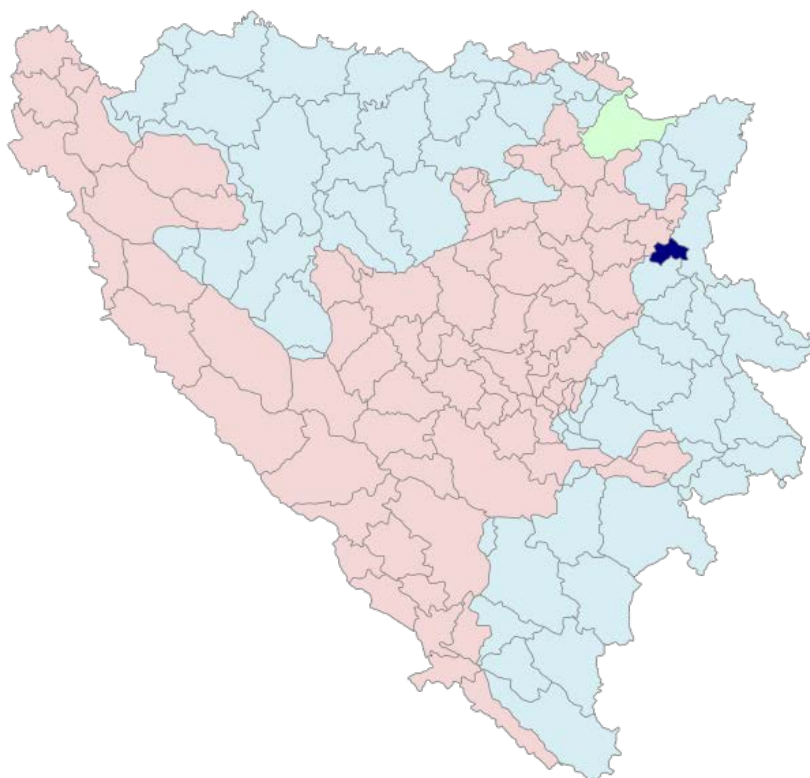


MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR
ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR
CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

OSMACI 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 the 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 Osmaci municipality, in the Republika Srpska 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

Background and Summary

Osmaci municipality lies in the north-east of Bosnia and Herzegovina, between Kalesija municipality (Tuzla Canton, in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina), Zvornik and Šekovići. The municipality is composed of the southern portion of the pre-1992 Kalesija municipality, which became a part of the Republika Srpska entity following the 1992-95 war, and comprises a territory of just under 80km².

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 8 being recorded in the territory of the then-Kalesija municipality in a survey conducted in June 1970³, categorized as follows:

- **Memorial plaques – 0**
- **Memorial busts – 0**
- **Fountains, wells and cisterns – 0**
- **Artistic monuments – 3**
- **Identified individual graves, mass graves and ossuaries – 5**
- **Graveyards for Partisans and Victims of Fascist Terror – 0**

It is not possible to determine the present-day municipality upon which a monument or memorial lies (or lay) from these results. However, further background research revealed information on the following sites located on the territory of the present-day Osmaci municipality:

- The monument to commemorate the first Allied airlift from the territory of Bosnia & Herzegovina is recorded by Patković & Plećaš (1975, p.27) as having existed on the road between Memići and Osmaci. This road is nowadays divided between Kalesija and Osmaci municipalities. However, field research undertaken by Adis Mujkić in August 2020 confirmed that the monument today lies on the territory of Osmaci municipality.
- Patković & Plećaš also document a 'memorial complex with burials' existing in Osmaci (p.36), with reliefs created by Tuzla-based sculptor Dragiša Trifković in 1966. A list created by Trifković himself and held in his personal archives also affirms this. Patković & Plećaš additionally mention a memorial to Svetozar Vuković Zarko having existed in this complex. Due to later urban developments in the area, it is impossible to determine whether the four memorials in close proximity to one another (i.e. the Partisans' cemetery, monument to Victory, grave of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko and bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko) were treated as a single memorial area by the authors.

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, to the best of the

³ Actual dates: 26-27 June 1970

author's knowledge, no specialist literature or report covering monuments and memorials on the territory of the pre-1992 Kalesija or present-day Osmaci municipality was ever created.

Osmaci municipality's Strategy for Development for 2011-2020 (Opština Osmaci, 2011) mentions that there are an 'unknown number of monuments and memorials from the Second World War' (p.45) on the territory of the municipality, but no further elaboration is given on these. Also, this Strategy mentions that Osmaci municipality adopted a Spatial Plan (valid for the period 2001-2015) (p.35) from which it cites extensively, although no copy could be obtained during the course of research. However, in 2013, the municipality published an approval of a "List of monuments and memorials of great importance for Osmaci municipality" (Službeni glasnik opštine Osmaci 3/13), although the list itself was not published alongside the decision on the list's approval. Several requests were submitted to the municipality for a copy of this list by email and through the municipality's social media accounts, but as of 28 October 2020 no reply had been received.

In October 2020, through correspondence with local historian Rajko Bošković, it was revealed that, in addition to the above-mentioned monuments, an additional monument exists in the settlement of Caparde. Bošković also provided a great deal of information about the histories of the monuments themselves that is contained in this report.

