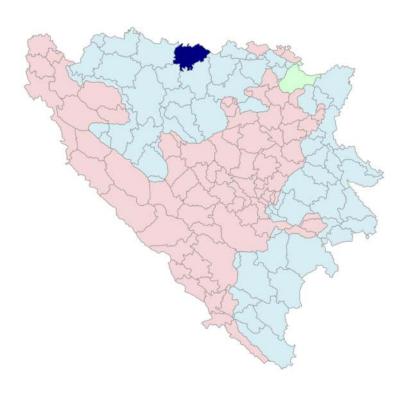
MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS TO THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR ON THE TERRITORY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – THEIR CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITION

SRBAC MUNICIPALITY



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Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Preface	3
Background and Summary	4
Monuments and Memorials in Srbac Municipality	
1. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Srbac	7
2. Cemetery with 55 fallen Partisans & 22 fallen Polish fighters of the NOVJ, Srbac	12
3. Bust of NH Slobodan 'Danko' Mitrov, Srbac	21
4. Bust of NH Zdravko Čelar, Srbac	24
5. Bust of NH Sava Vujanović Žuća, Srbac	26
6. Ossuary and memorial for 13 Victims of Fascist Terror, Srbac	28
7. Monument to fallen fighters, Kaoci	30
8. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Kaoci	33
9. Monument to the 1st Proletarian Brigade, Vlaknica	35
10. Memorial fountain, Vlaknica	38
11. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Vlaknica	40
12. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Korovi	43
13. Monument to the XII Slavonian Assault Brigade, Gornja Lepenica	47
14. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Sitneši	51
15. Monument to mark the place of death of NH Danko Mitrov, Donji Srđevići	56
16. Monument to mark the place of death of NH Zdravko Čelar, Gornji Srđevići	60
17. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters, Razboj Župski	65
18. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Nožičko	68
19. Monument to fallen fighters, Stari Martinac	74
20. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Povelič	77
21. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Prijebljezi	80
22. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Razboj Ljevčanski	82
23. Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror executed in March 1944, Razboj Ljevčanski	89
24. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Dugo Polje	93
25. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Donji Kladari	95
26. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Gornji Kladari	97
27. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Lilić	99
28. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Kukulje	101
Current Situation – Summary	105
Municipality Map	107
List of Figures	110
References	116

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Preface

During the existence 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 Srbac municipality, in the Republika Srpska entity.

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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

Srbac municipality lies on the northern border of Bosnia and Herzegovina, surrounded by Derventa to the east, Gradiška to the west, Laktaši to the south-west and Prnjavor to the south east. On its northern side, it is bordered by the River Sava and the Republic of Croatia. It lies in the Republika Srpska entity, and its borders remain the same as those before the 1992-95 war, and its territory covers a total of 452.5 km².

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 (Tihić, 1981). In total, 2,049 immovable properties were recorded on the territory of SR Bosnia & Herzegovina, with a total of 11 being recorded upon the territory of Srbac municipality in a survey conducted in December 1967³, categorized as follows:

- Memorial plaques 4
- Memorial busts 0
- Fountains, wells and cisterns 0
- Artistic monuments 6
- Identified individual graves, mass graves and ossuaries 0
- Cemeteries of Partisan fighters 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.

Prior to this survey, however, a number of internal documents created by SUBNOR hint to the progression of construction of monuments and memorials on the territory of Srbac municipality: In 1959, a report for (the then-)Srez Banja Luka states that 2 monuments existed on the territory of Srbac municipality by 1959, while 5 memorial plaques were created by 1955, with 0 being created in the period 1955-59 (SO SBNOR Banja Luka, 1959). In 1961, a Republic-wide report claimed that 1 Partisans' cemetery existed on the territory of the municipality, which was 'temporarily arranged', with a wooden fence and wooden grave markers (GO SBNOR BiH, 1961). In 1967, a similar report claimed that an ossuary was being prepared for 25 fallen fighters 'of Polish nationality' (GO SUBNOR BiH, 1967).

Several articles published on the portal *Glas Srpske* in 2019 and 2020 suggested that a total of 24 monuments and memorials commemorating the People's Liberation War were erected on the territory of Srbac municipality (see, for example, Jovičić 2019; Jovičić 2020), and that Srbac's SUBNOR organization maintained records of these, while one article on Radio Srbac placed the number at 25 (Radio Srbac, 2020d).

Contact was made with Bogdan Davidović of Srbac's SUBNOR organization in November 2021. The organization shared their records of all sites known on the territory of the municipality, with Davidović also accompanying Dalibor Miljević to map and photograph the sites. However, it is known

³ Actual dates: 7-8 December 1967

that the list compiled by SUBNOR is not a comprehensive list of all monuments and memorials that existed on the territory of the municipality, as an insufficient number pre-date the December 1967 survey. In total, the documentation compiled by SUBNOR details 25 monuments and memorials, including the fountain in Vlaknica, which appears to have had no specific memorial purpose (see below, p.38).

A second document compiled by SUBNOR Srbac in August 2020 details a total of 27⁴ monuments and memorials. This list omits the 1984 monument to fallen fighters in Kaoci and the fountain at the site of the *narodni zbor* in Vlaknica. It does, however, include a collective grave of Victims of Fascist Terror in the village of Nova Ves (1960) not included on any other lists. This grave contains the remains of 10 civilians of Czech nationality killed in an assault on the village by a group of Četniks on 22 August 1944. The grave is religious in nature, and appears to have been created by members of the local community in the local cemetery. The decision was therefore made to exclude it from this report. It should be noted, however, that the grave is well-maintained, with commemorative events being held on or around the anniversary of the attack each year.

A reference to one memorial plaque not mentioned in the present-day records of Srbac's SUBNOR organization can be found in the report *Analiza o obilježavanju istaknutih ličnosti i događaja iz Radničkog Pokreta i Revolucije u Bosni i Herzegovini*, published by the Commission for History of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Bosnia & Herzegovina in April 1963. This mentions that a plaque to commemorate NH Danko Mitrov existed on the elementary school in (Donji) Srđevići at this time (p.13). On a visit to the site in June 2022, it was seen that this plaque no longer exists, and, furthermore, no definitive trace of its existence survives. This plaque may well have either been created in 1950, or, alternatively, replaced a monument created in 1950, as an article in the *27. Juli* magazine of SBNOR Bosnia & Herzegovina, stated that a monument to Danko Mitrov was to be unveiled in Srđevići at this time (Jungić, 1950).

Furthermore, correspondence with Obrad Nikičević revealed that a plaque had previously existed on the wall of the elementary school in Povelič, with this later being replaced by the present-day monument. It would appear that this plaque dated to 1961. Likewise, no trace of this plaque remains today.

It is interesting to note that Patković & Plećaš (1975) only mention one site on the territory of the municipality: the Partisans' cemetery, which at that time was stated to contain the remains of 55 fallen Partisan fighters and 22 Polish members of NOVJ units (p.43).

At present, Srbac municipality has no valid spatial plan that would potentially contain information on additional monuments and memorials on the territory of the municipality. However, in July 2014, a "List of monuments and memorials on the territory of Srbac municipality" was adopted (Službeni glasnik opštine Srbac 07/14) in accordance with the Republika Srpska's 2012 *Law on Monuments and Memorials to the Liberation Wars* (Službeni glasnik Republike Srpske 28/12). An analysis of this list (Opština Srbac, 2014), which was not included in the decision, shows that its NOB-related contents are identical to those of the document provided by SUBNOR. However, it has been noted (Lawler, 2020) that such lists are often far from authoritative.

5

⁴ There are 25 listed items, with the 3 busts that stand outside Jovan Jovanović Zmaj elementary school being included as a joint entry.

The recently published monograph *Srbac: Monografski Zapisi* (Šarić, 2020) mentions a number of memorial plaques and busts in passing, mainly in the section of the book profiling individual villages. However, the contents of this monograph are not exhaustive, and little attention is paid to the histories of these monuments to the People's Liberation War.

Local news portal *Radio Srbac* also regularly publishes articles relating to commemorative events and restoration/cleaning of monuments. These have proven invaluable in studying the more recent history of the monuments and memorials on the territory of the municipality.

In total, during the course of research, a total of 31 monuments and memorials to the People's Liberation War were identified as existing or having existed on the territory of Srbac municipality, categorized as follows:

- Memorial plaques 8
- Memorial busts 3
- Fountains 1
- Three-dimensional or sculptural monuments 17
- Identified individual graves, mass graves and ossuaries 1
- Cemeteries of Partisan fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror 1

However, as implied above, it may well be the case that several more monuments and memorials – particularly memorial plaques – existed on the territory of the municipality, but have not been recorded in the sources consulted.

Monuments and memorials in Srbac municipality

1. Monument to fallen fighters, Srbac



Figure 1a: Appearance of the monument in 1989



Figure 1b: The monument immediately prior to demolition in 2005



Figure 1c: Remains of the demolished monument, 2005

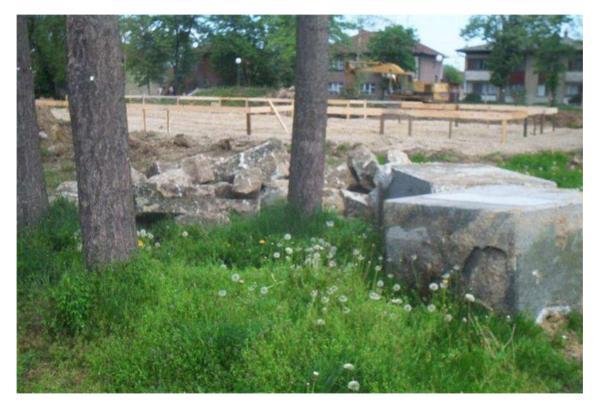


Figure 1d: Remains of the demolished monument, 2005



Figure 1e: Site of the former monument today



Figure 1f: 'Replacement' monument, beside monument to the 1992-95 war



Figure 1g: 'Replacement' monument, November 2021

The monument to fallen fighters in Srbac stood in the town's main park. Originally constructed in 1950, it was reconstructed shortly after, in 1957. This 1957 version stood until 2005, when it was demolished. A replacement monument now stands on a plot of land at the intersection of Danka Mitrova and Mome Vidovića streets, opposite the town's post office, although this differs significantly in appearance and content of the dedicatory text. The authors of all three versions of the monument remain unknown.

No photographs of the appearance of the monument between 1950 and 1957 could be found during the course of research. However, after 1957, the monument consisted of an obelisk, approximately 2.5 metres tall, 1 metre wide, and 0.7 metres deep, with a simple dedicatory plaque made of a white stone. Although an accurate transcription of the inscription on the dedicatory plaque could not be obtained during the course of research, it is believed to have been approximately as follows:

NAROD SRBAČKOG SREZA
PODIZE OVU SPOMEN-PLOČU U ZNAK ZAHVALNOSTI PALIM
BORCIMA NOV ZA SLOBODU DOMOVINE, ZA
BRATSTVO I JEDINSTVO NASIH NARODA⁵⁶

In the early 2000s, plans were made to construct a large church in the centre of the town park, which would necessitate the removal of the monument. In the Spring of 2005, the monument in the park was demolished. It has been claimed that the demolition was not intentional, and instead

10

⁵ Translation: The people of Srbac District erect this memorial plaque as a sign of gratitude to fighters of the NOV who fell for the liberation of our homeland, for the Brotherhood and Unity of our Peoples.

⁶ The authors are indebted to Facebook user "Dragana Stole" for this reconstruction of the text.

happened when an attempt was made to relocate the monument, due to the low-quality materials from which the monument had been constructed. However, pictures of the remains of the monument show that, after its demolition, the dedicatory plaque remained intact; there appears to have been no attempt to incorporate this plaque into a new monument.

In September 2006, a new monument was unveiled opposite the town's post office (Radio Srbac, 2021a). This monument is simple in design, being a stela clad in a black stone, with a red stone plaque and red stone five-pointed star on top. It sits on a plateau with a (much more elaborate) monument to the 1992-95 war, which has been executed using the same materials, and was unveiled at the same time. The plaque's inscription is infilled in gold, and reads (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

NAROD SRBAČKOG SREZA PODIŽE OVO SPOMEN OBILJEŽJE U ZNAK SJEĆANJA NA 390 POGINULIH BORACA NOV-e I 285 ŽRTAVA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA U TOKU NOR-a.

> NEKA IM JE VJEČNA SLAVA I HVALA.⁷

The text deviates significantly from that of the original monument. First, the memorial is now dedicated to both fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, with these both now being quantified. However, issues with the numbers stated exist; the notion of a 'Srbac District' (and with it, the geographical extent that these figures cover) is defunct, with the 'Srez' organizational level of local governance not having existed in Bosnia & Herzegovina since 1966 (Pejanović, 2014), while the numbers themselves are also disputed: *Srbac – monografski zapisi* (2020, p.50) states figures of 457 members of Partisan and NOVJ forces and 506 civilians, although it fails to adequately attribute these numbers to any source or research.⁸

The replacement monument is in excellent condition, and commemorative events are held at the site several times each year, including on 9 May and 27 July.

⁸ The '390 + 285' statistic appears to have been used exclusively by online media until 2017, when a gradual transition to the newer '457 + 506' figures began. However, it has not been possible to identify the initial source of these revised figures during the course of research.

⁷ Translation: The people of Srbac District erect this memorial in memory of 390 fallen fighters of the NOV and 285 Victims of Fascist Terror throughout the NOR. May they be eternally celebrated and thanked.

