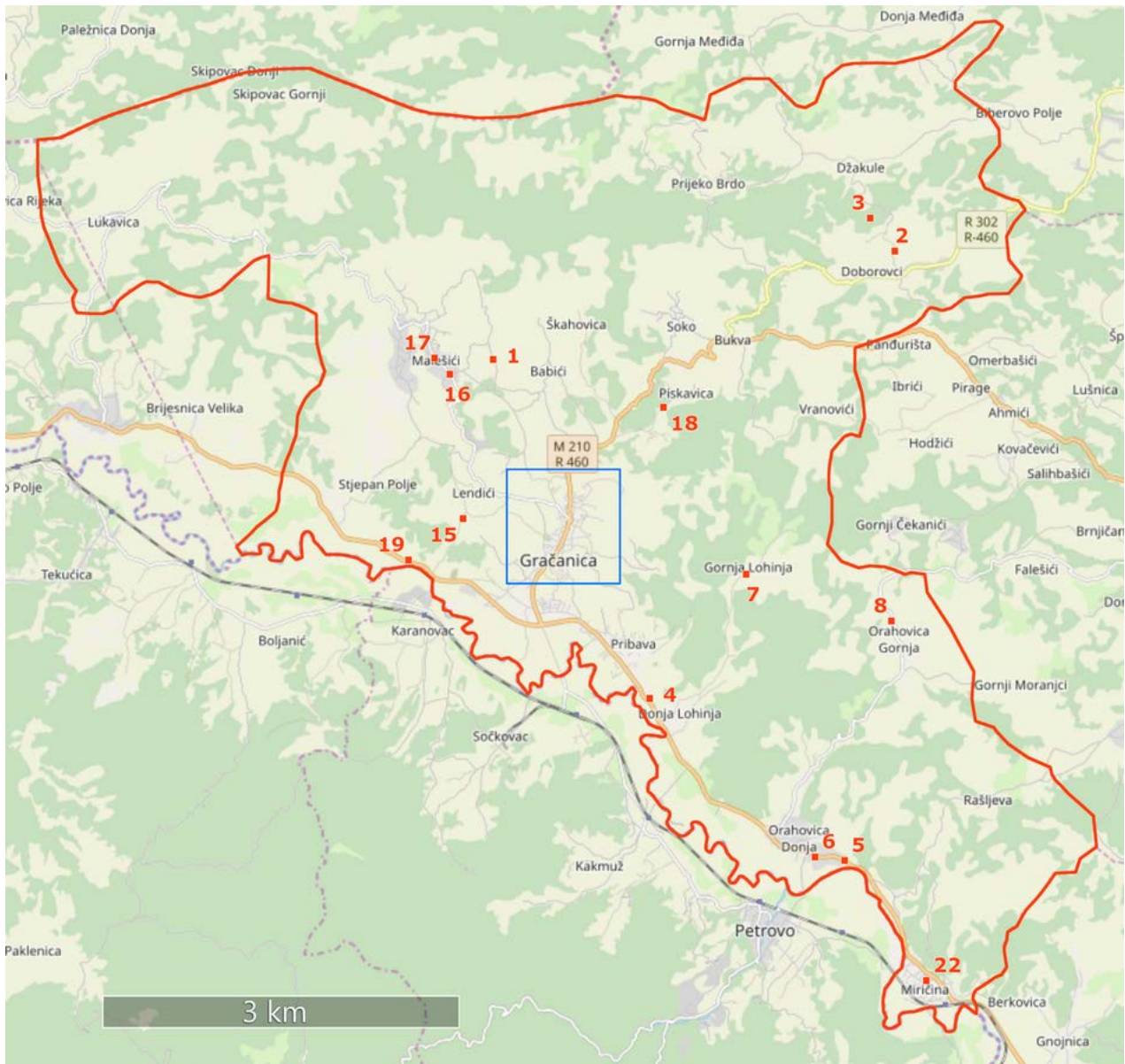
Of the remaining 16 monuments and memorials, 9 have been modified (3 in 2007, 4 in 2008, 1 in 2010, and 1 at a time that could not be ascertained). Unfortunately, it was not possible to locate documentation or evidence as to the extent of damage to these monuments prior to their restoration or modification, and whether these interventions were necessary. Many inscriptions have been altered, to varying degrees, with a common theme being that all references to Serbia or Serb ethnicity have been omitted from new inscriptions. In addition to this, while the original inscription on the **memorial ossuary in Babići** survives, the word ‘Srpske’ has been intentionally removed. This monument otherwise remains in good condition and well maintained.