Monuments and memorials in Osmaci municipality

1. Partisans' cemetery, Osmaci



Figure 1a: Entrance to the cemetery with headstones (left) and relief (centre)



Figure 1b: Approach to relief



Figure 1c: Relief viewed front-on



Figure 1d: Relief scene 1



Figure 1e: Relief scene 2



Figure 1f: Relief scene 3



Figure 1g: Relief scene 4



Figure 1h: Memorial obelisk at summit of hill



Figure 1i: Selection of headstones, showing varying conditions



Figure 1j: Memorial wall



Figure 1k: Erosion on upper corner of memorial wall



Figure 1l: Erosion and overgrowth at side of memorial wall



Figure 1m: Cenotaph



Figure 1n: Old postcard showing the Partisans' cemetery in Osmaci (lower left)

The Partisans' cemetery in Osmaci is situated behind the present-day municipality building (which functioned as the administrative office of the local community prior to 1992, but which has since been extended considerably). Designed by Dragiša Trifković, and opened in 1966, this cemetery is one of the largest and most complete in the entirety of Bosnia & Herzegovina, and was, according to local historian Rajko Bošković, one of the largest Partisans' cemeteries on the territory of Bosnia & Herzegovina at the time of its opening.

The cemetery is situated on the side and summit of a hill, and consists of a number of elements; a large relief created by Trifković, a 12-metre high obelisk at the summit of the hill, individual grave markers alongside paths through the cemetery, a memorial wall and a cenotaph. Below the cemetery, in front of Osmaci's municipality building, is another obelisk which almost certainly once marked one of the entrances to the Partisans' cemetery (see below, p.17).

The cemetery is entered by a small path immediately to the north of Osmaci's municipality building. The first feature encountered upon entering is the large relief. This is situated on along the cemetery's north-eastern perimeter. The relief is situated on a large concrete block, supported by two vertical iron beams. The concrete block is approximately 8 metres long and 1 metre in height, while the relief itself is approximately 7 metres long and 70 centimetres in height. It consists of four distinct scenes:

- The initial invasion and occupation, depicted by a marching column of German soldiers supported by a tank, hanging bodies, and the execution of a woman holding a child, while another child looks on (**Figure 1d**)
- The initial Uprising, showing people fighting back against a German soldier with rifles and farm implements, while at the centre of the motif a man stands with an upraised arm with clenched fist, while holding a flag in the other hand (**Figure 1e**)
- The continued People's Liberation Struggle, with Partisan fighters engaged in hand-to-hand combat with soldiers wearing German uniforms (**Figure 1f**)
- A scene either depicting victorious Partisan forces, or collaboration between the Partisans and the local community, with women offering bread and other food to Partisan fighters, while two young children wave Yugoslav flags (**Figure 1g**). Due to the jubilation of the children, the scene almost certainly depicts the former.

The relief itself is in good condition, although a heavy patina has developed, and there is evidence of calcification (from the concrete block) along its upper portion. Similarly, verdigris from the bronze of the relief has stained the part of the concrete block abutting the lower edge of the relief. Moss is also growing along some parts of the upper edge of the relief, which could accelerate corrosion. Although there are no external signs of damage to the iron supports of the relief, it is advisable that these are assessed for stability, in order to ensure the relief's longer-term conservation.

At the summit of the hill, in the northernmost corner of the Partisans' cemetery, lies the memorial obelisk (**Figure 1h**). This is situated upon a low rectangular platform, and is made of a whitewashed concrete. Its height is, according to Rajko Bošković, 12 metres. The inscription 'SLAVA PALIM BORCIMA'⁴ is written vertically down the obelisk with metal lettering, above which is a five-pointed star, approximately mid-way up the obelisk. The design bears strong similarities to the Monument to

⁴ Translation: *Celebrate fallen fighters*

Victory that marked the cemetery's original entrance (see below, p.17). The platform upon which the obelisk is situated is in poor condition, and is too heavily covered in overgrowth to be able to infer its dimensions. The obelisk itself is in good condition, although a large lateral crack runs vertically down its western side. It is impossible to gauge the severity of this crack without a more invasive study.

South-westward from the obelisk, at a distance of approximately 20 metres, is the memorial wall (**Figure 1j**). The wall is approximately 5.5 metres long and 2 metres tall, with a concrete rendering into which are installed 6 black marble plaques, each inscribed with dedicatory texts in-filled in white. The memorial wall is dedicated to National Hero Svetozar 'Zarko' Vuković Pucar, 125 fallen fighters of the Spreča Battalion, all Partisan fighters and members of the NOVJ who fell in the Spreča region, and 1151 Victims of Fascist Terror from villages in the Spreča valley. The plaques are each inscribed (from left to right) as follows:

Plaque 1

*NARODNIM HEROJU
SVETOZARU VUKOVIĆU-ZARKU
I STODVADESETPETORICI POGINULIH
BORACA SPREČANSKOG BATALJONA⁵*

Plaque 2

*14. AVGUSTA 1966.
NA 25 GODIŠNJICU USTANKA
NARODA SPREČE⁶*

Plaque 3

*BORCIMA SVIH JEDINICA
NARODNO-OSLOBODILAČKE VOJSKE
I PARTIZANSKE ODREDA
JUGOSLAVIJE KOJI SU POGINULI
NA OVOJ TERITORIJI⁷*

Plaque 4

*SPOMENIK PODIŽE NAROD SPREČE
ZA KOJEG ĆETE ŽIVJETI U
SJEĆANJIMA I DJELIMA KOJA STE*

⁵ Translation: *National Hero Svetozar Vuković-Zarko and one-hundred-and-twenty-five fallen fighters of the Spreča Battalion*

⁶ Translation: *14 August 1966, on the 25th anniversary of the Uprising of the people of Spreča*

⁷ Translation: *Fighters of all units of the People's Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia who fell on this territory*

*VI ZAPOČELI U SLOBODI
KOJOJ STE POKLONILI ŽIVOT⁸*

Plaque 5

*DALI SU ŽIVOT
ZA SUNČANA
JUTRA SLOBODE
ZA BRAZDE
SLOBODNIH ORANICA,
ZA LJUDSKU SREĆU,
I OSTALI VJEČITO
ŽIVI⁹*

Plaque 6

*HILJADU STO PEDESET I JEDNOJ
ŽRTVI FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA
U SPREČANSKIM SELIMA¹⁰*

The wall itself is in very poor condition (**Figures 1k – 1l**), with the edges being heavily eroded. Overgrowth seems to be hastening the impact of this upon the right (i.e. north-eastern) edge. The plaques themselves, being made of a harder material, have been seemingly unaffected by this erosion, however. The concrete rendering is heavily cracked, and it would appear as if it is only a matter of time before this wall degrades to an irreparable extent, if an intervention is not performed as a matter of urgency.