2. Cemetery with 55 fallen Partisans & 22 fallen Polish fighters of the NOVJ, Srbac



Figure 2a: Entrance to the cemetery, November 2021



Figure 2b: Stairway, with plateaus containing grave markers on either side



Figure 2c: Grave markers to the right of the stairway



Figure 2d: Possible water feature, no longer in function



Figure 2e: Main commemorative marker



Figure 2f: Newer plaque, with names of 27 Polish members of the NOVJ



Figure 2g: Transport of remains to the cemetery in 1964



Figure 2h: Interral of remains below the main plateau



Figure 2i: View from the rear (east-north-east) of the cemetery, 1964



Figure 2j: Marker to commemorate Polish members of the NOVJ interred at the site



Figure 2k: Opening ceremony, 1964



Figure 21: Plaque to left of main entrance



Figure 2m: Plaque to right of main entrance



Figure 2n: Example of a headstone

Srbac's Partisans' Cemetery lies to the south-east of the town centre along Ul. Mome Vidovića, the main road leading out of the town centre toward Prnjavor. Quite possibly unique within Bosnia & Herzegovina, the cemetery includes a section reserved for and dedicated to Partisan fighters from the Polish minority community, which made up a relatively large proportion of the population in many of the villages surrounding Srbac from the period of Austro-Hungarian rule to the early post-NOB years. In total, 55 fallen Partisan fighters and 22 Polish members of the NOVJ were originally buried at the site upon its creation in 1964, although the number of Polish fighters interred here has possibly grown to up to 27 today. The author of the cemetery could not be determined during the course of research.

The cemetery is approached through a gateway that leads from the main road. This gateway is reached by a small staircase leading from the street, and consists of two concrete gate posts with plaques installed upon them, to either side of a metal gate. The plaque on the left is in Polish, and is inscribed as follows:

WSPÓLNY CMENTARZ BOJOWNIKÓW I OFIAR FASZYSTOWSKIEGO TERRORU JUGOSŁOWIAN I POLAKÓW POLEGŁYCH W LATACH WOJNY NARODOWO - WYZWOLEŃCZEJ

And on the right side, the same in Serbo-Croatian (in both Cyrillic and Latin scripts):

ZAJEDNIČKO GROBLJE PALIH BORACA I ŽRTAVA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA JUGOSLOVEN I POLJAKA POGINULIH U TOKU NOR-A⁹

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⁹ Translation: Combined cemetery of Fallen Fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Yugoslavs and Poles, who fell during the NOR

Interestingly, the two plaques bear identical inscriptions; the one on the left in Polish, and the one on the right in both Latin and Cyrillic variants of Serbo-Croatian. From a picture taken in 1977, 10 it is possible to see that these plaques are either original or, if not, maintain an identical formatting to the original plaques.

Beyond the gateway is a slightly narrower staircase, leading up to a plateau. Near the top of the staircase is a series of terraces on both the left and right, which contain the graves of fallen Partisan fighters and also persons involved in the NOP who died after 1945. These are arranged with five grave plots on each terrace. Each plot bears a grave marker in a black marble-like stone containing basic information about the person(s) buried.

Beyond these terraces is the first plateau. At the front of this are two large trees, asymmetrically positioned, and, on the basis of photographs of the 1964 opening (see Fig. 2i) planted at the time of or shortly after the cemetery's opening. Immediately behind the tree on the right side (when viewed from the entrance) of the plateau lies what appears to be a water feature, which is no longer in function (Fig. 2d).

Directly behind this part of the plateau is a low retaining wall made of two courses of large, regularly shaped, rough-hewn stones. From images of the 1964 opening of the cemetery, these appear to form the outline of a crypt within which the Polish fighters are interred (Fig. 2h). Either side of this wall is a stairway, both of which facilitate access to the upper plateau. Upon this plateau are a number of elements: a large stone bearing a dedicatory inscription, a plaque - supported by two stone pillars - inscribed with the names of those buried, a small delineated rectangle, below which the remains are interred, an iron cross, two flagpoles and a small wooden bench. The stairway continues past the plateau on either side, presumably to the end of the plot of land, which is covered in scrub, and behind which lie several houses, seemingly built in recent years.

The large stone bearing the dedicatory inscription is positioned on the right side of the plateau. It is supported by a plinth clad in a fine-grained sedimentary stone. The stone is cuboidal in shape, and rough-hewn, and possibly a form of oolitic limestone or similar sedimentary rock. The inscription (in the Latin script) is justified to the right, and reads as follows:

> VEČNA SLAVA JUGOSLOVENIMA I POLJACIMA PALIM U ZAJEDNIČKOJ BORBI PROTIV FAŠIZMA¹¹

Interestingly, the inscription is rendered in the Ekavian dialect, an unusual feature in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

To the left of this feature lies the plaque inscribed with the names of fallen fighters, supported by two pillars. The right pillar bears an inscription (also in the Latin script), which reads as follows:

> **SAHRANJEN** 22 POLJAKA

¹⁰ Not reproduced here, for reasons of expediency.

¹¹ Translation: To the eternal glory of Yugoslavs and Poles who fell in the united fight against Fascism

- BORACA NOV I POJ¹²

It must be noted here that while the '22' is carved into the stone, it is not infilled. Furthermore, historical photographs (see, for example, Fig. 2j) show that this was quite possibly never infilled. In a conversation with Bogdan Davidović (January 2023), it was revealed that although the remains of 22 fallen fighters were interred during the 1964 opening, it was known that 27 fighters of Polish nationality from Srbac and the surrounding area had fallen during the NOB, and it was always intended that they be interred here. Therefore, it may well be the case that, although the number 22 was carved into this element, it was considered an erratum before the cemetery's opening.

These two pillars have been utilized to support a dedicatory plaque with the names of the 27 fallen fighters of Polish nationality from Srbac and the surrounding area. This was added at a later date: a photograph dating to 1974 reproduced in Drljača (1985, p.76) shows that it was not present at this time, while members of the local SUBNOR committee state that it was added to the cemetery before 1992.¹³ This plaque is made of a much lighter and smoother-grained stone than the other stone elements upon the plateau. It is inscribed in the Polish language as follows:

POHOWANJI BOJOWNJICY POLSKEJ NARODOWOŠĆI

BRASZKA RUDOLF	ZAGINELI W NOV-e	PIÉRÓG FRANCISZEK
FILA LEON	KRYNICKI FRANCISZEK	PIÉRÓG MICHAŁ
GAŁKA JÓZEF – OTAC	KRYŁOVICZ JÓZEF	ROZMUS LUDWIK
GAŁKA JÓZEF – SIN	KLECHA STANISŁAW	ROZMUS STANISŁAW
IGRAS – ALOJZY	LEŚNIAK ANDRZEJ	SOWA DOMINIK
IGRAS – FRANCISZEK	MARIA ANNA	SZYMAŃSKA ZOFIA
KAPKA KAROL	PAJAK JÓZEF	SZAJWAJ JAN
KIJOWSKI ALBIN	PASZKO STANISŁAW	WOJTYSZYN STEFAN
KURKIEWICZ JÓZEF	PIOCH JÓZEF	WILAS BRONISŁAW
	POSADOWSKI JÓZEF ¹⁴	

It should be noted that there are a number of spelling mistakes within the inscription, as well as misplaced and absent diacritic marks.¹⁵

The 27 names inscribed here represent those fighters of Polish nationality from Srbac and the surrounding area known to have fallen during the NOB. It could not be definitively determined during the course of research whether or not any additional interrals were made at the site following the original 22 in 1964, although it must be noted that a 1967 report claimed that work was being undertaken on an ossuary containing 25 fallen fighters (GO SUBNOR BiH, 1967).

To the left of this plaque lies a large rectangular feature. This consists of a raised limestone kerb, with the inner remaining – unlike the rest of the plateau – unpaved. The size and shape is evocative

¹² Translation: *Buried* [here are] *22 Poles – Fighters of the NOV* [People's Liberation Army] *and POJ* [Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia].

¹³ However, the 2020 document states that interventions were undertaken at the site in 2006, and this plaque may well have been added at that time.

¹⁴ Translation: *Buried fighters of Polish nationality who were lost as members of the NOV* [27 names]

¹⁵ The authors would like to express their gratitude to Kaya Kolata for this information.

of a communal grave, and this is presumably intended to act as a symbolic 'cenotaph' for those interred in the crypt below.

Behind these main elements on the plateau are two flagpoles, which, at the time of the site visit in November 2021, bore the flags of Poland and the Republika Srpska. Also to the rear of the plateau, between the stone bearing the dedicatory inscription and plaque containing the names of fallen fighters is an iron cross. This appears to be made of two pieces of fencing, and is amateurishly constructed. From photographs available online, it can be seen that this cross was added after 2016, although its crudeness suggests that it is more likely to be a temporary fixture, rather than a permanent addition to the cemetery. The wooden bench is in poor condition, and the area behind the plateau is untended and overgrown with scrub.

As mentioned above, the remains are interred in a crypt below the plateau. There is no obvious access to this, although from pictures of the opening of the cemetery, it appears as if the entrance was intended to be covered over by a grass hillock after the remains were interred.

Overall, the cemetery is in good condition. It appears to be sporadically maintained, most likely in periods preceding official commemorative events. Commemorations – both private and official – are held at the site throughout the year, with a number having been attended by Polish diplomats (RTBN, 2016) and troops forming the Polish contingent of EUFOR (Radio Srbac, 2021d).

3. Bust of NH Slobodan 'Danko' Mitrov, Srbac



Figure 3a: Preparations for the unveiling



Figure 3b: Bust of NH Danko Mitrov shortly after unveiling



Figure 3c: Bust of NH Danko Mitrov, November 2021



Figure 3d: Signature and date on the side of the bust

The bust of NH Danko Mitrov is situated outside Jovan Jovanović Zmaj elementary school (formerly Momo Vidović elementary school), alongside two other busts; those of NH Zdravko Čelar (see below, p.24) and NH Sava Vujanović Žuća (see below, p.26). It is the work of Banja Luka-based sculptor Ahmed Bešić (1933-2013), and is dated 1969.

The bust commemorates Slobodan 'Danko' Mitrov (1919-1942). Mitrov was born in Đurđevac (present-day Croatia), and was a member of the Workers' Movement from his early years. At age 17, he left Yugoslavia to participate in the Spanish Civil War among the International Brigades. At the end of the war, he was imprisoned in France, escaping in 1940 and returning to Yugoslavia, shortly after which he was mobilized into the Yugoslav Royal Army, where he fought against the Italian Army during the April War. Following Yugoslavia's capitulation, he ended up in Banja Luka, where he actively participated in the organization of the Uprising, and became an officer in the Partisan forces. As commander of the IV Krajinan Partisan Detachment, he led Partisan forces in battles around Motajica mountain. He was killed in a battle with Četniks in June 1942, close to the elementary school in the village of Donji Srđevići, where a monument was later erected to commemorate him (see below, p.56). He was posthumously declared a People's Hero of Yugoslavia on 26 July 1945.

While the date of unveiling of this bust – like the other two beside it – was uncertain during the early stages of research, it was known to post-date December 1967 (due to no busts having been recorded in the survey undertaken by SUBNOR and the Republic Institute for the Protection of Monuments at that time). However, a discussion on the Facebook page "Srbac - stare fotografije" placed the date of unveiling to before the Banja Luka earthquake of 26-27 October 1969. Further to this, two of the busts (those of Danko Mitrov and Zdravko Čelar) are inscribed with the year 1969, giving a date of unveiling between January and October 1969. Additionally, the lack of leaves on coniferous trees and presence of flowers in some of the pictures of the unveiling ceremony would most likely place the unveiling in the late winter or early spring.

The bust and its pedestal are both in good condition. According to members of SUBNOR interviewed during June 2022, this bust – alongside the other two outside the school – has remained in situ ever since its unveiling, and was not temporarily removed or relocated during the 1990s.

4. Bust of NH Zdravko Čelar, Srbac



Figure 4a: Unveiling of the bust in 1969



Figure 4b: Bust of NH Zdravko Čelar, November 2021



Figure 4c: Faint signature on the bust

The bust of NH Zdravko Čelar is situated outside Jovan Jovanović Zmaj elementary school (formerly Momo Vidović elementary school), alongside two other busts; those of NH Danko Mitrov (see above, p.21) and NH Sava Vujanović Žuća (see below, p.26). While it has been confirmed that the bust was unveiled in 1969, it is unsigned. However, due to its similarity in style to the two busts unveiled simultaneous to it, it can be said with some degree of certainty that it is the work of Banja Lukabased sculptor Ahmed Bešić (1933-2013).

The bust commemorates Zdravko Čelar (1917-1942). Čelar was born in the village of Rašinovac, a few kilometres to the north of Bosanski Petrovac, and became involved in the Workers' Movement at a young age, joining the KPJ at some point before 1941. At the time of the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia, he was undertaking his military service, and was stationed on the outskirts of Zagreb. Following Yugoslavia's capitulation, he returned to Bosanski Petrovac, where, alongside members of the KPJ, he was involved in preparations for the Uprising. He was appointed as an officer in the early stages of the Uprising, soon becoming commander of the Suvaja-Vođenica Partisan Detachment. In March 1942, he was appointed commander of the Proletarian Battalion of Bosnian Krajina. While the it was intended that this battalion would join up with the First Proletarian Assault Brigade, but, after several months of becoming ever-encircled, it ended up near-surrounded on Motajica mountain. Čelar, along with other members of the battalion's command, was captured by Četniks in an attempted breakthrough in June 1942, and was executed the following month, at the location of Rakovac, on Motajica mountain. A monument was later erected to commemorate him at this site (see below, p.60). He was posthumously declared a People's Hero of Yugoslavia on 7 August 1942; among the first Partisan fighters to have the title bestowed upon them.

