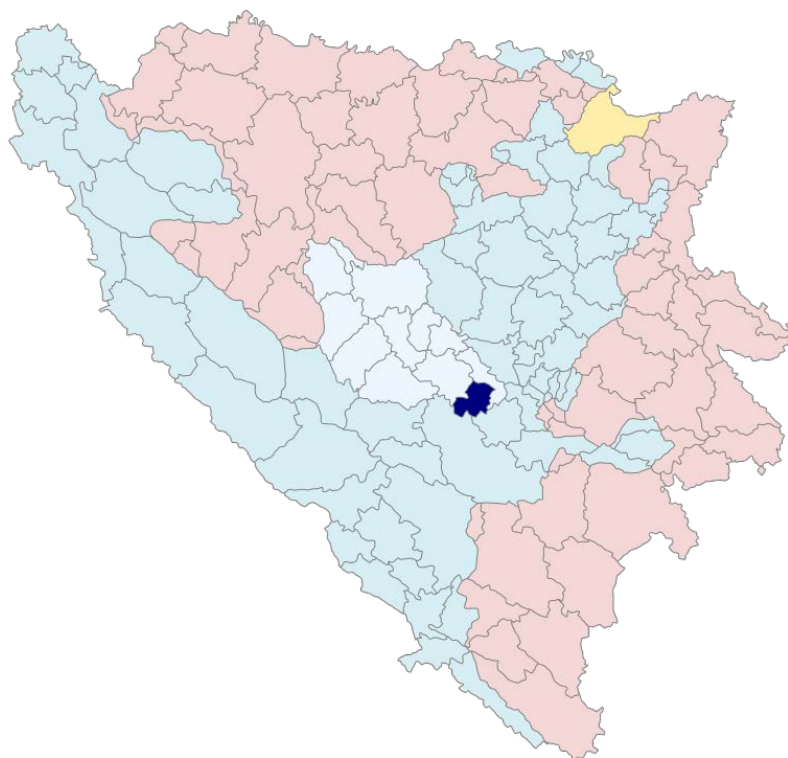


MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR  
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR  
CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

**KREŠEVO MUNICIPALITY**



Andrew Lawler

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## **Contents**

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Background and Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Monuments and Memorials in Kreševo municipality</b>	
1. Partisans' cemetery, Borići	5
2. Monument to mark the place of death of NH Gliša Janković, Bukva	12
<b>Current Situation – Summary</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Municipality Map</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Literature</b>	<b>19</b>

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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 the 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 Kreševo municipality, in Central Bosnia 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 (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.

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

## Background and Summary

Kreševo municipality is located in Central Bosnia Canton, within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It occupies a territory of 149 km<sup>2</sup>, and its borders remain unchanged from before 1992.

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 just 1 being recorded on the territory of Kreševo municipality in a survey conducted between 21 and 23 July 1970,<sup>3</sup> categorized as follows:

- **Memorial plaques – 0**
- **Memorial busts – 0**
- **Fountains, wells and cisterns – 0**
- **Artistic monuments – 0**
- **Identified individual graves and mass graves – 0**
- **Graveyards for Partisans and Victims of Fascist Terror – 1**

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.

The above-recorded graveyard is mentioned by Patković & Plečaš (1975, p.12), where it is described as a Partisans' cemetery, established in 1959 in the hamlet of Borići, on the outskirts of Kreševo town.

In addition to this, a site in the village of Bukva was found incidentally while undertaking an online search. The monument is briefly mentioned in an article written by Almir Panjeta on the *Sloboda Bosna* website in 2013, where it is mentioned as being “not far from a fountain”, which itself is in the centre of the village. The site is also mentioned in an article published on the Visoko.co.ba web portal in August 2015 as being a work by Visoko-born artist Ranko Milanović. The author gained access to the surviving parts of the author's personal archives, held by his son Selenko in Belgrade, and from these was able to obtain further information about the work, which is presented below (pp.12-15).