Around the hill are a number of stone markers. Although these would appear to be headstones for graves, their positioning along the hillside – and distances between them in some instances – make this unlikely. Furthermore, Rajko Bošković claimed that those buried at the site are interred in an ossuary, with memorial plaques created to commemorate 120 fallen Partisans, of whom 71 were from the territory of (present-day) Osmaci municipality (pers. comm., October 2020). These markers vary in their condition and visibility (**Figure 1i**), with some being partially buried, others heavily faded, while others still are clear of overgrowth and clearly legible. During a site visit by Adis Mujkić in October 2020, only a small proportion of the markers (46 in total) allegedly present at the site could be located. The inscriptions of these can be found in **Annexe A** of this report (p.36).

Directly to the south-east of the memorial wall, in a small cluster of trees lies a cenotaph, or possibly an ossuary. This consists of a small low-set wall, into which is set a white marble commemorative plaque, in front of which is a cist-like structure, with a large capstone, set upon a small plateau. The plaque set into the wall is inscribed (in the Latin script) as follows:

⁸ Translation: *Monument erected by the people of Spreča for whom you will always live in the memories and acts that they started in the freedom for which you gave your lives*

⁹ Translation: *They gave their lives for a sunny morning of Freedom, for the freedom to cultivate our fields, for human happiness, and to remain alive eternally*

¹⁰ Translation: *One thousand one hundred and fifty-one Victims of Fascist Terror in Spreča's villages*

NEZNAMO IMENA VAŠA
ALI STE DJELIMA ZASLUŽILI
NAŠA SJEĆANJA
SVIM NEZNANIM BORCIMA ZA
SLOBODU –

NAROD SPREČE¹¹

The cenotaph is heavily overgrown, covered in moss, and surrounded by rubbish. However, ribbons and a discarded floral bouquet evident at the location on a site visit in October 2020 suggest that it continues to be a focal point of commemorative activities.

On the western perimeter of the Partisans' cemetery lies a local cemetery, while at its south-western edge lies a small plot in which soldiers of the Army of Republika Srpska who fell in the 1992-95 war are buried.

¹¹ Translation: *We don't know your names, but for your deeds you deserve our memories; All unknown fighters for freedom – the people of Spreča*

2. Monument to Victory, Osmaci



Figure 2a: Monument to Victory in Osmaci, August 2020

This monument lies on a patch of grassland in front of the present-day municipality building. It consists of a white obelisk, approximately 3.5 metres in height, topped by a metal pole upon which

are mounted three five-pointed stars, facing in different directions. One side of the monument, which faces toward the municipality building, bears the following inscription (in the Latin script):

[P]OBIJEDILI SMO
V[R]IJEME,
NADŽIVJELI SMO
SV[E],
J[ER] SMO UMRLI
ZA SLOBODU¹²

A number of letters of the inscription are missing. Furthermore, the obelisk itself, which is made of concrete, shows signs of deterioration, with several large cracks running longitudinally, and a portion of the upper edge having broken away.

Due to its proximity to the Partisans' cemetery, similarity in design to the obelisk at the summit of the cemetery, and the fact that the municipality building has been extended significantly since 1995, it is assumed that this obelisk once marked either an entrance or exit to the Partisans' cemetery, as part of its design solution. Although the date of its creation and authorship could not be ascertained during the course of research, it is therefore assumed that it was created in 1966 according to the designs of Dragiša Trifković.

¹² Translation: *We defeated time, We outlived everything, Because we died for Freedom*

3. Grave of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko, Osmaci



Figure 3a: Enclosure with grave and bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko