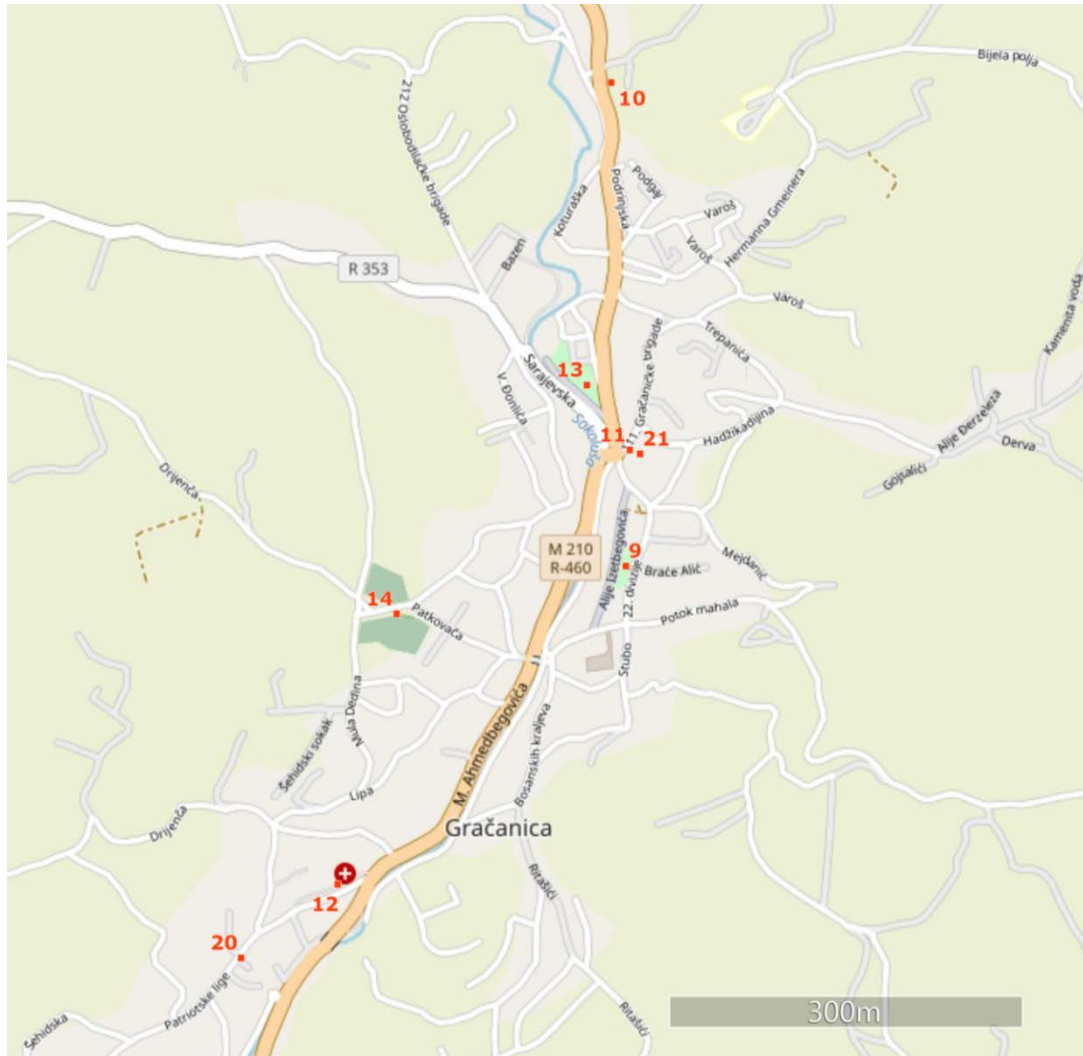
7 monuments survive and have not been modified. These include 3 busts, 1 monument (commemorating **Victims of Fascist Terror in Gračanica**), 1 memorial zone (**Monj Hill**), 1 ossuary (the aforementioned **memorial ossuary in Babići**) and the **memorial plaque to commemorate the second liberation of Gračanica**, in the centre of the town.

The table below summarizes the categories of monuments found upon the territory of the municipality, along with the frequencies of general condition broken down by category:

Type	Original	Modified	Very Poor	Destroyed	Total
<b>Memorial plaque</b>	1	3	1	1	6
<b>Bust</b>	3			2	5
<b>Fountain</b>		1	1		2
<b>Monument</b>	1				1
<b>Grave</b>		1			1
<b>Ossuary</b>	1	3		1	5
<b>Cemetery</b>		1			1
<b>Memorial zone</b>	1				1