The bust and pedestal are in excellent condition, although a stream of *verdigris* from the bust has left a stain down the front right corner of the pedestal, which could be removed by cleaning.

5. Bust of NH Sava Vujanović Žuća, Srbac



Figure 5a: Women laying wreaths at the bust during its unveiling ceremony



Figure 5b: The bust today (November 2021)



Figure 5c: Detail of the bust, showing possible traces of vandalism

The bust of NH Sava Vujanović 'Žuća' is situated outside Jovan Jovanović Zmaj elementary school (formerly Momo Vidović elementary school), alongside two other busts; those of NH Danko Mitrov (see above, p.21) and NH Zdravko Čelar (see above, p.24). While it is known that the bust was unveiled in 1969, it is unsigned. However, due to its similarity in style to the two busts unveiled simultaneous to it, it can be said with some degree of certainty that it is the work of Banja Lukabased sculptor Ahmed Bešić (1933-2013).

This bust commemorates Sava Vujanović (1923-1941), who was born in the village of Gornja Lepenica. Following elementary school, he trained as a photographer, finding work in a photography studio in Valjevo. During his time there, he became involved in the Workers' Movement, also becoming a member of SKOJ. Following the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia, he was involved in the organization of the Uprising in the Western Serbia, eventually becoming a political commissar in the Rađevo Battalion of the Valjevo Partisan Detachment. He was captured during an ambush by Četnik fighters, and taken to Ljubovija, where he was sentenced to death. On 10 November 1941, he was taken to the bank of the Drina river to be executed. Despite jumping into the river in an attempt to escape, he was shot by his captors, and died. He was declared a People's Hero on 27 November 1953, and is commemorated at the memorial cemetery in Krušik, Valjevo. However, whether this is a cenotaph or grave could not be established with any degree of certainty during the course of research.

While the bust is in good condition, it appears that it may have been subjected to vandalism in the past. Discolouration of a reddish hue around the eyes and mouth suggests that somebody has attempted to colour these parts of the bust. Encrustation of this material in the details of the eyes suggest that it is a powdery substance, and more likely to be chalk or a similar material than spraypaint, and, due to the proximity of the bust to the local elementary school, this is unlikely to have been undertaken with nefarious intent.

6. Ossuary and memorial for 13 Victims of Fascist Terror, Srbac



Figure 6a: Ossuary of Victims of Fascist Terror



Figure 6b: Inscription on the dedicatory plaque

This memorial ossuary lies in Srbac's town cemetery. It was created in 1976, and contains the remains of 13 Victims of Fascist Terror executed in an area of woodland known as Radnja, across the

river Sava on the territory of the present-day municipality of Nova Kapela, Croatia, on 28 August 1941 (Radio Srbac, 2020c).

The remains were discovered due to research of Miloš Skrobonja the son of one of the deceased – Milan Skrobonja - in 1976, and were exhumed shortly afterwards, being interred in this collective grave on the Day of Srbac Municipality; 11 November (Radio Srbac, 2022d).

The ossuary consists of three large black slabs, surrounded by black edging stones, on a raised grave structure. The dedicatory stela sits at the foot of the grave, offset to the left. The inscription (in the Cyrillic script) is as follows:

> "POSLJEDNJE SVIJETLO PRIJE STRAŠNE NOĆI BIO JE BLJESAK MUNJEVITA NOŽA. I VRISAK, BIJEL JOŠ I SAD U SLJEPOĆI, I BIJELA, BIJELA KRVNIKOVA NOŽA; JER DO POJASA SVI SU BILI GOLI I TAKO NAGI OČI SU NAM BOLI."

> > I. G. KOVAČIĆ

SPOMEN – KOSTURNICA ŽRTAVA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA, POBLIFNIH U ŠUMI RADINJE1941. GODINE

BABIĆ M. VELJKO	1896–1941.	KALAJDŽIĆ T. VID	1914–1941.
VUJANOVIĆ D. DRAGUTIN	1912–1941.	LJUBOJEVIĆ M. ČEDO	1920–1941.
GLIGORIĆ D. BRANKO	1900–1941.	PEJAKOVIĆ T. DUŠAN	1908–1941.
ĐAJIĆ M. ĐORĐO	1879–1941.	SKROBONJA J. MILAN	1904–1941.
ĐAJIĆ Đ. BOŠKO	1901–1941.	SLADIĆ M. ŽIVKO	1912–1941.
ĐUKIĆ T. MIRKO	1903-1941.	TRIFUNOVIĆ Đ. ŽARKO	1920–1941.
JEJINIĆ N. ĐORĐO	1883-1941.		

SRBAC 11. 11. 1976. GODINE

OPŠTINSKI ODBOR SUBNOR-a SRBAC¹⁶¹⁷

The beginning of the inscription is a stanza taken from Ivan Goran Kovačić's poem 'Jama' ('The Pit'); a poem commonly used in inscriptions on monuments and memorials dedicated to Victims of Fascist Terror throughout the territory of Yugoslavia.

The ossuary is in excellent condition, and the cemetery is well maintained. However, one of the edging stones shows signs of displacement, and may benefit from repairs or maintenance in the near future. Commemorations are held at the site each year on the anniversary of the mass execution (Radio Srbac, 2020c).

¹⁶ Translation: "The final light before the frightful night; The lightning swooping of the polished knife; The cry too white still in my blinded sight, The bleach-white bodies of the murderers, Who stripped their torsos for their sweaty task; Was dazzling even to my blinded mask." I.G. Kovačić. Memorial ossuary of Victims of Fascist Terror killed in the forest of Radinja in 1941: [13 names]. Srbac, 11.11.1976, Municipal Committee SUBNOR Srbac.

 $^{^{17}}$ Translation of the stanza from 'Jama' taken from Alec Brown (1961).

7. Monument to fallen fighters, Kaoci



Figure 7a: Monument in the courtyard of the community hall



Figure 7b: View of the monument, showing inscription

This monument lies in the courtyard of the community hall in the village of Kaoci. It was created in 1984, although its author remains unknown. The monument consists of a large black stone stela on top of a four-stepped plateau, topped by a black stone five-pointed star with a hammer-and-sickle motif.

The stela is inscribed in the Cyrillic script, with the inscription reading as follows:

NE DOČEKAŠE SLOBODU

DADOŠE SVOJE ŽIVOTE ZA BOLJE DANAS ZA BOLJE SUTRA TE U ZNAK VJEČNE ZAHVALNOSTI NAROD SELA KAOCA PODIŽE OVAJ SPOMENIK BORCIMA I ŽRTVAMA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA PALIM ZA SLOBODU BRATSTVO I JEDINSTVO NAŠIH NARODA I NARODNOSTI

1925-1945
1912-1944
1920-1941
1923-1941
1912-1944
1900-1944
1924-1944
1928-1942
1922-1944
1901-1944
1920-1945
1919-1944
1925-1943
1920-1946
1922-1945
1900-1944
1923-1945
1925-1944
1917-1944
1910-1942
1928-1944
1922-1944
1910-1943
1926-1943
1915-1942
1915-1942
1911-1944
1922-1943
1922-1944
1916-1943

SANČANIN MARKO	1914-1944
SANČANIN VELJKO	1928-1944
SANČANIN VLADO	1925-1944
STOJIĆ MILENA	1927-1944
STOJIĆ MIRKO	1919-1945
ŠIMUNIĆ JOSIP	1888-1944
UGREN VASKRSIJA	1925-1944
VUKMAN JANJA	1898-1943

KAOCI 4. 7 1984. NAROD SELA KAOCA¹⁸

The stela and plateau are in excellent condition, although the plateau bears evidence of a possible intervention in recent years: the sides of the uppermost step are clad in tiles, which do not appear to be present in photographs of the site dated to the early 2000s.

The monument is situated approximately 12 metres from a memorial plaque unveiled in 1961, which bears a total of 36 names (see below, p.33). A number of differences are noticeable between the two inscriptions: in terms of presentation, the years of birth and death of individuals have been added, and the names have been organized alphabetically, while the names 'Maljona Peter' and 'Maljona Štefka' have been added, and the name 'Bogosavac Milena' from the 1961 plaque has been amended to 'Bogosavac Gospava', presumably due to a historiographical error when the older plaque was designed.

-

¹⁸ Translation: They never witnessed the freedom. They gave their lives for a better today, for a better tomorrow. And as a sign of eternal gratitude, the people of the village of Kaoci erect this monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror who fell for the Freedom, Brotherhood and Unity of of our peoples and nations: [38 names]. Kaoci, 4.7.1984, People of the village of Kaoci.

8. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Kaoci



Figure 8a: Plaque and monument at the local community hall



Figure 8b: Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror

This plaque is situated on the main façade of the community hall in the village of Kaoci. It was unveiled in 1961, and commemorates fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror from the village. The plaque is made of a black stone, and is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

1941. 1961.

POVODOM 20-GODIŠNJICE USTANKA NARODA JUGO-SLAVIJE, NAROD SELA KAOCA PODIŽE OVU SPOMEN-PLOČU BORCIMA I ŽRTVAMA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA IZ KAOCA PALIH ZA SLOBODU BRATSTVO I JEDINSTVO I BOLJI ŽIVOT NAŠIH NARODA.

PETKOVIĆ NI[KX]O **BOGOSAVAC MILOVAN** DRAGOJEVIĆ STOJAN **BOGOSAVAC DANILO** SANČANIN VLADO SANČANIN VELJKO MALBAŠIĆ BRANKO **UGREN VASKRSIJE** ANIČIĆ OSTOJA PETKOVIĆ LJUBOMIR BOGOSAVAC ĐORĐO BLAŠČANIN MILE ĆIRIĆ SLAVKO GRKOVIĆ MIRKO JANKOVIĆ MLAĐAN STOJIĆ MILENA STOJIĆ MIRKO ĐURĐEVIĆ JOVO ĆIRIĆ BOŽO GRKOVIĆ RANKO PETKOVIĆ MLADEN DRAGOJEVIĆ OSTOJA ĐURĐEVIĆ ALEKSA GRKOVIĆ STOJAN MIKIĆ PETAR MITROVIĆ DRAGO PETKOVIĆ DRAGOLJUB **BOGOSAVAC MILAN BOGOSAVAC DESANKA BOGOSAVAC GINA** BLAŠČANIN MILOŠ BLAŠČANIN VIDOSAVA SANČANIN MARKO **BOGOSAVAC MILENA** ŠIMUNIĆ JOSA **VUKMAN JANJA**

KAOCI 29. XI 1961. KAOCA¹⁹

Between the two dates is a five-pointed star.

It appears as if there is an error in the inscription on the first name. From comparison to the nearby monument in the courtyard of the community hall (see above, p.30), this should read 'NINKO'.

NAROD SELA

The plaque is in good condition, but, unusually, it does not categorize individuals as 'fallen fighters' and 'Victims of Fascist Terror'. This can also be seen on the inscription on the plaque in Vlaknica (see below, p.40).

As discussed above (p.32), it would appear that there are two omissions from this plaque, and (as well as the engraving of the name 'NINKO') one historiographical mistake. These may have formed a part of the justification for the creation of the nearby monument. However, the reasons for this plaque remaining in situ once the later monument was unveiled remain unknown.

¹⁹ Translation: On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Uprising of the Peoples of Yugoslavia, the people of the village of Kaoci erect this memorial plague to fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror from Kaoci who fell for the freedom, Brotherhood and Unity, and better lives of our peoples: [36 names]. Kaoci, 29.11.1961, people of the village of Kaoci.

9. Monument to the 1st Proletarian Brigade, Vlaknica



Figure 9a: Monument in Vlaknica



Figure 9b: Five-pointed star and inscription on the dedicatory plaque



Figure 9c: The monument prior to the 2019 renovation

This monument stands beside the main road, to the east of the village of Vlaknica, approximately 500 metres from the present-day bank of the Sava river. It commemorates the point from which a breakthrough was made by members of the surrounded I Krajinan Proletarian Battalion in an attempt to cross the Sava and reach Slavonia in June 1942. The monument was unveiled in 1954 (MojSrbac.info, 2019), although its author remains unknown.

The monument consists of a three-stepped plateau, upon which a large concrete cuboidal structure sits, with a stela holding a dedicatory plaque on top of this. The plaque itself is made of a black stone, most likely so-called Jablanica granite. The plaque is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

"POSLIJE HEROJSKIH BORBI NA MOTAJICI I PROBOJA IZ OBRUČA NIJEMACA, [ČETNIKA] I USTAŠA BORCI SLAVNOG PRVOG KRAJIŠKOG PROLETERSKOG BATALJONA 14. JUNA 1942. GODINE OVUDA PROĐOŠE I PREKO NABUJALE RIJEKE SAVE PREĐOŠE U SLAVONIJU"

SAVEZ BORACA NOR-a SRBAC²⁰

The word 'ČETNIKA' has been intentionally erased from the script at some point in the past, and similar efforts have been made to remove the five-pointed star above the inscription.