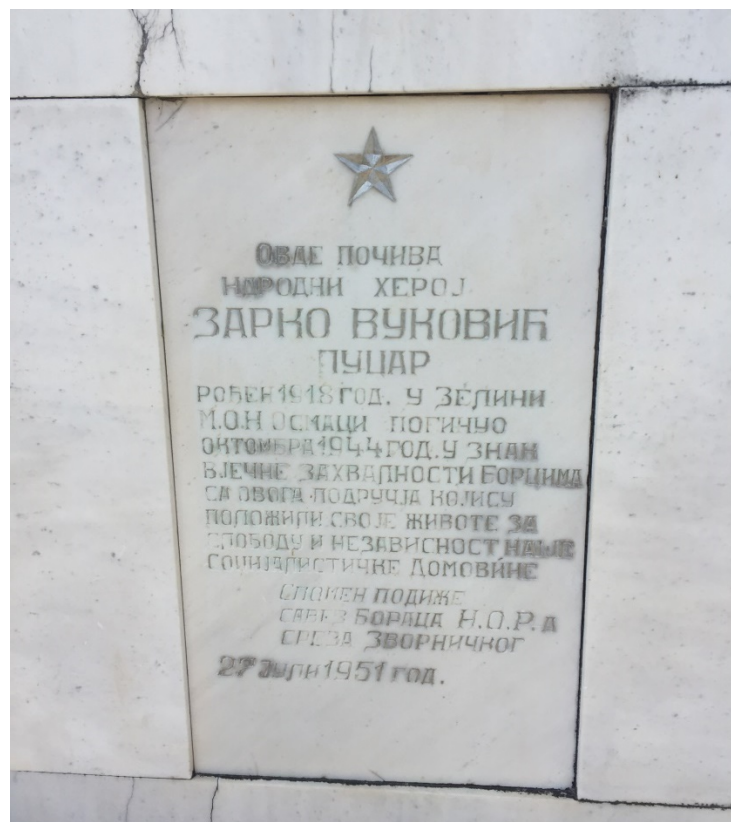


Figure 3b: Plaque inscription



Figure 3c: Grave of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko

The memorial grave of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko is located in front of a complex of buildings that includes Osmaci's fire station and Dom Kulture. It was created in 1951, although its author is unknown. It is the final resting place of Svetozar 'Zarko' Vuković (also known as 'Pucar'). Vuković was born in the nearby hamlet of Pucari, a sub-settlement of the village of Zelina. Different sources attribute different years of birth: while *Narodni heroji Jugoslavije* (often considered the definitive source for biographies of National Heroes) gives his date of birth as 1911 (Kačavenda & Živković 1983, p.355), Andrić (1961, p.114) claims it was 1917, and the grave itself is inscribed with a date of

1918 (see **Figure 3b**). Orphaned at a young age, he worked as a farm labourer and lumberjack. After marrying in 1938, he joined the Yugoslav Army, and was working on an artillery battery in the Kotor Bay (Montenegro) at the time of the German invasion and capitulation. Escaping capture as a prisoner of war, he returned to the Kalesija area, and joined the Uprising in its early stages. He quickly rose up the ranks to become the commander of the Second Spreča Battalion and deputy commander of the 19th Birač Brigade (Bošković, pers. comm., October 2020). In mid-1943, he became a member of the KPJ (Andrić 1961, p.116). He participated in battles throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Sixth and Seventh Enemy Offensives. In September 1944, Vuković led an assault on Zvornik, which led to the short-lived liberation of the town. On his return from this action, his formation was ambushed by a group of Chetniks, and he was shot in the head. Despite surviving the initial injury, he succumbed to his wounds in a hospital in Tuzla in early October 1944. In 1945, he was posthumously awarded the title of National Hero. In 1951, his remains were transferred to the memorial grave in Osmaci.

The grave marker lies inside a fenced enclosure on a slightly raised concrete plateau, and consists of a low pedestal clad in black stone, on top of which is a white cuboidal obelisk with memorial plaque, on which sits a frustrum obelisk topped with a red metal five-pointed star. The overall height, from the base of the pedestal to the peak of the star, is around 2.5 metres.

The plaque is set into a small recess in the white marble cladding, and is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

OVDE POČIVA
NARODNI HEROJ
ZARKO VUKOVIĆ
PUCAR
ROĐEN 1918 GOD. U ZELINI
M.O.N OSMACI, POGINUO
OKTOMBRA¹³ 1944 GOD. U ZNAK
VJEČNE ZAHVALNOSTI BORCIMA
SA OVOGA PODRUČJA KOJI SU
POLOŽILI SVOJE ŽIVOTE ZA
SLOBODU I NEZAVISNOST NAŠE
SOCIJALISTIČKE DOMOVINE

SPOMEN PODIŽE
SAVEZ BORACA N.O.R.A
SREZA ZVORNIČKOG

27 JULI 1951 GOD.¹⁴

¹³ [sic]

¹⁴ Translation: *Here rests National Hero Zarko Vuković Pucar. Born 1918 in Zelina, local settlement of Osmaci, killed October 1944. As a sign of eternal gratitude to fighters of this area who laid down their lives for the freedom and independence of our Socialist homeland. Monument erected by the Federation of Fighters of the NOR of the Zvornik Region. 27 July 1951.*

The inscription is somewhat faded, and it appears that the pigment used to infill the inscription in the past has partially dissipated into the stone, causing discolouration. Apart from this, the plaque and tier of the memorial into which it is set are both in good condition. The inscription itself is rudimentary in nature: the upper lines are slightly offset from the centre (as is the five-pointed star above the inscription), and there are a number of grammatical inconsistencies, including the misspelling of the word '*October*'.

The upper level, while in good condition, appears to be severely affected by the growth of lichen. Although it could not be ascertained for definite, it would also appear as if the red five-pointed star has been replaced in recent years. The possible date of – and reasons for – this could not be determined during the course of research.

The lower level consists of a small raised plateau clad in black stone. A number of these stones are slightly displaced, and they are not regularly patterned. Furthermore, it would appear as if the material or finish of the stones is not uniform, suggesting some have been replaced in the past.

Overall, the grave and enclosure appear to be well maintained, and, apart from the issues mentioned, in good condition. The enclosure fence is almost certainly a later addition, although whether or not this replaced an earlier fence could not be determined.

Immediately to the right of the memorial grave inside the enclosure lies a bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko, which was placed there at a later date (see below, p.23).

4. Bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko, Osmaci



Figure 4a: Bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko



Figure 4b: Bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko in Tuzla

This bust lies immediately to the right of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko's grave (see above, p.19). From the proportions of the enclosure it can be seen to be a later addition; this is further supported by the results of the survey conducted in (the pre-1992) Kalesija municipality in June 1970, which claimed that no busts existed on the territory of the municipality at that time.