Both of these sites are mentioned briefly in Kreševo municipality's spatial plan (2019, p.50; p.59), but no elaboration of their condition or values is provided in the document, although it is worth noting that the Partisans' cemetery is referred to as existing in both 'Borići' and 'Polje'; two hamlets lying beside one another. No other monuments or memorials to the NOB are mentioned in this document, and this fact, combined with the results of the July 1970 survey, suggest that no other such monuments or memorials were ever created on the territory of the municipality.

Fieldwork for this report was undertaken by Kenan Kamerić, a resident of Sarajevo, in October 2021. All sites were photographed and mapped, with inscriptions also being recorded wherever possible.

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<sup>3</sup> It is worth noting that Kreševo, along with Orašje, had the lowest number of monuments recorded during this survey (Tihčić, 1981 p.253).



## Monuments and memorials in Kreševo municipality

### 1. Partisans' cemetery, Borići



**Figure 1a:** Partisans' cemetery viewed from the main entrance



**Figure 1b:** Main commemorative monument at the rear of the cemetery





Figure 1c: Condition of the monument, viewed from the north

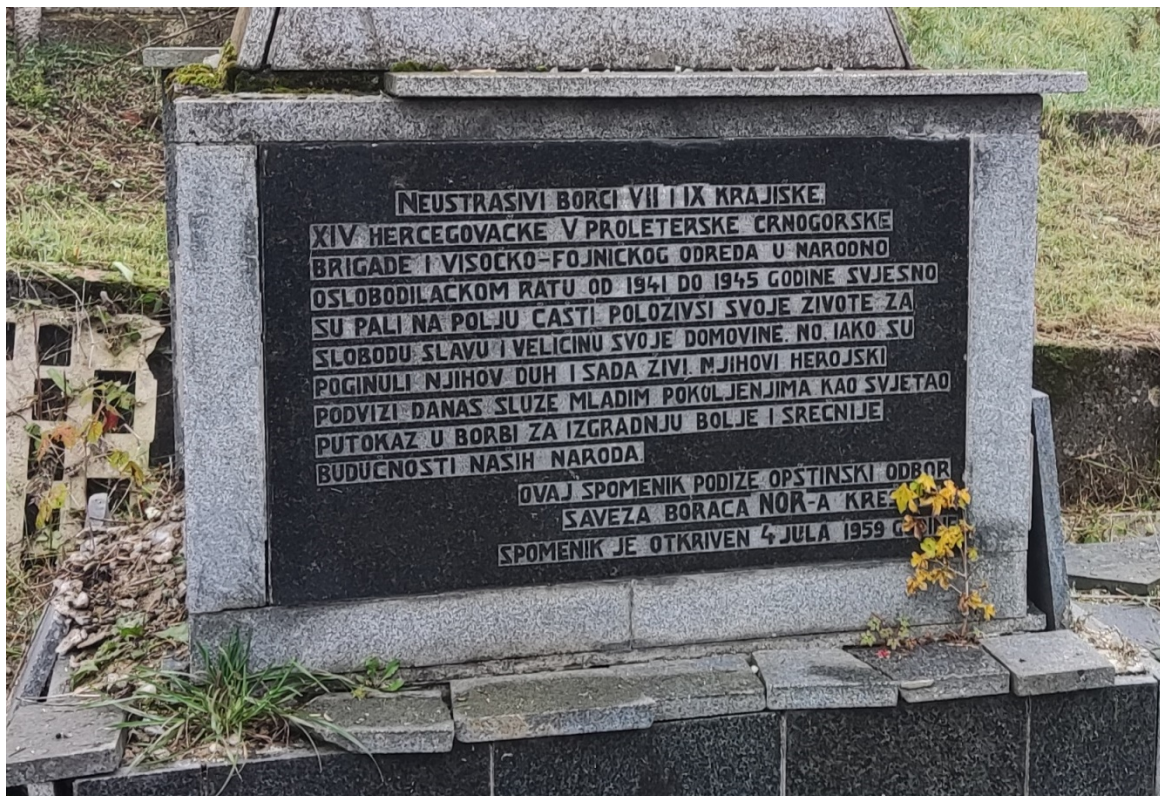


Figure 1d: Inscription on the dedicatory plaque





**Figure 1e:** Condition of the monument, viewed from the west



**Figure 1f:** Two headstones





**Figure 1g:** Detail of headstone inscription



**Figure 1h:** Displaced headstone

The Partisans' cemetery in Borići was established in 1959. It occupies a small plot of land along the southern side of a small road running between Stojčiči and Polje, approximately 2 kilometres northeast of Kreševo town centre. The cemetery's author remains unknown.