²⁰ Translation: Following the heroic battles on Motajica and attempt to break through the encirclement by Germans, Četniks and Ustaša, fighters of the glorious First Krajina Proletarian Battalion, on 14 June 1942, passed this location and crossed the swollen River Sava entered into Slavonia. Federation of Fighters of the NOR Srbac.

By 2019, the monument was in very poor condition. As well as he aforementioned damage to the inscription, a five-pointed star that had once sat atop the monument had been removed, and its immediate surroundings were overgrown, with the monument only being sporadically maintained. A local resident, Ostoja Suvajac, set about repairing the monument and rejuvenating its surroundings. A path to the monument was laid, overgrowth and shrubbery was cleared from its immediate vicinity, a new five-pointed star was added to the top of the monument, and the concrete structure was cleaned, and subsequently painted in a light grey colour.

However, this does not appear to have been the only intervention upon the monument since 1995; it can be seen that scratches made in an attempt to erase the five-pointed star from the dedicatory plaque have been painted over and infilled in red. From pictures available online, it can be seen that this pre-dates the 2019 renovation.

Annual gatherings were held at this site each year on 27 July until 1991 (Šarić, 2020 p.79), and nowadays a small wreath-laying event is held at the site on 14 June, which is marked as the day of remembrance of the breakthrough from the encirclement on Motajica (Radio Srbac, 2020a).

10. Memorial fountain, Vlaknica



Figure 10a: Fountain beside the road



Figure 10b: View of fountain showing construction

This fountain lies beside the main road running between Srbac and Derventa. Its date of creation could not be ascertained during the course of research, but it was most likely created during the 1950s or early 1960s. The fountain was created as a water source for festivities held at this site every 27 July until the 1990s to commemorate the Day of Uprising of the Peoples of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Although the fountain is no longer in function, it remains in good condition. It consists of a concrete base with a stela on top, decorated with a red five-pointed star. The use of a mixture of dressed and roughly hewn stones suggests that many have been re-used from elsewhere. There is no obvious spout from which water would have emerged, suggesting it rose from the ground or emerged from the right hand side, which bears evidence of damage. Alternatively, the fountain may have been intentionally sealed at some point in the past. The central block, which bears the five-pointed star, appears to be made of concrete, and the star has been executed in a rudimentary manner.

Although the fountain does not commemorate any individual, group or event, it remains as a testimony to the intangible aspects of commemoration of the People's Liberation War. A comparable example of such a fountain can be seen at the "Komanda Baljske čete" memorial complex in Podoška, present-day Kostajnica municipality, where commemorative events were held on the last weekend of August each year (Lawler, 2019 pp.26-31).

11. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Vlaknica



Figure 11a: The memorial plaque in its present-day setting



Figure 11b: Memorial plaque, with monument to 1992-95 war above



Figure 11c: Inscription on the memorial plaque

This plaque was unveiled in 1971, and commemorates 17 fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror from the village of Vlaknica. Its author is unknown. The plaque was originally placed on the local school building, but was removed (presumably at the time of or shortly before the school's closure in 2000) and placed on a pedestal, which is also used to support a monument to the 1992-95 war, unveiled in 1999.

The plaque is made of a black stone, and the inscription is highlighted with a white infill. Unusually, the plaque does not categorize the named individuals as fallen fighters or Victims of Fascist Terror, with all names being presented in alphabetical order, without regard for status. The plaque is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

1941. 1971.

POVODOM 30-GODIŠNJICE
POČETKA USTANKA NARODA JUGOSLAVIJE
NAROD SELA VLAKNICE PODIŽE SPOMENPLOČU BORCIMA I ŽRTVAMA FAŠISTIČKOG
TERORA KOJI SU PALI ZA SLOBODU, BRATSTVO
I JEDINSTVO I BOLJI ŽIVOT NAŠIH NARODA.

GUŽVIĆ D. JANKO GUŽVIĆ R. MIRKO GUŽVIĆ R. STANKO GUŽVIĆ D. STEVO DRINIĆ S. DUŠAN IVANOVIĆ N. MLAĐAN IVANOVIĆ N. VUKAŠIN KNEŽEVIĆ M. SIMEUN KNEŽEVIĆ S. SLAVKO LEPIR G. DUŠAN
LJUBOJEVIĆ M. SAVO MIKIĆ S. MILAN
STANIČIĆ B. MILAN STANIČIĆ Đ. BOGDAN
STOJKOVIĆ I. JOVAN ČOLIĆ S. PETAR
ŠARIĆ J. MIRKO

VLAKNICA 27. JULA 1971. GOD.21

While the plaque is in good condition, the pedestal on which it has been placed is poorly constructed, and water ingress between the plaque and the pedestal could pose a threat to its longer-term preservation. Also, its placement on an inclined surface will potentially lead to a more rapid deterioration due to weathering and exposure to the elements.

-

²¹ Translation: 1941 – 1971. On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the start of the Uprising of the Peoples of Yugoslavia, the people of the village of Vlaknica erect this memorial plaque to fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror who fell for Freedom, Brotherhood and Unity, and the better life of our peoples. (17 names) Vlaknica, 27 July 1971.

12. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Korovi



Figure 12a: The monument's original appearance



Figure 12b: The monument's appearance in February 2022



Figure 12c: Central element and block with dedicatory plaque



Figure 12d: Inscription on the dedicatory plaque



Figure 12e: The monument, with newer monument to 1992-95 war in the foreground

The monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror in Korovi lies alongside the main road that passes through the village centre, next to the *Korovčanka* local store. It was created in 1986, although its author could not be determined during the course of research. The monument consists of five cuboidal blocks, arranged in a star shape when viewed from above. The two front blocks are the shortest, followed by two intermediate-sized ones, with the tallest being situated at the rear. Upon this is installed a dedicatory plaque. At the centre lies a small five-sided feature with a hollow in its centre. All of these features are made of a rough-hewn stone, presumably limestone.

The plaque upon the tallest block is inscribed in the Cyrillic script, and reads as follows:

IZ SELA KOROVI OD 1941 – 1945 GODINE ZA IDEALE REVOLUCIJE PALO JE 6 BORACA I 12 ŽRTAVA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

BORCI NOR

DEVIĆ ŽIVKO
DEVIĆ MILAN
MILANOVIĆ SAVO
PETKOVIĆ STANKO
ĐURIĆ CVIJETA
TIHOMIROVIĆ ŽIVKO

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

ADAMOVIĆ TEODOR DEVIĆ BOGDAN DEVIĆ MIRKO JEVĐENIĆ SVETOZAR MARKOVIĆ STOJAN MARKOVIĆ JOVAN CRVENKO BLAŽ CRVENKO MARIJA TATIĆ MIĆO JOSIPOVIĆ RADOJKO GAVRIĆ ILIJA GAVRIĆ JOVANKA

MRTVIMA SLAVA I HVALA ŽIVIMA OPOMENA

NAROD KOROVA 1986.22

It is unclear what purpose the central feature served. Its hollow centre suggests that it may have been intended to be filled with water or plants. However, a picture of the site predating 1992 (Fig. 12a) shows the hollow to be empty, and no evidence of a water supply or tap for the feature's use as a basin can be seen. Furthermore, Figure 12a also shows that a wreath had been laid directly at the foot of the tallest block, suggesting that this central element was not a focal point of commemorative events.

While the monument itself is in relatively good condition, it appears to only be sporadically maintained, if at all. A new monument commemorating the 1992-95 war has been constructed between this memorial and the main road, and the plateau of this has impinged on the memorial's immediate environs. Additionally, a fence has been constructed between the monument and the car park of the shop, meaning the site is now isolated from its surroundings. It would not be immediately obvious to some passers-by that this is, in fact, a memorial, due to the poor maintenance and the fact it is obscured from view and access is partially obstructed.

Wreaths are occasionally laid at the monument during a memorial service held for the VRS soldiers commemorated on the adjacent monument to the 1992-95 war in late July each year. Interestingly, an online report of this event in July 2022 described this monument as being dedicated to "12 Victims of Fascist Terror during the Second World War", omitting mention of the fallen fighters also commemorated (Radio Srbac, 2022a).

46

Translation: From the village of Korovi, from 1941-1945, for the ideals of the Revolution fell 6 fighters and 12 Victims of Fascist Terror: [12 names]. To the dead: glory and gratitude, to the living: a reminder. People of Korovi, 1986.

13. Monument to the XII Slavonian Assault Brigade, Gornja Lepenica



Figure 13a: The monument hidden by overgrowth



Figure 13b: Damage evident on the upper portion and plaque



Figure 13c: Inscription on the dedicatory plaque



Figure 13d: Extent of overgrowth

This monument lies in an area known as Pasja (or Pasija) Pravda, on an elevation between the villages of Gornja Lepenica and Gornji Smrtići (which lies in the neighbouring Prnjavor municipality), approximately 200 metres from an old Polish cemetery, formerly used by the community of the now-abandoned settlement of Kunova (Šarić, 2020 p.107). The monument was created in 1981, although its author remains unknown. Although the monument is situated close to the side of the road, it is heavily overgrown and barely visible. The monument was badly damaged during the 1992-95 war (allegedly being intentionally driven over using a tank), but was repaired in the late 1990s by representatives of Prnjavor's SUBNOR organization (Davidović, pers. comm.).

The monument consists of a base and stela upon which a dedicatory plaque is mounted. During a site visit in June 2022, the overgrowth around the base was too thick to determine its shape or appearance, or whether any additional inscriptions exist upon it. The upper stela is made of

concrete, and has a dedicatory plaque made of a black stone installed upon it. The inscription on the plaque (in the Latin script) reads as follows:

NA OVOM MJESTU MARTA 1944. GODINE ČETNICI SU MUČKI IZ ZASJEDE UBILI DUŠANA GRLIĆA – KORMILA ZAMJENIKA POLITIČKOG KOMESARA I PARTIJSKOG RUKOVODIOCA I IVANA BUZOVA – POMRČINU OBAVJEŠTAJNOG OFICIRA XII SLAVONSKE UDARNE PROLETERSKE BRIGADE. PROSLAVLJENIM JUNACIMA VOLJENIM OD NARODA I BORACA. NAROD OVOG KRAJA PODIŽE SPOMEN-OBILJEŽJE KAO TRAJNO SJEĆANJE NA NJIH.

27. 7. 1981.²³

It is interesting to note that the XII Slavonian Proletarian Assault Brigade's name is miswritten: instead of "XII SLAVONSKA PROLETERSKA UDARNA BRIGADA", the inscription reads "XII SLAVONSKE UDARNE PROLETERSKE BRIGADE".

The dedicatory plaque bears strong stylistic similarities to those in Razboj Župski and Gornji Kladari (see below, p.65 and p.97 respectively) and was almost certainly created by the same workshop.

The plaque and upper area of the stela both bear evidence of damage. Several chips – indicative of one or more impacts – are evident along the upper edge of the stela, while the plaque has several large cracks running through it, as well as evidence of major damage to the upper-left corner. The lower-left bolt is also missing from the plaque, and it appears that all bolts were replaced at some point in the past, as they are somewhat incongruous with the appearance of the monument. Due to the extent of overgrowth, it was not possible to see what repairs were undertaken during the reerection of the monument in the late 1990s.

50

Translation: At this place in March 1944, Četniks ambushed and brutally murdered Dušan Grlić – Kormilo, deputy political commissar and party leader, and Ivan Buzov – Pomrčina, intelligence officer of the XII Slavonian Proletarian Assault Brigade. To the glorious heroes loved by the people and fighters, the people of this area erect this memorial as an eternal memory of them. 27.7.1981.

14. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Sitneši

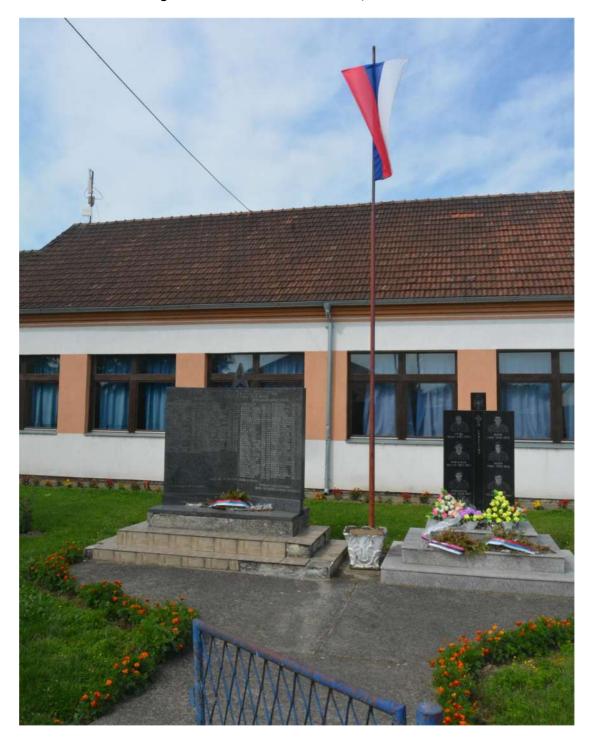


Figure 14a: Monument in Sitneši, with monument to 1992-95 war beside



Figure 14b: Detail of faded inscription



Figure 14c: Rear of monument, showing method of construction and damage to plateau cladding



Figure 14d: Photograph from 1987, showing plateau without lateral steps

This monument lies outside Vuk Karadžić elementary school in the village of Sitneši. It was created in 1979, although its author remains unknown. The monument sits on top a three-stepped plateau, truncated at the rear, and consists of a black base upon which are seated two large black stelae, positioned at a slight angle from one another (in a way that resembles an open book), topped by a large black stone five-pointed star. The monument commemorates 47 fallen fighters and 69 Victims of Fascist Terror from Sitneši, Gornja Lepenica and Donja Lepenica.