## Municipality Maps





**Key:**

1	Memorial ossuary in Babići
2	Memorial plaque, Donji Doborovci
3	Monj Hill memorial area, Doborovci
4	Memorial ossuary in Donja Lohinja
5	Memorial fountain in Donja Orahovica
6	Bust of Radovan Radovanović, Donja Orahovica
7	Memorial fountain, Gornja Lohinja
8	Memorial ossuary, Gornja Orahovica
9	Monument and ossuary on Trg Maršala Tita, Gračanica
10	Memorial plaque in Lipa, Gračanica
11	Memorial plaque to commemorate second liberation of Gračanica
12	Memorial plaque on Dom Zdravlja, Gračanica
13	Bust of NH Todor Panić, Gračanica
14	Memorial plaque on the grave of Adem Alić, Gračanica
15	Memorial plaque on the public reading room, Lendići
16	Partisans' cemetery, Malešići
17	Bust of Adem Alić, Malešići
18	Memorial ossuary in Piskavica
19	Memorial plaque in Stjepan Polje
20	Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror, Gračanica
21	Bust of Hasan Kikić, Gračanica
22	Bust of Salih Žilić, Miričina

### Annex 1: List of individuals interred in the ossuary on Trg Maršala Tita, Gračanica

1	Vlado Kecman	1921-1945	41	Vukosava Radović	1925-1945
2	Spasa Đokić	1920-1943	42	Mihajlo Nikolić	1923-1945
3	Ilija Đukić	1928-1943	43	Milić Ćorkić	-1945
4	Ahmet Zukobašić	1896-1942	44	Milić Jokić	-1945
5	Hakija Jahić	1916-1944	45	Dragoljub Đorđević	-1945
6	Meho Ćorić	1919-1945	46	Časlav Babić	-1945
7	Ivo Kovačević	1913-1944	47	Miloš Tajković	-1945
8	Joco Tovirac	1911-1944	48	Petar Luković	-1945
9	Osman Ibrahimović	1927-1944	49	Lubo Đurić	-1945
10	Emin Ridman	1911-1944	50	Nikola Miladinović	-1945
11	Mirjana Popov	1922-1943	51	Svetozar Dimitrijević	-1945
12	Jovanka Jačeka	1917-1944	52	Milan Radovanović	-1945
13	Enver Kurt	1914-1943	53	Jovan Serbanović	-1945
14	Šaban Kovačević	1902-1943	54	Stevan Savić	-1945
15	Fatima Hadžić	1926-1944	55	Živan Đurić	-1945
16	Mustafa Okić	1916-1944	56	Vladimir Marinković	-1945
17	Ahmet Mehić	1920-1945	57	Dragoslav Grublović	-1945
18	Pavo Bašić	1912-1944	58	Branislav Stojadinović	-1945
19	Mujo Huskić	1921-1945	59	Vukašin Veličković	-1945
20	Rifat Čolić	1922-1945	60	Milivoje Paunović	-1945
21	Dragoslav Trbolović	-1945	61	Svetislav Đorđević	-1945
22	Rajko Golić	1905-1945	62	Rade Marković	-1945
23	Jovan Stjepanović	1921-1945	63	Dragan Milivojević	-1945
24	Sead Kapić	1923-1944	64	Miodrag Dimitrijević	-1945
25	Osmo Seljaković	1925-1943	65	Ognjen Milosavljević	-1945
26	Vaso Nikolić	1926-1944	66	Živojin Stevanović	1920-1945
27	Novak Pajdaković	1926-1944	67	Bogdan Đukić	-1945
28	Miloš Đurić	1908-1941	68	Živojin Savić	-1945
29	Vasilije Vasić	1919-1945	69	Petar Đulibrk	-1945
30	Milan Tomić	1913-1941	70	Bosanka Milović	-1945
31	Ljubo Simić	1897-1941	71	Ilija Zdravković	-1945
32	Hazim Okanović	1919-1945	72	Svetozar Stanojević	-1945
33	Mirko Katanić	1921-1942	73	Svetozar Kurić	-1945
34	Nedo Dujković	1915-1942	74	Adam Trbojević	-1945
35	Milan Lukić	1923-1945	75	Branislav Radisavljević	-1945
36	Obrad Jović	1917-1943	76	Tomo Acković	-1945
37	Zdravko Orginović	-1945	77	Miroslav Jevremović	-1945
38	Rade Mijić	-1945			
39	Todor Draško	-1945			
40	Dragutin Kušanović	-1945			

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Cover page: Created by Wikimedia Commons user “Yerevani Axjik”. Taken from [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Gra%C4%8Danica\\_municipality.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Gra%C4%8Danica_municipality.svg) Accessed 10 December 2018.

Figure 1a: Taken from Hamzić & Ćurić (1985) *Biljezi slobode* p.37. Original author: Miloš Babić

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Figure 4b: Nermina Ramić, October 2018

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Figure 5b: Adis Mujkić, January 2019

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Figure 16a: Taken from Hamzić & Ćurić (1985) *Biljezi slobode* p.137. Original author: Miloš Babić

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