The cemetery is aligned northwest-southeast, with the main entrance being situated along the northwestern edge. It contains a total of 40 plots (consisting of individual and multiple burials), with the plots being divided into 5 lines and 4 rows, with 2 plots in each 'cell' created by this layout. Behind the central of the 5 lines, at the rear of the cemetery, lies the main commemorative monument.

Each grave has a small headstone, which bears a simple description. At the time of the visit to the cemetery (October 2021) one headstone was displaced from its setting; that (when viewed from the front entrance, left to right) of the left plot in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of the 2<sup>nd</sup> line. This marker is still evident partially embedded in the ground at the base of its setting, however.

While the markers themselves are generally in good condition, as are their concrete settings, the inscriptions on them have faded, and many are illegible today. This, combined with environmental

conditions on a site visit in October 2021, means that only a partial list of inscriptions is provided below. Inscriptions on the grave markers are in the Latin script. Those that can be read are as follows:

Line 1:

Row 1: Mitrović Darinka, rođena 1923. godina Podličak Budva, Mijović Milutin, rođen 1919. g. u Bistrici Titograd i Nešović Živko, rođen 1916. g. [XXX]ašinovićima Danilovgrad, borci [XX] Crnogorske Brigade, poginuli Julu 1943. godine u Crnićima;

Po[X]ić Pavle, Politički Komesar [illegible] Brigade, [illegible] nepoznati boraca [illegible]

Row 2: Bajić [illegible], rođen u Drvaru, borac IX Krajiške Brigade, poginuo 194[X] g. u [illegible]; [illegible] u [illegible] borac IX Krajiške Brigade, poginuo 19[XX] [illegible]

Row 3: Nepoznati borac, poginuo u Mratinićima;

Nepoznati borac, poginuo u Gunjanima, 1945.

Row 4: Sofić Avdo, borac IX Krajiške Brigade, poginuo u Kreševu;

Lugonja Ibro, borac VII Krajiške Brigade, poginuo u Jula 1944 g. u Mratinićima

Line 2:

Row 1: Pavlović Dušan, rođen 1922. g. u Paštrovići Budva, Jovanović [illegible], rođen 1926. g. u Tudorovići Budva, borci IV Crnogorske Brigade, poginuli 1942. g. [illegible];

Bakrić Kemo, Tufo Ćamil, Zulumović Osman i još četiri nepoznata borca, poginuli 1944. g. u Kreševu

Row 2: [Displaced];

Dva nepoznata borca, poginuli u Berberuši

Row 3: Nepoznati borac, poginuo u selu [illegible];

Mršić Nikola, [illegible]

Row 4: Smajlović Muharem, borac XVII Ramske Brigade, poginuo 1945 g. u Gunjanima;

Matić Anto, borac [illegible]

Line 3:

Row 1: Nepoznati borac, poginuo u Crkvenjaku;

Nepoznati borac, poginuo u Crkvenjaku

Row 2: Dva nepoznata borca, poginuli na Kota[XX];

Radulović Dimitrije, rođen 1916 [illegible] Danilovgrad [illegible], poginuo 194[illegible]

Row 3: Nepoznati borac, poginuo [illegible] Crkvenjaku;

Nepoznati borac, IX Krajiške Brigade, poginuo 1944. g u [illegible]

Row 4: Kovijanić Tomaž, rođen 1906. g., G. [X]oščenju [illegible], borac IV. Crnogorske Brigada, poginuo na Meljinama;

Nepoznat borac, poginuo u Volijaku

Line 4:

Row 1: Nepoznat borac, poginuo u Mratinićima, 1943. g.;

Dva nepoznata borca, poginuli [illegible]

Row 2: [illegible];

Nepoznat borac, IX Krajiške Brigade, poginuo u Kreševu

Row 3: Marković Tomo, rođen 1886. g. u Brijegu, Bar, borac IV Crnogorske Brigade, poginuo 1942. g;

Nepoznat borac, poginuo na Dubravama 1943. g.