Across the top of the two panels stretches an inscription (in the Cyrillic script), which reads as follows:

U NADČOVJEČANSKOJ BORBI ZA SLOBODU NARODA I NARODNOSTI JUGOSLAVIJE U PERIODU OD 1941-1945 GODINE IZ SELA SITNEŠA, DONJA I GORNJA LEPENICA DALI SU SVOJE ŽIVOTE²⁴

Below this, the inscription on the left panel reads:

BORCI NOR

NARODNI HEROJ			
VUJANOVIĆ M. SAVO-ŽUĆO	1923-1943	ČEKIĆ B. OSTOJA	1927-1944
MILANKOVIĆ L. KOSTA	1910-1941	ĐAPA J. NIKOLA	1920-1944
STOJIĆ S. ŽIVKO	1907-1942	GAJIĆ M. MIRKO	1907-1944
BERIĆ B. BOGDAN	1926-1943	NOVAKOVIĆ M. MILOŠ	1921-1944
ČEKIĆ A. ANDRIJA	1927-1943	POPOVIĆ J. ANĐELKA	1922-1944
KOVAČEVIĆ Đ. NINKO	1915-1943	STANIŠIĆ D. MIKO	1926-1944
NOVAKOVIĆ S. SLOBODAN	1925-1943	STOJKOVIĆ S. BRANKO	1929-1944

²⁴ Translation: In the superhuman struggle for the freedom of the people and the peoples of Yugoslavia, in the period 1941-1945, from the villages of Sitneši, Donja and Gornja Lepenica gave their lives:

PEJIĆ S. MIHAILO	1883-1943	STOJKOVIĆ S. STOJAN	1896-1944
POPOVIĆ O. MILOŠ	1917-1943	BABIĆ O. LJUBO	1912-1945
POPOVIĆ Đ. SAVO	1918-1943	BIJELONJIĆ V. LJEPOSAVA	1919-1945
POPOVIĆ S. VASO	1920-1943	KOMSA A. JOZEF	1924-1945
RAKIĆ Đ. LJUBO	1911-1943	MAČKOVIĆ S. STANKO	1921-1945
ŠNJEGOTA M. BOGDAN	1923-1943	MILANKOVIĆ Đ. RADIVOJE	1923-1945
TOPIĆ O. BOGDAN	1925-1943	NOVAKOVIĆ Đ. ĐORĐO	1916-1945
USORAC B. SLOBODAN	1922-1943	NOVAKOVIĆ N. LJUBO	1922-1945
VRSAJKOVIĆ S. STANKO	1921-1943	NOVAKOVIĆ D. ŽARKO	1919-1945
VUČENOVIĆ S. ILIJA	1912-1943	SADOVSKI F. MIHAL	1928-1945
VUČENOVIĆ L. VOJISLAV	1922-1943	STOJKOVIĆ Ð. VLADIMIR	1919-1945
VUJIĆ P. JAKOV	1924-1943	ŠERMET J. MIHAILO	1928-1945
ARIVUK Ð. BRANKO	1923-1944	TOPIĆ K. MILIVOJE	1903-1945
BERIĆ P. RAJKO	1921-1944	USORAC J. RADOMIR	1928-1945
BIJELIĆ S. VASKRSIJE	1922-1944	VUČENOVIĆ B. BOGDAN	1920-1945
BLAGOJEVIĆ J. RADE	1924-1944	VUKELIĆ J. PETAR	1919-1945
BOGOSAVAC S. DUŠAN	1918-1944		

While the inscription on the right panel reads:

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

BABIĆ M. VELJKO	1900-1941	TATIĆ V. ANKA	1905-1941
BERIĆ J. PETAR	1892-1941	TATIĆ G. MILUTIN	1905-1941
BIJELONJIĆ T. VASILIJA	1885-1941	TATIĆ L. VID	1907-1941
BOGOSAVAC V. STEVO	1898-1941	TATIĆ S. BOGDAN	1914-1941
BOGOSAVAC M. STOJAN	1905-1941	TATIĆ M. RADE	1915-1941
BREZOVAC A. RISTO	1910-1941	TATIĆ T. DRAGAN	1920-1941
CVIJANOVIĆ S. ĆETOJA	1907-1941	TOVILOVIĆ S. MILUTIN	1907-1941
CVIJANOVIĆ S. NOVAK	1900-1941	TOVILOVIĆ J. OSTOJA	1911-1941
DRAGOJEVIĆ S. VELJKO	1909-1941	TRIVUNIĆ S. DRAGUTIN	1911-1941
DRAGOSAV A. BRANKO	1910-1941	TRIVUNIĆ M. DESANKA	1911-1941
ĐAJIĆ M. ĐORĐO	1879-1941	TRIVUNIĆ S. VID	1907-1941
ĐAJIĆ Đ. BOŠKO	1901-1941	VUČENOVIĆ S. MIRKO	1896-1941
ĐUKIĆ T. MIRKO	1902-1941	VUJANOVIĆ D. DRAGUTIN	1903-1941
IVKOVIĆ M. ĐORĐO	1909-1941	VUJANOVIĆ S. RAJKO	1914-1941
JERČIĆ S. DUŠAN	1905-1941	VUJANOVIĆ M. ROSA	1920-1941
JOVIČIĆ S. SVETOZAR	1908-1941	VRSAJKOVIĆ S. BLAŽE	1905-1941
JOVIČIĆ S. VASO	1920-1941	DRINIĆ K. OSTOJA	1906-1942
MAKIVIĆ A. JELISIJE	1882-1941	GVOZDIĆ L. ANĐA	1925-1942
MAČKOVIĆ J. JOVANKA	1898-1941	PEZEROVIĆ T. LJUBOMIR	1905-1942
MIJATOVIĆ J. MIRKO	1908-1941	STOJKOVIĆ L. MIKO	1897-1942
MILANKOVIĆ M. OBRAD	1906-1941	TATIĆ M. LJUBOMIR	1903-1942
MIRKOVIĆ R. MILORAD	1921-1941	BAZINA M. RUŽA	1927-1943
MIRKOVIĆ R. PETAR	1924-1941	KUZMANOVIĆ L. MIRKO	1902-1943
NOVAKOVIĆ L. MARKO	1889-1941	KUZMANOVIĆ M. DANICA	1907-1943

NOVAKOVIĆ G. MILUTIN	1898-1941	POPOVIĆ M. SAVO	1888-1943
NOVAKOVIĆ M. SAVO	1908-1941	STOJIĆ L. DUŠAN	1892-1943
PEJIĆ D. DRAGOLJUB	1922-1941	ŠNJEGOTA L. LJUBICA	1889-1943
STOJIĆ S. GLIGO	1904-1941	ŠNJEGOTA M. VELINKA	1912-1943
STOJKOVIĆ V. STANKO	1885-1941	BERIĆ S. STOJA	1905-1944
STOJKOVIĆ S. MILOVAN	1915-1941	IVKOVIĆ J. LUKA	1894-1944
STOJKOVIĆ S. SLAVKO	1921-1941	IVKOVIĆ L. ROSA	1925-1944
STOJKOVIĆ M. JELENA	1924-1941	JOVIČIĆ M. MIĆO	1908-1944
STOJKOVIĆ S. MIRKO	1925-1941	MILANKOVIĆ T. DRAGOLJUB	1900-1944
ŠIKMAN B. MILOŠ	1898-1941	BERIĆ S. JOVAN	1884-1945
TADIĆ M. JAKOV	1904-1941		

At the bottom, there is again an inscription spanning the two panels, which reads as follows:

NEKA IM JE VJEČNA SLAVA I HVALA

NOVEMBAR 1979. GODINE

GRAĐANI SELA SITNEŠA DONJE LEPENICE I GORNJE LEPENICE²⁵

The text is heavily faded, and barely legible in parts. It would appear that at one time a gold-coloured infill was used to highlight the inscription, and traces of this remain.

From a comparison of the present-day appearance of the monument to historical photographs, two things are evident: first, the three-stepped plateau is a new addition, and second, the monument has been slightly relocated, approximately 2 metres to the left of its original position (cf. Fig. 14a and Fig. 14d). It is safe to assume that these two interventions occurred at the same time, with the monument being moved in order for the area within which it stands to accommodate the monument to the 1992-95 war. The new three-stepped plateau was almost certainly built during this relocation. While the plateau is similar in design to that of the monument to the 1992-95 war, its cladding is entirely different, and the concrete from which it is made appears to be slightly coarsergrained. This would suggest the monument was relocated and plateau constructed shortly prior to the construction of the newer monument. Although no date could be ascertained for this, it was certainly before 2015; the earliest date from which a photograph of the two monuments together could be found during the course of research. The cladding of the plateau – cream-coloured tiles – is significantly damaged, with a number of tiles displaced or missing.

Commemorative events are held at the site on an annual basis. These include a joint *parastos*²⁶ held in late May to commemorate both those who fell in the NOB and the 1992-95 war (Radio Srbac, 2021b).

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²⁵ Translation: May they be eternally celebrated and thanked. November 1979. Citizens of Sitneši, Donja Lepenica and Gornja Lepenica.

²⁶ Memorial service held in accordance with rites of the Serbian Orthodox Church

15. Monument to mark the place of death of NH Danko Mitrov, Donji Srđevići



Figure 15a: Approach to the monument and surroundings, June 2022



Figure 15b: Central element



Figure 15c: Side view of monument and plateau



Figure 15d: Dedicatory plaque



Figure 15e: Pre-1992 appearance



Figure 15f: School building on which a memorial plaque was previously situated

This monument lies in the village of Donji Srđevići, to the south of its centre, immediately opposite the former elementary school. It commemorates the place of death of NH Danko Mitrov, and was unveiled in 1986, although its author remains unknown.

The monument consists of a large concrete five-sided plateau, with a concrete obelisk into which a black stone memorial plaque is inset.

The plateau consists of four steps, and is in the form of a regular pentagon when viewed from above. The obelisk situated upon it is shaped as if it is made of five cylindrical columns tightly packed together. At a height of approximately 3 metres, these columns branch outward, and are truncated at a roughly 30-degree angle from the horizontal, giving the appearance of a five-petalled flower. The overall height of the obelisk – from the uppermost step of the plateau to the peak of the tallest column – is approximately 4.2 metres.

The plaque inset into the front of the obelisk is made of a black stone (most likely so-called *jablanički granit*, a gabbro found in the vicinity of Jablanica), and is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

NA OVOM MJESTU,

8. JUNA 1942. GOD.

OD IZDAJNIČKE

[ČETNIČKE] RUKE

POGINUO JE DANKO MITROV,

ŠPANSKI BORAC

I NARODNI HEROJ.

NAROD OPŠTINE SRBAC 1986.²⁷

An attempt has been made to erase the word 'ČETNIČKE' from the inscription. From pictures available online, it can be seen that this was done between June 2020 and June 2022. Furthermore, the inscription has been (crudely) repainted in recent years, although much of this infill has faded.

The area around the monument is landscaped and well-maintained. From a pre-1992 picture of the site, it appears that coniferous trees were planted around it either at the time of or shortly after its unveiling. However, many of these have since disappeared, with one large coniferous tree now standing immediately to the right of the approach to the monument and three small coniferous trees having been planted on either side of the approach in recent years; at some point prior to 2020; most likely during interventions undertaken at the site in 2017 (SUBNOR Srbac, 2020).

A memorial plaque (created before 1963) had previously existed on the school building opposite the monument, although no trace of this could be found during a site visit in June 2022. It is likely that this plaque was removed at the time of unveiling of this monument or shortly before.

Commemorative events are held at this site each June, on or around the anniversary of Mitrov's death, as one of the commemorations to mark the day of remembrance of the breakthrough from the encirclement on Motajica (Radio Srbac, 2020a).

²⁷ Translation: On this place, [on the] 8 June 1942, from treacherous [Četnik] hands was killed Danko Mitrov, Spanish Fighter* and People's Hero. People of Srbac municipality, 1986. (*Title bestowed upon veterans of the Spanish Civil War)

16. Monument to mark the place of death of NH Zdravko Čelar, Gornji Srđevići



Figure 16a: Commemoration at the original monument, 1980s

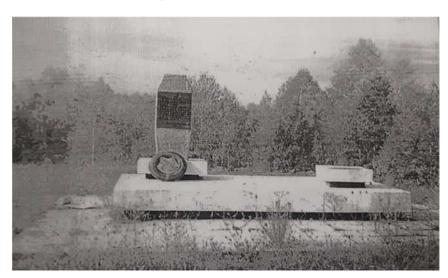


Figure 16b: Appearance of the monument and plateau, c.1989



Figure 16c: Condition of the monument before installation of the new dedicatory plaque, c.2009



Figure 16d: Monument with new dedicatory plaque, June 2022



Figure 16e: Dedicatory plaque installed in 2010



Figure 16f: Condition of site, June 2022

This monument lies in Rakovac, a sub-settlement of Gornji Srđevići, on Motajica mountain. The monument commemorates the place of death of NH Zdravko Čelar, and was unveiled in 1976, although its author remains unknown.