Although no information could be found regarding the bust's author or date of unveiling, comparison with the bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko in the Slana Banja Memorial Complex in Tuzla shows that they are identical. This bust was relocated from its original location in Kalesija municipality in 2005 (Šarac, 2005). Unfortunately, no information could be found about this bust's author or the date of its unveiling. However, a third copy also exists outside the elementary school in Drinjača, Zvornik municipality. According to the study *Kulturno-istorijsko i prirodno nasljeđe – opština Zvornik*, created by the Tuzla Institute for the Protection and Use of Culturo-Historical and Natural Heritage (1991, p.224), the bust is the work of Dragiša Trifković, although no date is provided for its unveiling. However, it must be noted that no bust of Svetozar Vuković is included in the list of works maintained by Dragiša Trifković himself. Additionally, a "List of monuments and memorials of great importance to Zvornik municipality" (Листа споменика и спомен обиљежја од великог значаја за општину Зворник) published in 2014 (Sl. glasnik opština Zvornik no. 01/2014, p.34) claims that the bust was unveiled in 1973, providing a (potential) approximate date for the bust in Osmaci's creation.

According to local historian Rajko Bošković (pers. comm., October 2020), the bust was originally situated outside the present-day municipality building (formerly the local community administrative office). During the 1992-95 war, it was stolen from its pedestal, but recovered and returned soon after. However, shortly after the end of the war, both the bust and pedestal disappeared. The bust was tracked down to a village in neighbouring Šekovići municipality, where a man claimed to have found it in the Spreča river. After police intervention, it was returned to Osmaci's municipal authorities, who placed the bust in storage and refused to return it to its original location, despite a request by Bošković and his colleagues. However, upon the initiative of Bošković, the bust was instead placed – along with its original pedestal, which was retrieved from a pit behind the municipality building – in the enclosure of Vuković's memorial grave.

The bust is situated on a black marble pedestal, carved from a single block of stone. The pedestal is inscribed (in the Latin script) as follows:

*NARODNI HEROJ
SVETOZAR VUKOVIĆ
ZARKO
1918.–1944.*

Both the bust and pedestal are in good condition, with the area around the enclosure in which the grave and bust are located being in good condition and seemingly well maintained.

5. Monument to commemorate first Allied airlift from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Osmaci



Figure 5a: Monument to commemorate Allied landings, August 2020



Figure 5b: Detail of memorial stela, showing renovations and re-pointing of masonry



Figure 5c: Replacement plaque, installed in 2009

This monument lies on the main road between Osmaci and Kalesija, in an area called Ješići, at the foot of a peak known as Kakanj. It was unveiled in 1952, and commemorates the first landings by Allied aircraft on the territory of Bosnia & Herzegovina, at a makeshift airfield created in the Summer of 1944.

The monument, around 2 metres in height, consists of dressed but irregularly shaped blocks of serpentine which form a stela, into which is set a memorial plaque. The lower courses of the stela slope slightly toward the base, and the monument sits on a small concrete plateau, surrounded by a low metal fence. In front of this is a small wooden bench.

The plaque is made of a black stone, and is inscribed as follows:

NA OVOJ POLJANI, U LJETO 1944 G. SPUSTILI SU
SE PRVI SAVEZNIČKI AVIONI.
TOM PRILIKOM PREVEZLI SU VIŠE DESETINA
TEŠKIH RANJENIKA U SAVEZNIČKE BOLNICE
U ITALIJI.
U ZNAK SJEĆANJA NA OVAJ VAŽAN DOGAĐAJ
NAROD DOLINE SPREČE PODIŽE OVU SPOMEN
PLOČU
OSMACI 23.9.1952 G.
OBNOVLJENO 2009 G.¹⁵

¹⁵ Translation: *On this field, in the summer of 1944, landed the first Allied aircraft. On that occasion, they carried many tens of heavily wounded to Allied hospitals in Italy. As a sign of memory on that important event, the people of the Spreča Valley erect this memorial plaque. Osmaci, 23.9.1952. Renovated 2009.*

The original plaque was destroyed during the 1992-95 war, and was replaced in 2009, with the inscription upon it being the same as the original, apart from the addition of the date of replacement (Bošković, pers. comm., October 2020). Funds for the renovation of this (along with other monuments and memorials to the NOB upon the territory of Osmaci municipality) were provided by the late mayor of Foča municipality, Zdravko Krsmanović (Bošković, pers. comm., October 2020).

The monument is in moderate condition. There is evidence of re-pointing, possibly related to the 2009 replacement of the commemorative plaque. The upper courses of the stela are also much lighter than the lower ones, despite seemingly being of the same travertine-like stone. This would suggest that the stones of the upper courses were cleaned (possibly during dis- or re-assembly at the time of installing the new plaque) or are replacements of the originals.

While arguably better described as a memorial plaque than a monument, the fact that the results of the 1970 survey summarized by Tihic (1981) do not describe any memorial plaques as existing on the territory of the municipality, combined with a lack of information about its pre-2009 appearance, have led to its categorization as a monument for the purposes of this report. According to Rajko Bošković (pers. comm., October 2020), the original design of the memorial included a 'raised stone seating area', which may be a (partial) justification for this having been classed as a monument, as opposed to a memorial plaque. This 'seating area' may be a small stone abutment to the monument on its right side when viewed from the front (see **Figure 5b**).

6. Monument to commemorate the VI Eastern Bosnian Brigade, Caparde



Figure 6a: Monument in Caparde, October 2020



Figure 6b: Inscription on the plaque in Caparde

This monument lies in the village of Caparde, alongside the main road through the village, at the junction of the old road to Šekovići, approximately 250 metres to the east of the village's Orthodox church. It was unveiled in 1953, although its author is unknown. It commemorates numerous battles between the VI Proletarian Brigade and enemy forces throughout the Spreča valley in 1943.