Row 4: Nepoznat borac poginuo u Deževicama [illegible] iz Vido[X]ovića, poginuo kod Tarčina;  
Nepoznat borac, poginuo u Po[XXX]

Line 5:

Row 1: Tvrtković Nenad, [illegible] Kreševu, [illegible] 1943. g. u Kreševu [illegible];  
Tvrtković [illegible], rođen 1926. g. u Kreševu, poginuo [illegible] u Kreševu, Bo[XXX]

[illegible] [XXX]telje

Row 2: Nepoznati borac, poginuo u Crkvenjaku;

Stanković Gojko, Poručnik Komandir, I Čete IV Bataljona XIV Omladinske Brigade

Row 3: Dva nepoznata borca, poginula u Kota[XXX];

Nepoznat borac, poginuo u Ratkovićima

Row 4: [XX]abova[X] [illegible] borac poginuo 1945. g. [illegible] Vidosovićima;

Nikolić Milenk[X], poginuo u Crnićima, 1944. g.

It can furthermore be seen that a number of screws affixing the markers to their concrete settings have been replaced at some point in the past, although it was not possible to ascertain when exactly this occurred during the course of research.

Each double plot is delineated by a small concrete wall, with a further concrete divider between the two plots. These walls follow the contours of the hill upon which the cemetery is situated, with graves on the left (when viewed from the entrance) being more raised than those on the right. There is evidence to suggest that these delineations were once clad with stone, but this could not be definitively ascertained during the course of research.

The main dedicatory monument is situated at the rear of the cemetery. It consists of a four-stepped plateau, on which is situated a cuboidal pedestal with a dedicatory plaque set into it, topped by a pyramidal obelisk. Many such obelisks throughout the region were once topped with a red five-pointed star; a small medal bar protruding from the peak of the obelisk suggests that this was also the case here. The plateau was originally flagged with finely cut black marble flagstones, although many of these have been displaced, and are now scattered around the plateau or propped up against the side of the pedestal.

The pedestal itself is in very poor condition, with the rendering having eroded (or been intentionally removed) from both sides, although the front, which bears the dedicatory plaque, is in relatively good condition. While the infill of the pedestal on the left side appears to have been made from a low-quality concrete (with large river pebble inclusions), on the right a more block-like construction is evident. However, this appearance may be related to the way in which the monument has eroded, with the outermost layer on the left (northeastern) side having possibly originally had a similar construction, and the block-like marking in fact being an imprint of the original external layer upon a render. A layer of coping between the pedestal and obelisk survives largely intact on the front and rear, but has been lost on both sides.

Similarly, the pyramidal obelisk is in a poor condition, with much of its cladding having been lost. Originally, it appears that this cladding would have involved eight pieces of stone; four parallelograms covering the lower portion, and four triangular (or near-triangular) stones covering the upper portion. Today, all of the cladding of the upper portion is missing, while only three of the panels of the lower portion remain in situ.

The dedicatory plaque is situated on the front of the pedestal, with the cladding around it having remained largely intact. The plaque itself is in very good condition, and is made of a dense, black stone (most likely 'Jablanica granite'; a type of gabbro). The inscription is executed in relief, with the area around the lettering (and voids within it) having been cut away. The inscription (in the Latin script) reads as follows:

*NEUSTRAŠIVI BORCI VII I IX KRAJIŠKE,  
XIV HERCEGOVAČKE V PROLETERSKE CRNOGORSKE  
BRIGADE I VIŠOKO-FOJNIČKOG ODREDA U NARODNO  
OSLOBODILAČKOM RATU OD 1941 DO 1945 GODINE SVJESNO  
SU PALI NA POLJU ČASTI POLOŽIVŠI SVOJE ŽIVOTE ZA  
SLOBODU SLAVU I VELIČINU SVOJE DOMOVINE. NO, IAKO SU  
POGINULI NJIHOV DUH I SADA ŽIVI. NJIHOVI HEROJSKI  
PODVIZI DANAS SLUŽE MLADIM POKOLJENJIMA KAO SVJETAO  
PUTOKAZ U BORBI ZA IZGRADNJU BOLJE I SREĆNIJE  
BUDUĆNOST NAŠIH NARODA.*

*OVAJ SPOMENIK PODIZE OPŠTINSKI ODBOR  
SAVEZA BORACA NOR-A KREŠEVO  
SPOMENIK JE OTKRIVEN 4 JULA 1959 GODINE<sup>4</sup>*

The cemetery is cleaned annually by volunteers from the local branch of the Social Democratic Party, and a wreath-laying ceremony is held at the site every 9 May.

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<sup>4</sup> Translation: *Fearless fighters of the VII and IX Krajinan, XIV Herzegovinian, and V Proletarian Montenegrin Brigades and the Visoko-Fojnica Detachment, in the People's Liberation War from 1941 to 1945, with a clear mind fell in the field of honour, laying down their lives for the freedom, glory and greatness of their homeland. But even though their souls have fallen, they continue to live. Their heroic characteristics today serve for younger generations as a shining example in the struggle to build a better and happier future for our people. This monument was erected by the municipal committee of the Alliance of Fighters of the NOR Kreševo. The monument was unveiled 4 July 1959.*



**2. Monument to mark the place of death of NH Gliša Janković, Bukva**



**Figure 2a:** Unveiling of the monument in 1973 (possibly 1974)



**Figure 2b:** The monument in October 2021



**Figure 2c:** Monument viewed from the southwest, showing the main approach



**Figure 2d:** Inscription on the dedicatory plaque

This monument lies in the village of Bukva, in a small patch of woodland close to the entrance to the village. It commemorates the place of death of NH Gliša Janković (1913-1944), and was designed by Visoko-based artist Ranko Milanović. While the monument itself is dated 26 July 1973, a newspaper



clipping in the author's archives states that it was to be unveiled on (or before) 23 August 1972 (J.K., 1972), the author's personal notes in his own archives indicate that it was actually unveiled in 1974.

The monument was created (and co-financed) as the result of a joint initiative of the SUBNOR branches of Kreševo, Kiseljak, Visoko, Fojnica, Vareš, Breza, Kakanj and Ilijaš (J.K., 1972), and marks the place of death of NH Gliša Janković, a native of Ilidža, who, at the time of his death, was the commander of the Visoko-Fojnica Partisan Detachment. He was killed while on patrol with a group of Partisans by what was believed to have been a warning shot fired by an Ustaša guard (Sopić, 1968). He was posthumously declared a People's Hero in 1953.

The memorial area consists of a small plateau, approached by a concrete staircase, upon which a tall sculpture resting on pentagonal concrete pedestal, inset with a black memorial plaque, is situated. The sculpture and pedestal together reach an overall height of approximately 3 to 3.5 metres.

From the appearance of the plateau, it would seem that a significant amount of landscaping was undertaken to achieve the present appearance; two terraces, each edged with concrete retaining walls, lead up to the plateau, and are intersected by the staircase. As well as the monument, upon the plateau lie an arc-shaped curved concrete wall immediately behind the monument and an irregularly shaped mound, covered in cobblestones, immediately in front of the monument.