The monument is situated in a clearing on the north side of the mountain road leading from Gornji Srđevići to the main Srbac-Prnjavor thoroughfare, approximately 250 metres west of the Polish cemetery.

It consists of a large rectangular concrete plateau, upon which stands a large stone obelisk bearing a dedicatory plaque, and the remnants of a large stone planter-like feature. The monument has been restored in recent years, with the dedicatory plaque being replaced.

Originally, the obelisk bore a large bronze plaque, but this was removed (possibly stolen) in 2004. The inscription on this plaque (in the Latin script) read as follows:

"VI STE OBIČNE SLUGE
OKUPATORA, NAROD ĆE VAM SUDITI!"
USKLIKNUO JE NARODNI HEROJ
ZDRAVKO ČELAR,
KOMANDANT KRAJIŠKOG PROLETERSKOG BATALJONA, KOGA ČETNICI SA DVOJICOM NJEGOVIH DRUGOVA NA OVOM MJESTU STRIJELJAŠE, JUNA 1942. G.

SAVEZ BORACA OPŠTINE SRBAC²⁸

This plaque was replaced in 2010 with a new one, made of black stone with a gold infill for the lettering. Although the original inscription has been retained on the new plaque, a number of stylistic adaptations have been made. First, the inscription is executed in the Cyrillic script. Second, the text has been re-formatted, with breaks in words between lines no longer present. Finally, the abbreviation 'G.' (for 'year') has been written in full as 'GODINE'. Additionally, there is an extra set of inverted commas at the end of the inscription, which is most likely an error by the mason. Although the new plaque does not contain a five-pointed star above the inscription like the original, one has been added to the summit of the obelisk.

Overall, the monument is in relatively poor condition. While the plateau was extensively cleaned prior to the installation of the new plaque in 2010, much of its outer layer has been lost, leaving an uneven surface and the interior (poorer-quality) concrete exposed and prone to further deterioration. The planter that was situated on the right side of the plateau has been destroyed, and only its base remains. Furthermore, the replacement plaque is of a material and shape that are somewhat incongruous with the rough-hewn obelisk upon which it is installed; the smooth black

63

²⁸ Translation: "You are regular servants of the occupiers, and the people will judge you!" cried People's Hero Zdravko Čelar, Commander of the Krajinan Proletarian Battalion, who was shot by Četniks along with two of his comrades at this location, June 1942. Federation of Fighters of Srbac municipality.

stone with sharp edges has a somewhat different aesthetic effect to the bronze plaque with chamfered edges.

The memorial area appears to be well-maintained, and both SUBNOR and local volunteers undertake irregular maintenance of the site, which involves cutting of the grass and removal of rubbish (anon, May 2022; Davidović, pers. comm.). Due to the monument's isolated location and the difficult terrain, commemorative events are infrequently held at the site, although occasionally a delegation visits the memorial on or around 14 June, which is marked as the day of remembrance of the breakthrough from the encirclement on Motajica (Radio Srbac, 2020a).

17. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters, Razboj Župski



Figure 17a: Plaque in its current location, June 2022



Figure 17b: Inscription on the plaque



Figure 17c: Plaque in its original location, January 2011



Figure 17d: Hall with plaque removed, January 2012

This plaque lies in the yard of the local Orthodox church in the village of Razboj Župski. It was unveiled in 1984, although its author remains unknown. The plaque commemorates 7 fallen fighters and 3 Victims of Fascist Terror from the local community. It was originally situated on a local community hall, but was removed from the wall of the hall in 2011, and relocated to the courtyard of the church, where it was unveiled in 2016.

The plaque is simple in design, made of a single piece of black stone, and inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

SPOMEN PLOČU PODIŽU PALIM BORCIMA NOB-E PODRUŽNICA Ž. RAZBOJ

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MILIJAŠEVIĆ GAVRE STOJAN	1919-1943
PANTELIĆ MILANA ŽIVKO	1924-1945
MILIJAŠEVIĆ OSTOJE MUŠKA	1922-1943
BRKOVIĆ NEDE LJEPOSAVA	1925-1944
IVANOVIĆ STEVANA DUŠAN	1920-1944
GLIGORIĆ LJUBE VID	1924-1944
IGNJATIĆ JEFTE STOJAN	1922-1944

POGINULI OD FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

GLIGORIC DUJAKA BRANKO	1900-1941
SAVIĆ VIDA MOMIR	1910-1946
NUŽDIĆ ANTE OSTOJA	1893-1942 ²⁹

Above the names of the fallen is a five-pointed star. While the carving of the lettering is clear and forms a strong contrast against its polished surface, there is evidence of a white infill (possibly the foundation layer for another colour) across parts of the inscription, particularly its lower-right corner.

There are distinct similarities in the lettering style and materials used between this plaque and that on the monument at Pasja Pravda in Gornja Lepenica (see above, p.47) and the plaque in Razboj Župski (see below, p.97). Due to the stylistic similarities, it is believed that these plaques were created by the same masons' workshop.

The plaque is in excellent condition, and the inscription is clearly legible. Its surroundings are also well maintained.

²⁹ Translation: *Memorial plaque erected* [to commemorate] *fallen fighters of the NOB from the community of Ž. Razboj* [7 names]; *Lost due to Fascist Terror* [3 names]

18. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Nožičko



Figure 18a: Approach to the monument and community hall



Figure 18b: Monument and plateau



Figure 18c: Relief on the left side



Figure 18d: Relief on the right side



Figure 18e: Near-identical monument in Romanovci, Gradiška municipality

This monument lies in the village of Nožičko, in a small landscaped area directly outside the village's community hall. Originally unveiled in 1957, the monument was renovated to take on its present form in 1979 (Radio Srbac, 2021c), although its author remains unknown. The monument consists of a concrete plateau, with an obelisk flanked by two large memorial panels. The obelisk is offset from the centre of the plateau, with the left panel being smaller than the right. The front of the obelisk is adorned with a large red five-pointed star, while the two sides bear reliefs. It is approached by a path leading from the southeast, which – along with the entire park around the monument – was renovated in 2018 by the local citizens' association 'Moje Nožičko' (Glas Srpske, 2018).

The concrete plateau on which the monument stands measures approximately 5.5×2.5 metres, with the monument abutting the rear of the plateau. Two steps are 'cut into' the front of the plateau, with rectangular concrete planters positioned on each lateral side.

The panel directly to the left of the obelisk commemorates Victims of Fascist Terror, while that on the right commemorates fallen fighters. The plaques are made of a black stone, with the inscriptions executed with a white infill, and are framed by a white stone similar to that cladding the obelisk. The upper edges of the plaques are not horizontal, but instead slope inward slightly toward the obelisk. Both bear inscriptions in the Cyrillic script, with the left plaque being inscribed as follows:

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

ANTONIĆ M. DARINKA 1904-1944 ANTONIĆ A. ĐUKO 1934-1944 VUČKOVIĆ OLGA 1910-1944 GLUMAC M. STEVAN 1895-1942 DOBRNJAC K. VELJKO 1920-1944

ĐENADIĆ D. JELKA	1923-1942
ŽUNIĆ P. MIHAJLO	1897-1943
KALAJDŽIĆ T. VID 1915-19	941
KASALOVIĆ DUŠAN	1895-1942
KLIH TEKLJA	1915-1944
KNEŽEVIĆ M. KOSTA	1888-1944
KRILOJEVIĆ JOZEF	1901-1945
LEJBA FRANC	1904-1944
LEJBA ANGELINA 1910-19	944
NJEŽIĆ A. RADOJKA	1900-1945
NJEŽIĆ M. DRAGO	1908-1944
NJEŽIĆ M. DIMITRIJE	1924-1944
PETKOVIĆ LJUBO 1891-19	944
SIVAC DRAGOLJUB	1915-1944
SLADIĆ MITAR	1877-1942
SLADIĆ M. ŽIVKO 1916-19	941
ŠAJVAJ JANTEK	1908-1944 ³⁰

And the right (double-sized) panel:

POGINULI BORCI NOR-A

ADAMOVIĆ P. LAZAR	1887-1944	NJEŽIĆ R. RADMILA	1924-1945
ADAMOVIĆ L. MILE	1923-1945	OPALA JAŠEK	1926-1945
ADAMOVIĆ L. PANTE	1925-1944	OPALA V. JUZEK	1925-1945
ADAMOVIĆ J. SLAVKO	1923-1945	PANDŽA L. ŽARKO	1922-1944
BRAŠKO RUDOLF	1902-1944	PASTJUK ANTON	1921-1944
BRAŠKO R. RUDOLF	1924-1944	RAK V. STANISLAV	1923-1945
BRKIĆ V. DUŠAN	1925-1944	RAKIĆ R. MIĆO	1914-1944
BUJAK JANTEK	1924-1944	SOVA DOMIN	1921-1945
VASIĆ S. MILOŠ	1925-1943	STEĆUK N. STEVO	1925-1945
VERČEVIĆ BOŠKO	1901-1944	STOJAKOVIĆ Đ. MILOŠ	1925-1945
VEČERNOVIĆ S. MILAN	1914-1944	TRNINIĆ S. VELJKO	1924-1943
VRANIĆ M. PETAR	1917-1942	TUNIĆ Đ. RADE	1927-1944
VIDUH RUDOLF	1920-1944	ĆЕРКА Н. PETAR	1924-1945
VIT F. ALOJZ	1925-1945	ĆETOJEVIĆ M. ĐUKO	1913-1945
VUČKOVIĆ ŽARKO	1928-1944	URBANEK JAN-IVAN	1923-1944
GRUMIĆ M. DRAGOMIR	1919-1945	CVIJIĆ S. LJUBOMIR	1896-1944
GUDALOVIĆ P. MILOŠ	1910-1944	JADAH VLADISLAV	1920-1944
DABIĆ M. ĐUREĐ	1904-1942	JAŠENSKI STANKO	1921-1943
DABIĆ M. PETAR	1924-1945	JEFTIĆ V. RADE	1902-1942
DABIĆ S. NIKOLA	1925-1944	KALAJDŽIĆ T. RISTO	1908-1943
DABIĆ S. SAVO	1925-1944	KNEŽEVIĆ M. MOMIR	1923-1944
DAVIDOVIĆ J. MILE	1913-1943	KOVAČEVIĆ M. MILIVOJA	1927-1944
DOBRNJAC M. RISTO	1912-1945	LAZIĆ Đ. MARKO	1919-1942

³⁰ Translation: *Victims of Fascist Terror:* [22 names]

DRAGOJEVIĆ D. PETAR	1904-1945	LASICA VLADISLAV	1925-1945
DRAGOMIROVIĆ M. VELJKO	1926-1945	LATINČIĆ R. SAVO	1928-1944
DUDEK FRANEK	1923-1944	MAJSTOROVIĆ M. MIHAJLO	1926-1944
ĐURIĆ B. BOGDAN	1924-1942	CEROVAC J. SAVO	1913-1944
MALEŠEVIĆ BRANKO	1904-1942	ŠAJVAJ ANTON	1911-1942
MAČINKOVIĆ M. LJUBOMIR	1909-1944	ŠAJVAJ JAŠEK	1925-1944
MILINČIĆ BOŠKO	1917-1944	ŠARIĆ J. MIRKO	1899-1942
MILJEVIĆ Đ. LJUBO	1911-1944	ŠARIĆ S. RADE	1920-1942
MIHAJLOVIĆ T. RAJKO	1898-1942	ŠVRAKA BRANKO	1910-1942
MIHAJLOVIĆ S. RADE	1923-1945	ŠEVČIK STANISLAV	1926-1945
MIHOLIČIĆ LJ. SLOBODAN	1924-1942	ŠIKARA RUDOLF	1922-1943
MROŽIK VLADISLAV	1923-1944	ŠUK LUDVIG	1925-1944
NJEŽIĆ M. MILAN	1900-1944	DRAGOJEVIĆ M. DUŠAN	1909-1942
NJEŽIĆ M. SLAVKO	1912-1942		
NJEŽIĆ M. FILIP	1924-1942		

NOŽIČKO 1979. GODINE

RADNI LIUDI I GRAĐANI SELA: NOŽIČKO, STARI MARTINAC, BREZOVLJANI I SELIŠTE³¹

Both plaques are in excellent condition, with the inscriptions clearly legible.

The central obelisk is approximately 4.5 metres in height. The material from which it is constructed could not be determined, although it is clad in a white stone, possibly marble. The front is plain, except for a red five-pointed star set into a pink stone, which is possibly not original, and a stanza of the poem *Bezimeni* ('Nameless') by Jure Kaštelan (1919-1990) inscribed approximately midway up the obelisk. This inscription is barely legible, and was almost certainly infilled at some point in the past. It reads (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

AKO TI SUZE POMUTE VID I RANE POTAMNE LICE, NE TRAŽI MAJKO GROBA MOG, SLOBODNA ZEMLJA, ŽIVI JE LIK, ŽIVOTA SINA TVOG

JURE KAŠTELAN³²

The two sides are carved with elaborate reliefs. When viewed from the front, the relief on the left bears the motif of a woman – who carries a satchel on her back – and two young children, walking together. This image is evocative of the flight of refugees from the area in the early stages of the NOB. The relief on the right depicts a male Partisan fighter carrying a rifle in his right hand and releasing a bird – presumably a Dove of Peace – from his left. This image almost certainly represents liberation and the peace that followed.