The monument consists of a plaque, situated upon a stela made of rough-hewn limestone blocks, which sits upon a narrower limestone pillar adjoined to a bench-like structure; although the monument to commemorate the first Allied airlift from Bosnia & Herzegovina, in Osmaci (see above, p.26), has a similar structure, its function is far more obvious here. The plaque is inscribed (in the Latin script) as follows:

*TOKOM 1943 GOD. 6. PROLETERSKA BRIGADA JE
U DOLINI SPREČE VODILA ŽESTOKE
BORBE PROTIV OKUPATORA.*

*U ZNAK SJEĆANJA NA TE DANE,
PREŽIVJELI BORCI BRIGADE I NAROD OVOGA
KRAJA 1953 GOD. PODIGOŠE OVAJ SPOMENIK.*

*OBNOVLJENO 2009.*¹⁶

The original plaque was destroyed in the 1992-95 war, but was replaced in 2009. According to Rajko Bošković (pers. comm., October 2020) the inscription is identical to the original, with the exception of the addition of the date of replacement.

While the plaque and monument are in good condition, it was observed during a site visit in October 2020 that the monument has recently been used as an impromptu 'notice board' with evidence of tape and residues remaining on the surface of the plaque. This is not an unusual occurrence, and has been noted before at sites in Katići, Busovača municipality (Lawler 2019, pp.12-14) and at Živinice's First Elementary School (Mušić & Lawler 2018, pp.16-17), for example.

As with the monument to commemorate the first Allied airlift from Bosnia & Herzegovina, in Osmaci, while arguably better described as a memorial plaque than a monument, the fact that the results of the 1970 survey summarized by Tihčić (1981) do not describe any memorial plaques as existing on the territory of the municipality has led to its categorization as a monument for the purposes of this report. The bench-like structure may be a (partial) justification for this having been classed as a monument, as opposed to a memorial plaque, in the survey. Unfortunately, Tihčić failed to elaborate on the methodology employed in the typological categorization of monuments and memorials, meaning that a number of inconsistencies may exist between these reports and the original categorizations employed by SUBNOR and the Republic Institute for Protection of Monuments.

¹⁶ Translation: *Throughout 1943, the 6th Proletarian Brigade in the Spreča valley went into many heavy battles against the occupier. As a sign of memory on those days, surviving fighters of the Brigade and the people of this area in 1953 erected this monument. Renovated 2009.*

Current Situation - Summary

The following can be said of the 6 monuments and memorials to the NOB identified as having existed on the territory of present-day Osmaci municipality (one bust, three monuments, one cemetery and one grave):

The **Partisans' cemetery in Osmaci** is in moderate condition. Interventions to conserve or restore the memorial wall are urgently needed. As well as this, it would be advisable to perform a study of the stability of the memorial relief and obelisk. Additionally, regular cleaning and maintenance is required, including a fuller survey of all burial markers, in order to determine whether any need replacing, and possible cleaning and re-painting of lettering of those in a more weathered condition. The entrance to the site should be more clearly signposted and delineated, and efforts should be made by municipal authorities to promote the cemetery to the local population and visitors alike.

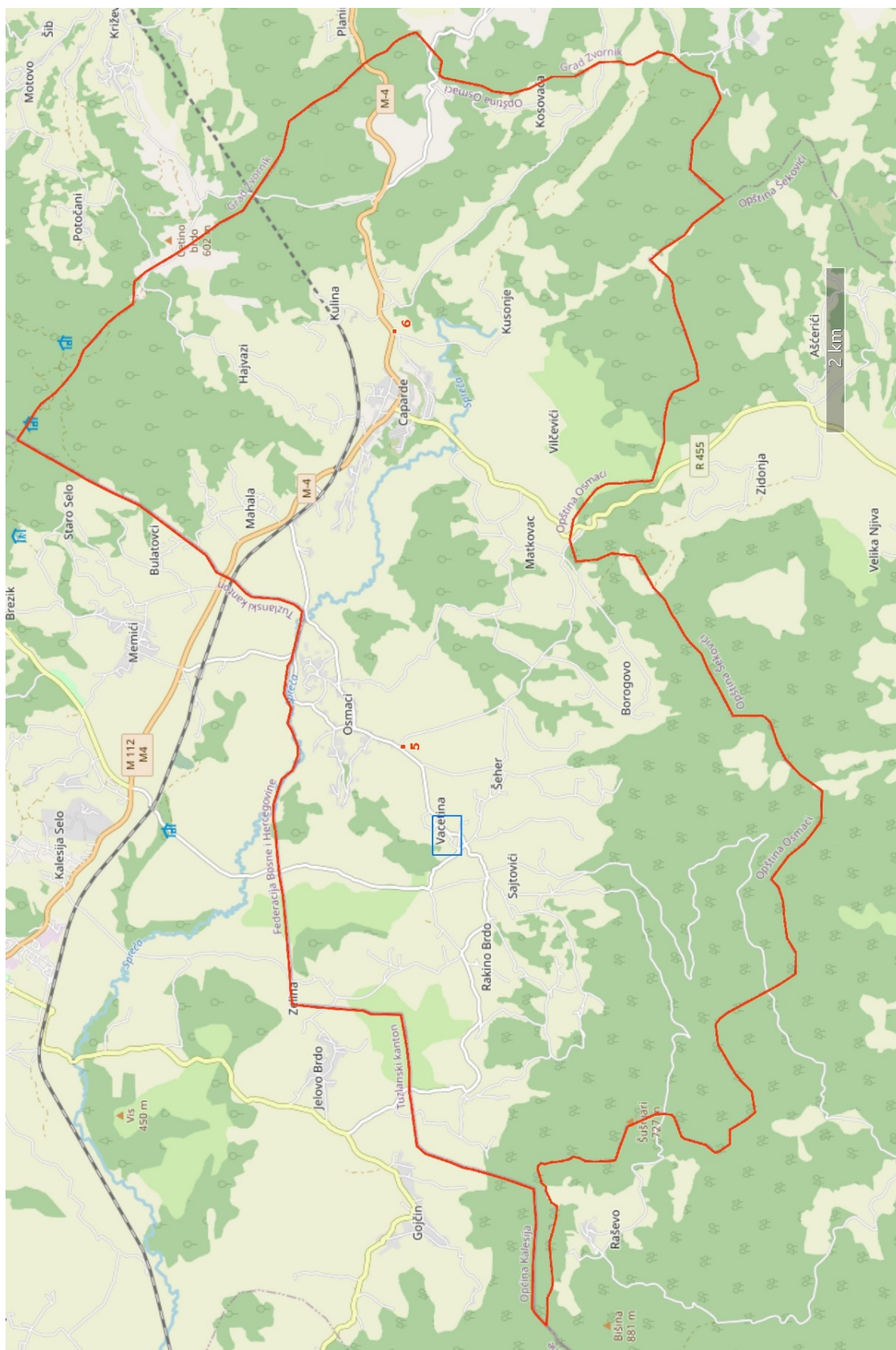
The **monument to Victory** in front of the municipality building is in moderate condition. A fuller assessment should be carried out in order to determine its structural stability, and the letters currently missing from the inscription should be replaced. Also, it should be considered whether to link this with the Partisans' cemetery, of which it was undoubtedly once an element, possibly through an interpretation panel added at the edge of the grassland in front of the municipality building.