The monument itself consists of a concrete pedestal, into which is set a black memorial plaque (possibly made of 'Jablanica granite'; a type of gabbro) with a dedicatory inscription, on top of which sits an abstract sculpture. This work is comparable to Milanović's (now destroyed) 'Brotherhood and Unity' monument (1977) in the village of Dobrinje, Visoko municipality<sup>5</sup> and his (unrealized) proposal for the Monument to the Revolution on Mrakovica, Kozara National Park (c.1969), in that it consists of a tall, slender column, with abstract elements emerging from it. In this case, these are four downward pointing fins, culminating in V-shaped flanges. Emerging from the monument is a small cylindrical element. The pentagonal dedicatory plaque is inscribed as follows:

*OVDJE JE 28.I.1944.  
POGINUO NARODNI  
HEROJ  
GLIŠA JANKOVIĆ  
KOMANDANT VIŠOČKO – FOJNIČKOG  
PARTIZANSKOG ODREDA  
  
SUBNOR OPŠTINA:  
BREZA, FOJNICA,  
ILIJAS, KAKANJ,  
KISELJAK, KREŠEVO,  
VAREŠ I VISOKO.  
26.VII.1973.<sup>6</sup>*

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<sup>5</sup> For more information on this, see Lawler, 2019, pp.61-62.

<sup>6</sup> Translation: *Here on 28.I.1944, was killed People's Hero Gliša Janković, Commander of the Visoko-Fojnica Partisan Detachment. SUBNOR of the municipalities: Breza, Fojnica, Ilijaš, Kakanj, Kiseljak, Kreševo, Vareš and Visoko. 26.VII.1973.*

The monument is in relatively good condition, and appears to be sporadically maintained along with its surroundings. However, no information could be found to imply that any commemorative events are held at the site in the present day.

During the course of research, it was discovered that the site had previously been marked *“by a plank of wood, on which was written – in ordinary pencil – that this was the place of death of NH Gliša Janković”* (Kadrić, 1968). This was noticed during a commemorative march for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Visoko-Fojnica Partisan Detachment in August 1968. The newspaper article describing this march, published in Visoko’s local newspaper *Naš Život*, mentions there was some degree of surprise among the march’s participants that this was how the Commander of the Detachment was commemorated (Kadrić, 1968), and this in itself may have been an event that instigated the initiative for the commissioning of a monument to mark the location.