³¹ Translation: Fallen fighters of the NOR: [74 names]. Nožičko, 1979. Workers and citizens of the villages: Nožičko, Stari Martinac, Brezovljani and Selište

Translation: If your tears cloud your vision and your wounds darken your face, don't look for my grave, mother, the free land is the living image of your son's life. Jure Kaštelan

The monument is in excellent condition, and appears to be well maintained. Several commemorative events are held at the site each year, both by the local community and by Srbac's municipal SUBNOR organization.

Although the author of the monument is unknown, it must be mentioned that it bears strong similarities to other memorials in the region, both in terms of shape and overall appearance and the style of the relief carvings. First, it is nearly identical to the monument to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror in the village of Romanovci, Gradiška municipality (1976), which also consists of a central obelisk with reliefs and two wings of unequal dimensions, with the upper edges of the wings sloping inward toward the obelisk (Fig. 18e). Strong stylistic similarities to reliefs incorporated into monuments in Kosijerovo (Laktaši municipality) and Kočićevo (Gradiška municipality) also exist. It is almost certain that these reliefs were created by the same artist, and, with further research, it should be possible to identify this individual.

19. Monument to fallen fighters, Stari Martinac



Figure 19a: Recently restored monument, November 2021



Figure 19b: Plaque with inscription



Figure 19c: Former location of the plaque (between right window and brick pile)

This monument lies in the village of Stari Martinac, on a small plot of grassland directly to the west of the village's elementary school. It consists of a plaque, originally unveiled in 1955 – whose author remains unknown – set into a black marble monument created in 2020 as part of the monument's renovation. Previously, it was situated on the local community hall (directly across the road from its present-day location), but was removed before major renovations were undertaken in 2016. It is unknown where it was located between being removed from the community hall and its unveiling at its current location.

The plaque is made of a grey stone (possibly marble), with the inscription having a gold infill. The inscription (in the Cyrillic script) is as follows:

IZ OVOG SELA UČESTVOVALI SU U NARODNO OSLOBODILAČKOJ BORBI I DALI SVOJE ŽIVOTE ZA SLOBODU I BOLJI ŽIVOT NAŠIH NARODA NAŠI NEZABORAVLJENI DRUGOVI:

DAVIDOVIĆ MILE
PANDŽA ŽARKO TUNJIĆ RADE
MAJSTOROVIĆ MIHAJLO
LATINČIĆ SAVO
ĆETOJEVIĆ ĐUKO
DOBRNJAC RISTO
ŽUNIĆ MIHAJLO

OVAJ SPOMEN PODIŽE IM SEKCIJA ŽENA SELA ST. MARTINAC U ZNAK ZAHVALNOSTI I VJEČNOG SJEĆANJA

27. JULI 1955 GOD. 33

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³³ Translation: From this village, participated in the People's Liberation Struggle and gave their lives for the freedom and better livelihoods of our people, our unforgotten comrades: [8 names] This memorial is erected by the Women's Section of the village of St[ari] Martinac as a sign of gratitude and eternal memory. 27 July 1955.

At the top of the inscription lies a red five-pointed star.

It would appear that the names 'Davidović Mile' and 'Žunić Mihajlo' were added by the mason after the design had been confirmed. These two names are much smaller in size than the others, but the style of carving is identical to that employed in the lower portion of the dedicatory inscription.

The plaque is in excellent condition, and its infill does not appear to have faded. Whether this is due to the fact it was positioned in a well-sheltered location on the wall of the community hall until relatively recently (see Fig. 19c) or due to re-painting before its 2020 re-unveiling could not be determined during the course of research.

20. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Povelič



Figure 20a: The monument, with monument to the 1992-95 war beside



Figure 20b: Inscription on the monument



Figure 20c: Minor damage to the plateau

This monument lies in the village of Povelič, immediately to the south of the village's elementary school. The monument was unveiled in 1979, but its author remains unknown. It commemorates 16 fallen fighters and 2 Victims of Fascist Terror from the villages of Povelič and Crnaja. According to a member of the local SUBNOR committee (Davidović, pers. comm. Jan 2023), prior to the creation of this monument, a memorial plaque existed on the local school commemorating the fallen. However, no trace of this remains today.

The monument consists of a black stone stela mounted on a 3-stepped plateau. The stela is topped by a stone five-pointed star (engraved with a hammer and sickle motif), and bears the following inscription (in the Cyrillic script):

U NADČOVJEČANSKOJ BORBI ZA SLOBODU NARODA SFR JUGOSLAVIJE U PERIODU OD 1941 DO 1945 GODINE IZ SELA POVELIČ I CRNAJE DALI SU SVOJE ŽIVOTE

BORCI NOR

MATKOVIĆ M. ĐURO	1923 – 1942
SVOBODA V. IVAN	1924 – 1943
GAVRANOVIĆ S. MILE	1923 – 1943
SAVIĆ M. OSTOJA	1911 – 1944
ŠUŠČEVIĆ V. JANKO	1925 – 1944
SANČANIN M. MILOŠ	1923 – 1944
VUKOTIĆ S. MOMČILO	1923 – 1944
ROMIĆ T. SAVO	1924 – 1944
LELIĆ O. SALIH	1914 – 1945
VUČENOVIĆ B. TRIVUN	1923 – 1945
RAKOVIĆ Z. AZIM	1927 – 1945

VUJANIĆ V. MIRKO	1925 – 1945
MAMIĆ O. OMER	1914 – 1945
GALIĆ H. IBRO	1926 – 1945
TATAREVIĆ H. RAIF	1918 – 1945
MAHMIĆ O. ISMET	1922 – 1945

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

UGREN S. JOVO 1923 – 1942 ĆOSIĆ P. MILOVAN 1915 – 1945

VJEČNA IM SLAVA I HVALA

POVELIČ, NOVEMBRA 1979. GODINE

GRAĐANI SELA POVELIČA I CRNAJE³⁴

A monument to the 1992-95 war was added immediately to the left of the memorial in 2002.

While the monument itself is in good condition, the stepped plateau upon which it stands bears some evidence of damage. It would appear that this plateau has been renovated at some point after the monument's creation, due to the fact that the cladding – black stone tiles – does not match with either the monument or its black marble base.

Occasional commemorations are held at the site by members of the local community and the municipal branch of SUBNOR. Normally, these are held on 9 May and 27 July. A wreath is also normally laid at the monument during the annual memorial service held each 9 August to commemorate those who fell in the 1992-95 war (Radio Srbac, 2022c).

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³⁴ Translation: In the superhuman struggle for freedom of the people of SFR Yugoslavia in the period from 1941 to 1945, from the villages of Povelič and Crnaja gave their lives: Fighters of the NOR [16 names]; Victims of Fascist Terror [2 names]. Eternal glory and gratitude. Povelič, November 1979. Citizens of the villages of Povelič and Crnaja.

21. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Prijebljezi



Figure 21a: Approach to the monument, with gate



Figure 21b: The monument today (November 2021)

The monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror in Prijebljezi was unveiled in 1978, in front of the village's community hall. It is approached by a short pathway, through an iron gate painted black, with a red five-pointed star set into the centre.

The monument is made of a black stone, in the form of a plain rectangular stela, and is topped by a five-pointed star in the same material. The text is infilled in white, and reads (in the Latin script) as follows:

U NADČOVEČANSKOJ BORBI ZA SLOBODU NARODA SFRJ U PERIODU OD 1941 DO 1945 GODINE IZ SELA PRIJEBLJEGA DALI SU SVOJE ŽIVOTE

BORCI NARODNO-OSLOBODILAČKOG RATA

TULIĆ	M. MIRKO	1916 – 1942
KREJIĆ	J. MILIVOJA	1920 – 1943
SKROBONJA	A. VITOMIR	1912 – 1944
PETKOVIĆ	G. LJUBO	1920 – 1944
KESIĆ	M. RADE	1926 – 1944
ROMIĆ	M. MILOVAN	1925 – 1944
DRAGIĆ	S. DUŠAN	1924 – 1944
GALIĆ	D. ĐORĐO	1921 – 1944
KNEŽEVIĆ	S. RAJKO	1916 – 1944
BLAŽIĆ	D. BOGDAN	1928 – 1944
BOROJEVIĆ	D. SVETO	1926 – 1944
RAKIĆ	M. JOVO	1922 – 1944
BLAŽIĆ	M. BOŠKO	1912 – 1945

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

SKROBONJA	J. MILAN	1905 – 1941
CRNADAK	V. ĐORĐO	1929 – 1943
KRUPLJANIN	J. ŠPIRO	1895 – 1943
KRUPLJANIN	Š. DUŠAN	1914 – 1943
SAVIĆ	L. JOVAN	1907 – 1944

VJEČNA IM SLAVA I HVALA PRIJEBLJEZI NOVEMBRA 1978 GODINE GRAĐANI SELA PRIJEBLJEZI.³⁵

The monument sits on a raised rectangular plateau, alongside a monument to the 1992-95 war. From its dimensions and positioning in relation to the gate, it would appear that this plateau is a new creation. Unfortunately, no images of the plateau's original appearance could be found during the course of research.

³⁵ Translation: In the superhuman struggle for the freedom of the peoples of SFRJ in the period from 1941 to 1945, the village of Prijebljezi gave their lives: Fighters of the People's Liberation War (13 names); Victims of Fascist Terror (5 names). Eternal glory and gratitude to them. Prijebljezi, November 1978, citizens of the village of Prijebljezi.

22. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Razboj Ljevčanski



Figure 22a: Historic appearance of the monument (unknown date)



Figure 22b: Unveiling of the monument in 1967



Figure 22c: Appearance of the monument today, with monument to 1992-95 war beside



Figure 22d: Appearance of the monument today (November 2021)



Figure 22e: Detail of motif etched into the monument



Figure 22f: Emblem of SFRY in the pre-1963 design with five torches



Figure 22g: Inscription on left side of the monument, with concrete residue in the upper right



Figure 22h: Inscription on central part of the monument



Figure 22i: Inscription on right side of the monument

This monument lies in the centre of the village, immediately to the south of Dositej Obradović elementary school. It was created in 1967, although its author remains unknown. It consists of a large rectangular plateau with steps set into it, upon which sits a large cuboidal structure, into which dedicatory plaques are set on three sides. On top of this is a capstone of exaggerated proportions, on which sits a large white stone engraved with the image of a Partisan fighter, which is intersected by a tall, thin obelisk topped with the emblem of Yugoslavia.

The monument commemorates 19 fallen fighters, 38 Victims of Fascist Terror, and 7 'Victims of War', with three black stone plaques wrapping the front and sides of the base inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

Right:

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

BARAĆ OSTOJA	MAJSTOROVIĆ ĐURO
VIŠNJIĆ MILE	MIKIĆ DRAGOJA
VIŠNJIĆ SAVO	RAKIĆ MILAN
VUJIČIĆ DMITAR	SAVIĆ DESANKA
VUJIČIĆ MARA	STANIŠLJEVIĆ VID
VUKAJLOVIĆ SMILJA	STEGIĆ ANKA
VUČKOVIĆ MILAN	-II- BRANKO
ĐURĐEVIĆ DRAGO	-II- GOSPAVA
JOKIĆ JOVAN	-II- DANICA

JOLDŽIĆ DRAGICA -II- JOVANKA KASAGIĆ STOJAN -II- JOVO LATINOVIĆ SOFIJA -II- MARA

Centre:

SLAVA PALIM BORCIMA, Ž.F.T.-a I ŽRTVAMA RATA SELA RAZBOJ LIJEVČE IZGINULIM OD 1941 – 1945 GODINE

PALI BORCI

BAJIĆ MILOŠ ŽABIĆ ILIJA PI OTAN I AZAR BUBONJIĆ VELJKO ZRNIĆ RADOVAN STANOJEVIĆ DANILO VIDIĆ MARKO KASAGIĆ BOŠKO STEGIĆ JOVAN VUKIĆ BOŠKO KASAGIĆ BOŽO TADIĆ RADOJKA VUKIĆ ČEDO KASAGIĆ SIMO ŠVRAKA RADE **GRLICA JOKA** LATINOVIĆ VELJKO

GRLICA JOKA LATINOVIC VELJKO
DOBRAŠ SAVO MAKSIMOVIĆ MILAN

Left:

Ž.F.T.

STEGIĆ M. MARA
-II- RAJKO
-II- MILEVA
-II- MILUTIN
-II- M. SAVKA
-II- MILJANA
-II- SVETOZAR
-II- MIHAJLO
SKRBIĆ BOSILJKA
-II- NEVENKA
SKRBIĆ BOŠKO
-II- PETRA
ŠKRBIĆ ZDRAVKA

ŽRTVE RATA

KASAGIĆ OSTOJA MAKSIMOVIĆ STOLE KUVALJA DRAGOLJUB SAVANOVIĆ Đ. LAZAR KUVALJA MILOŠ SAVANOVIĆ MIHAJLO KUVALJA TANE³⁶

It would appear that the panels commemorating Victims of Fascist Terror and 'Victims of War' have been accidentally installed on the monument the opposite way to what was intended, as a left-to-right reading of this text would be more logical than the current right-to-left. Also, although it cannot be determined with any degree of certainty from the documentation available, these two plaques may well have been later additions to the monument: in certain historic photographs, the base appears to have less depth, and the front dedicatory panel appears to take up a greater proportion

³⁶ Translation: [Central panel] Glory to fallen fighters, Victims of Fascist Terror and Victims of War from the village of Razboj Lijevče lost from 1941 to 1945. Fallen fighters: [19 names]; [Left panel] Victims of Fascist Terror [24 names]; [Right panel] VFTs [14 names] Victims of War [7 names].

of its height. It may well be the case that an intervention was made to strengthen this base at some point in the past, with these panels being added at the same time. The presence of cement residue between the left and front panels (see Fig. 22g) further supports this idea.