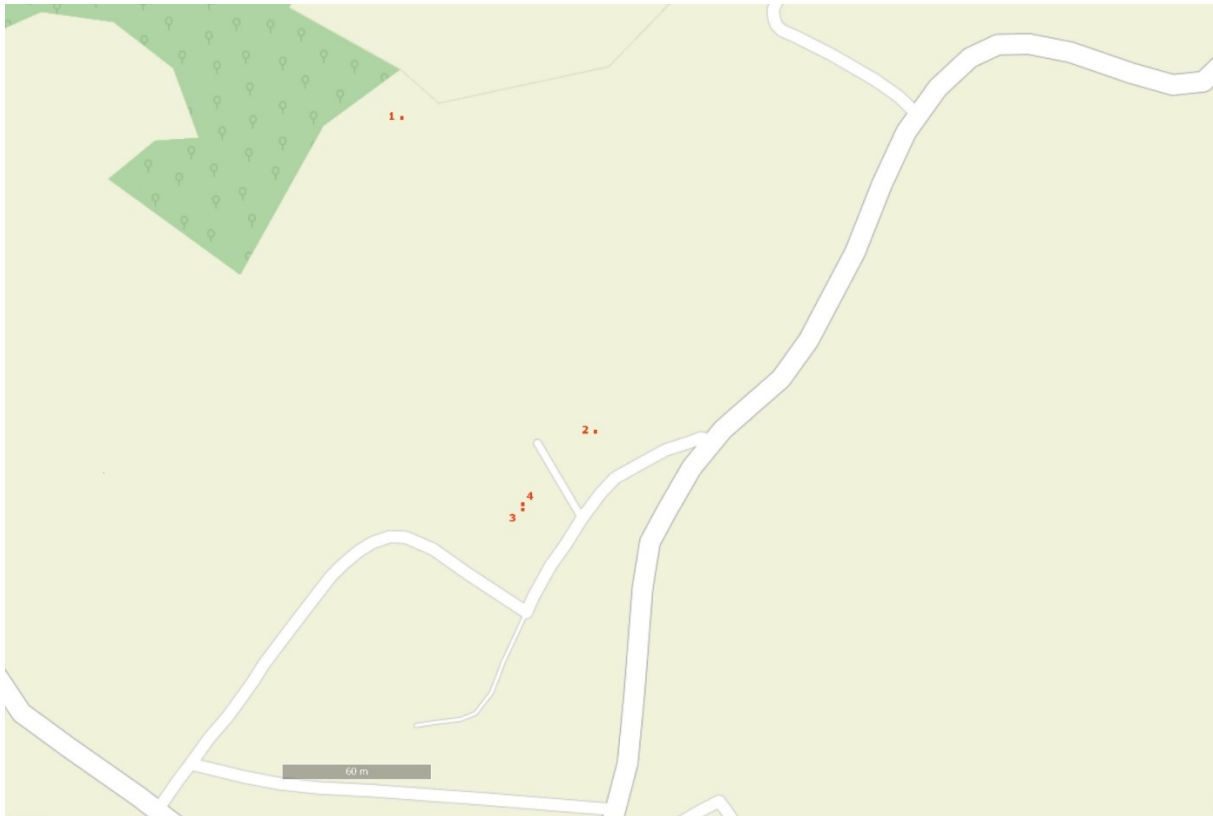
The **grave and bust of NH Svetozar Vuković** are both in good condition. No action needs to be taken, apart from regular maintenance and monitoring of the site.

The **monument to commemorate the first Allied airlift from Bosnia & Herzegovina** is in relatively good condition. However, its present-day positioning in relation to its surroundings makes it somewhat inconspicuous. Efforts should be made to ensure that it is regularly maintained, and that the vegetation that currently encroaches upon it is kept clear. Consideration should also be made as to whether to improve access to it, and to encourage use of the bench feature, possibly by replacing or restoring it.

The **monument to the VI Eastern Bosnian Brigade in Caparde** is in good condition. No action is required for this monument except regular maintenance, including the clearing of any notices (and residues left behind by them) stuck to the plaque and stela.