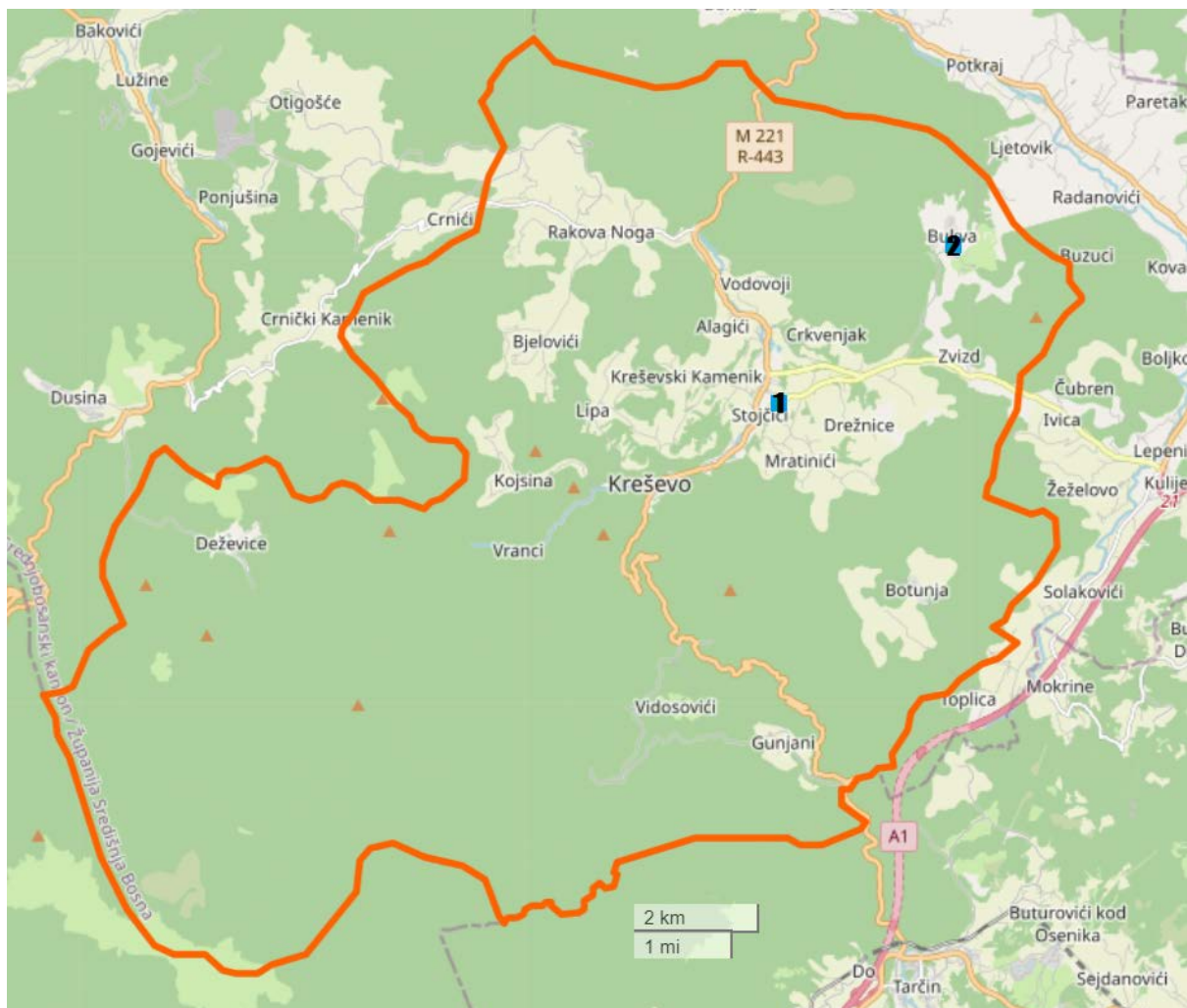
## Current Situation - Summary

The following can be said of the 2 monuments and memorials to the NOB identified on the territory of Kreševo municipality (1 cemetery and 1 monument):

- The **Partisans' cemetery in Borići** is in relatively urgent need of intervention. A full survey of the central monument must be carried out to determine its stability, and measures must be undertaken to conserve it, or, if this is not possible, to replace it, while preserving as many authentic elements as possible (namely the plateau and dedicatory plaque). If replacement is necessary, a design in keeping with the surroundings and original idea must be aimed for. In addition to this, it is recommended that the inscriptions on the grave markers are refreshed, using a suitable paint or lacquer, and the displaced headstone is re-attached to its setting. The cemetery should be maintained on a regular basis (by municipal authorities, and not just volunteers), and monitoring of the condition of the site should be undertaken on a semi-regular basis, in order to identify any potential risks to its long-term preservation.
- The **monument to mark the place of death of NH Gliša Janković in Bukva** is, overall, in good condition. Apart from occasional monitoring, an attempt should possibly be made to return the landscaping (particularly flora) to its original (or intended) appearance. A comparison of the present-day state of the monument with historical photographs suggests that many of the trees across the hillside and plateau were recently planted at the time of the monument's unveiling, and have grown significantly in the time that has passed since. A study should be undertaken by specialists to determine whether the root structure of these trees has in any way disturbed – or poses a threat to – the plateau and/or any of the structures that compose the memorial site, and suitable preventive measures should be undertaken to eliminate any threats posed by root growth.



## Municipality Map



Key:

- 1 Partisans' cemetery, Borići
- 2 Monument to mark the place of death of NH Gliša Janković, Bukva

Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the author.

## List of Figures

Cover image – ‘BiH\_municipality\_location\_Kreševo.svg’ created by Wikipedia user ‘BošnjakArmin’.

Available:

[https://bs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kre%C5%A1evo#/media/Datoteka:BiH\\_municipality\\_location\\_Kre%C5%A1evo.svg](https://bs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kre%C5%A1evo#/media/Datoteka:BiH_municipality_location_Kre%C5%A1evo.svg)

Figure 1a: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 1b: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 1c: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 1d: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 1e: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 1f: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 1g: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 1h: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 2a: Unknown newspaper article, from the personal archives of Ranko Milanović

Figure 2b: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 2c: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

Figure 2d: Kenan Kamerić, Sarajevo resident, October 2021

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

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