Municipality Maps





Key:

- 1 Partisans' cemetery, Osmaci
- 2 Monument to Victory, Osmaci
- 3 Grave of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko, Osmaci
- 4 Bust of NH Svetozar Vuković Zarko, Osmaci
- 5 Monument to commemorate first Allied airlift from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Osmaci
- 6 Monument to commemorate the VI Eastern Bosnian Brigade, Caparde

Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the author.

List of Figures

Cover image – ‘Osmaci_municipality’, created by Wikipedia user ‘Andrein’. Available: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Osmaci_municipality.svg

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Figure 1b – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1c – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1d – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1e – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1f – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1g – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1h – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1i – Montage created by Andrew Lawler, from photographs by Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 1j – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

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Figure 1n – Taken from https://www.delcampe.net/en_GB/collectables/postcards/bosnia-and-herzegovina/b2-postcard-kalesija-401044239.html, accessed 7 October 2020.

Figure 2a – Adis Mujkić, August 2020

Figure 3a – Adis Mujkić, August 2020

Figure 3b – Adis Mujkić, August 2020

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Figure 5b – Adis Mujkić, August 2020

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Figure 6a – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Figure 6b – Adis Mujkić, October 2020

Municipality maps – Created by Slaven Ištuk, using data originally created by OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org) [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)] available here: <https://www.openstreetmap.org/relation/2528246>

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Personal correspondence

Rajko Bošković, historian from Osmaci, via Facebook, October 2020.

Annexe A – Grave markers in the Partisans' cemetery, Osmaci

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| MEHMEDOVIĆ MEHE MUJO 1922 - 1945 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA | MILIĆ LAZARA RATKO 1924 - 1944 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA | MILJANOVIĆ PROKOPIJE MIKO 1926 - 1944 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA |
| MISOJČIĆ PREDRAG 1922 - 1943 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED | MIHAJLOVIĆ DAMJANA TODOR 1924 - 1943 [XXX] | MRŠIĆ ARIFA PINJO 1923 - 1945 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA |
| MUJIČEVIĆ MUJE ALIJA 1924 - 1944 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA | PAJIĆ RADO 1917 - 1942 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED | PAŠALIĆ MUJE HASO 1928 - 1945 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA |
| PAPOVIĆ ILIJA 1918 - 1942 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED | POPOVIĆ MIKAJLA DRAGO 1922 - 194[X] 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA | POPOVIĆ MAKSIMA VELJKO 1928 - 1945 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA |
| POPOVIĆ PERE BOŠKO 1915 - 1945 KOMANDA MJESTA MEMIĆI | POPOVIĆ RISTE DAVID 1902 - 1943 KOM. MJESTA RAKINO BRDO | POPOVIĆ RISTE SOFREN 1912 - 1941 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED |
| PELEMIŠ NEĐE DRAGO 1907 - 1942 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED | PELEMIŠ PETRA SVETOZAR 1922 - 1945 KOMANDA MJESTA MEMIĆI | PETROVIĆ ĐOKE SRETKO 1912 - 1945 KOMANDA MJESTA MEMIĆI |
| RAKIĆ JOVANA BORKO 191[X] - 1944 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA | RIDOŠIĆ JOVANA STEVO 1925 - 1944 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED | RISTANOVIĆ JOVE JOVAN 1920 - 1944 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA |
| SANDIĆ MITRA BRANO 1922 - 1943 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA | SANTIĆ MITRA VLAJKO 1918 - 1944 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA | SAVIĆ MIKAILA JANKO 1927 - 1943 19. BIRČ. BRIGADA |
| SAVIĆ VELJKO 1920 - 1942 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED | SAVIĆ SAVE RATKO 1920 - 1942 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED | SAVIĆ LUKE SLOBODAN 1914 - 1943 BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED |

SMAJIĆ
AHMETA
ĐULAGA
1918 - 1944
KOM. MJESTA GORNJA TUZLA

STJEPANOVIĆ
JOVE
RADISLAV
1924 - 1945
19. BIRČ. BRIGADA

STUPAREVIĆ
MIHAJLA
SLAVKO
1915 - 1944
19. BIRČ. BRIGADA

TODOROVIĆ
PERE
RISTO
1928 - 1945
19. BIRČ. BRIGADA

TOKANOVIĆ
TOME
JOVO
1915 - 1941
BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED

TRGOVČEVIĆ
ATIFA
NURIE
1907 - 1944
KOM. MJESTA GORNJA TUZLA

URUMOVIĆ
TRIVKA
CVIJETIN
1926 - 1943
19. BIRČ. BRIGADA

UŽIČANIN
HASAN
1918 - 1945
KOM. MJESTA GORNJA TUZLA

VASILJEVIĆ
TOŠE
STANOJE
1921 - 1945
BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED

VIDAKOVIĆ
TIMOTIJE
MILORAD
1918 - 1941
BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED

VILDIĆ
SALKANA
AGO
1926 - 1945
19. BIRČ. BRIGADA

VUKAŠINOVIĆ
NIKOLE
MILORAD
1903 - 1942
BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED

VUKIĆ
JOVANA
BOŽIDAR
1911 - 1942
BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED

VUKOVIĆ
CVIJETINA
BLAŠKO
1924 - 1942
BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED

VUKOVIĆ
JOVANA
JOVO
1922 - 1943
BIRČ. PARTIZ. ODRED

VUKOVIĆ
CVIJETINA
VUKAŠIN
1922 - 1943
19. BIRČ. BRIGADA

VUKOVIĆ
CVIJETINA
SRETKO
1918 - 1942
KOM. MJESTA RAKINO BRDO

VUKOVIĆ
PETRA
PERO
1928 - 1944
19. BIRČ. BRIGADA

[XXX]
[XXX]
STANOJE
[XXXX] - 1943
[XXX]