No information could be found to determine the reason behind names being placed in the 'Žrtve Rata' (Victims of War) category: the most likely reasoning behind this is that the status of the persons commemorated had not been definitively confirmed at the time the plaques were created.

The engraving of the Partisan fighter is crudely carved, and is most likely the work of a local resident, rather than a commissioned artist. It depicts a male soldier charging from right to left, with his rifle pointing forward. Both the rifle and the left leg would extend beyond the engraving, and are abruptly cut off, while the right leg is dissected by the column. The lines of the engraving are crudely cut, and there are no additional background features, giving an overall impression of incompleteness. Due to the unusual style of execution of the work, it may well be the case that this was a draft that was intended to be completed at a later date. To the best of the authors' knowledge, there are no motifs executed in a similar manner on monuments in the surrounding area.

The central column intersecting the engraving is approximately 3 metres tall, and is terminated by a capstone supporting a bronze element: a symbol with five torches. One interesting foible of this is that while this torch design was the original symbol of FNR Yugoslavia, it was amended in 1963 – a full four years before the creation of this monument – to include a sixth torch, to coincide with the state's re-designation as SFR Yugoslavia.³⁷

Commemorative events are held at the site in July each year; both around 4 July and 27 July. There also appear to be occasional memorial ceremonies held to coincide with the anniversary of the executions of Victims of Fascist Terror at nearby Stegića Ada in late March (see below, p.89).

88

³⁷ This is not the only example of the 'old' style of emblem being used on a monument; the grave of pilot Dragoljub Šinik (1936-1969) in Gornji Podgradci, Gradiška municipality, erected by his colleagues from Mostar Air Base, likewise utilizes a coat of arms with only five torches (Spomenici - Partisan Memorials Wiki, n.d.).

23. Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror executed in March 1944, Razboj Ljevčanski

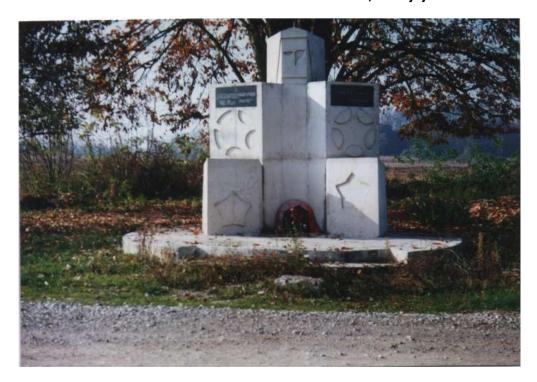


Figure 23a: Appearance of the monument before addition of the 2012 plaque



Figure 23b: Appearance of the monument, November 2021



Figure 23c: Rear of the monument, with decorative motifs



Figure 23d: Dedicatory plaques on the monument

This monument is situated on a meander of the Vrbas, approximately 1 kilometre to the east of the road connecting Razboj Ljevčanski and Lilić, at a site known as Stegića Ada. It was unveiled in 1987, although its author remains unknown. It commemorates 22 Victims of Fascist Terror from 5 households executed at the site in March 1944. The monument consists of a concrete block, divided into a central part and two wings, with abstract symbols decorating both the front and rear. The entire memorial is situated on a circular plateau, with a small segment cut away at the front, to form a step and better delineate the approach to the central element. The central element is just under 3 metres in height, with the two wings both being around 2.2 metres.

Originally, the monument held two dedicatory plaques – one on each wing – inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

Left:

U MARTU 1944. GODINE FAŠISTIČKI ZLIKOVCI USTAŠE NA OVOM MJESTU SVIREPO SU POBILI SVE ČLANOVE IZ PORODICA

STEGIĆ JOVE STEGIĆ MIHAJLA STEGIĆ MILUTINA STEGIĆ RAJKA VIŠNJIĆ MILIVOJA³⁸

Right:

PAMTILO SE NE PONOVILO SE.

NAROD OPŠTINE SRBAC 1987.³⁹

In 2012, an additional plaque was installed upon the monument, detailing the names and dates of birth of those executed at the site (RTRS, 2015). This is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

STEGIĆ ANKA	1936.
STEGIĆ BRANKO	1928.
STEGIĆ GOSPAVA	1911.
STEGIĆ DANICA	1916.
STEGIĆ JOVANKA	1933.
STEGIĆ MARA	1930.
STEGIĆ MARIJA	1938.
STEGIĆ MILUTIN	1899.
STEGIĆ MILJANA	1925.
STEGIĆ MIHAJLO	1904.
STEGIĆ NEVENKA	1929.
STEGIĆ PETRA	1943.
STEGIĆ RAJKO	1909.

³⁸ Translation: In March 1944, Fascist evildoers of the Ustaša brutally killed at this place all members of the families [names of 5 heads-of-households].

91

³⁹ Translation: Remember, so that it does not happen again. People of Srbac municipality, 1987.

STEGIĆ SAVKA 1903. STEGIĆ SAVKA 1905. STEGIĆ SVETOZAR 1928. SAVIĆ DESANKA 1925. VIŠNJIĆ MILE 1917. VIŠNJIĆ SAVO 1930. VUKAJLOVIĆ SMILJA 1928. JOLDŽIĆ DRAGICA 1931. LATINOVIĆ SOFIJA 1905.

While all three plaques are made of a black stone, the two original ones differ slightly both in terms of the stone used and the font employed.

No information could be found about the symbolism (if any) of the decorations on the monument. However, the front is adorned with two star-like motifs on both wings; while on the left these are executed in relief, on the right they are counter-relief in form. Although the decorations appear symmetrical at first glance, the lower star on the left wing (when viewed from the front) is set considerably lower than that on the right. The central element bears another abstract image on its uppermost portion. From historical photographs, it appears as if no motifs were covered by the plaque added in 2012.

The rear of the central element is decorated with an asymmetrical and irregularly shaped chevron in the upper portion, while the top of the lower segment is decorated with seven squares, rotated 45° to have a diamond-shaped appearance, while each wing is decorated with a number of rectangular 'rays', tilted to the diagonal, and travelling from the lower left to the upper right (when viewed from the rear).

Annual wreath-laying events are held at the site in late March each year to commemorate the anniversary of the executions (Radio Srbac, 2022b).

Although the monument is in excellent physical condition, over time the concrete used to create it has darkened. A fuller study of the monument would have to be undertaken in order to determine if it is possible to clean the monument and restore its original white hue.

24. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Dugo Polje



Figure 24a: Plaque on the side of the community hall



Figure 24b: Detail of recesses holding two plaques



Figure 24c: Inscription on the plaque

This plaque is situated on the wall of the community hall (*društveni dom*) in the village of Dugo Polje. It was unveiled in 1981, although its author is unknown. It is made of a black granite or gabbro, and the letters are infilled in white. The plaque sits in a recess on a portion of the building's façade made of a white brick. Beside it lies a plaque to commemorate a soldier who fell in the 1992-95 war, unveiled in 2010. The two recesses in the façade are identical in dimensions, suggesting that this portion of the façade is a recent addition, and that, prior to 2010, the setting of the plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror was different in appearance, or the plaque was positioned elsewhere on the building.

The plaque is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

U ZNAK SJEĆANJA NA PALE BORCE I ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA

PALI BORCI 1941 – 1945. GODINE

LEPIR O. SLAVKO 1928 – 1943. BARAŠIN M. DUŠAN 1926 – 1943. MUTIĆ S. OSTOJA 1926 – 1943. DRINIĆ R. MARKO 1919 – 1944. MITRAKOVIĆ I. PETAR 1924 – 1944. BRKOVIĆ J. NIKOLA 1914 – 1945.

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA 1941 – 1945. GODINE

SENIĆ D. MILE 1918 – 1942. BABIĆ M. ĐORĐO 1924 – 1943. LAKIĆ T. MIRKO 1909 – 1944.

27. JULA 1981. GODINE

RADNI LJUDI I GRAĐANI DUGOG POLJA⁴⁰

Above the inscription is a five-pointed star.

The plaque is in excellent condition, and its inscription is clearly visible. Furthermore, the community hall upon which it is situated is in active use and well maintained.

⁴⁰ Translation: As a sign of memory of Fallen Fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror. Fallen Fighters 1941-45 [6 names] Victims of Fascist Terror 1941-45 [3 names]. 27 July 1981; Workers and Citizens of Dugo Polje.

25. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Donji Kladari



Figure 25a: Plaque on the community hall in Donji Kladari, November 2021



Figure 25b: Plaque on the community hall in Donji Kladari, November 2021

This plaque is situated on the community hall in Donji Kladari, on the far right of the front façade. It commemorates 9 fallen fighters and 5 Victims of Fascist Terror from the village, and was unveiled in

1977, although its author remains unknown. It is made of a black stone, and is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

U ZNAK SJEĆANJA I ZAHVALNOSTI NAROD SELA DONJIH KLADARA PODIŽE OVU SPOMEN PLOČU PALIM BORCIMA I ŽRTVAMA FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA KOJI SU PALI ZA SLOBODU, BRATSTVO I JEDINSTVO U NARODNO-OSLOBODILAČKOM RATU OD 1941. DO 1945. GODINE.

PALI BORCI NOR-a

ŽFT-a

BOGOLJUB N. OLJAČA

LUKA N. SAVIĆ

RADE M. STAKIĆ

MILOVAN O. LUKIĆ

DUŠAN P. CRNČEVIĆ

VLADO J. MITRAKOVIĆ

STEVO M. MRKIĆ

SIMO N. OLJAČA

ĐURO B. VUKELIĆ

DONJI KLADARI, 27. JULA 1977. GODINE⁴¹

The inscription is infilled in white. Above the inscription lies a five-pointed star, with the outline infilled in red.

While the plaque is in excellent condition, this is quite possibly not its original location: Directly above it lies a plaque to commemorate an individual killed in the 1992-95 war, with both being surrounded by an off-white brick structure, with an alcove having been made to support the two plaques. There is no evidence of an intervention in the structure to make space for the later plaque, suggesting that this brick structure itself may well post-date the original plaque's unveiling.

⁴¹ Translation: As a sign of memory and gratitude, the people of the village of Donji Kladari erect this memorial plaque to Fallen Fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror who fell for Freedom, Brotherhood and Unity in the People's Liberation War from 1941 to 1945. Fallen Fighters [9 names] Victims of Fascist Terror [5 names]. Donji

Kladari, 27 July 1977.

26. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Gornji Kladari



Figure 26a: Monument and pedestal, November 2021



Figure 26b: Inscription on the monument, November 2021

This monument lies in the village of Gornji Kladari, beside a building that appears to function as a community hall. It was created in 1978 (SUBNOR Srbac, 2020), although its author is unknown. The

monument is situated on a small plateau, clad in fragments of what appear to be marble and a cement render, with a pebbledash cladding on vertical surfaces. The monument is made of a black stone, and is inscribed (in the Cyrillic script) as follows:

BORCI IZ SELA GORNJIH KLADARA KOJI SU POGINULI U NOB-I

> DABIĆ DUŠAN 1944 GOJKOVIĆ DRAGO 1944 MANDIĆ BRANKO 1945 MILJIĆ PREDRAG 1945

GRAĐANI GORNJIH KLADARA KOJI SU BILI ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA 1943 GODINE

ADAMOVIĆ JOVAN
ADAMOVIĆ TOMAN
BABIĆ ĐORĐO
DABIĆ VIDA
DABIĆ MILOŠ
ĐOGIĆ VASO
ĐOGIĆ MILAN
ĐURĐEVIĆ ĐURO
KRAGULI JANJA
MALIĆ STEVANIJA
MILJIĆ MIRKO
MILJIĆ JELKA
ŠNJEGOTA VUKAŠIN

SPOMEN OBILJEŽJE PODIGLI MJEŠTANI SELA GORNJIH KLADARA⁴²

The font and material used for the plaque closely match those used on the monument at Pasja Pravda and Razboj Župski (see above, p.47 & p.65 respectively), and it can be stated with a fair degree of certainty that the three monuments were almost certainly commissioned from the same workshop.

While the monument itself is in good condition and the inscription clearly legible, the plateau upon which it stands is in a very poor state. Due to the condition of the plateau, the condition of the monument itself may well be threatened in the near future. No evidence of regular commemorative events being held at the site could be found during the course of research.

98

⁴² Translation: Fighters from the village of Gornji Kladari who were lost in the NOB: [4 names]. Citizens of Gornji Kladari who were Victims of Fascist Terror in 1943: [13 names]. Monument erected by the inhabitants of the village of Gornji Kladari.

27. Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Lilić



Figure 27a: Community hall in Lilić, with memorial plaque



Figure 27b: Memorial plaque in Lilić

The memorial plaque in Lilić is situated on the wall of the (disused) community hall, which also appears – from the signage above the main entrance – to have served as a local shop at some time in the recent past. The plaque was unveiled in 1980, although its author is unknown. It commemorates 8 fallen fighters and 5 Victims of Fascist Terror.

The plaque is made of a black stone, and is inscribed in the Cyrillic script as follows:

U BORBI PROTIV OKUPATORA OD 1941 – 1945 IZ SELA LILIĆA DALI SU SVOJE ŽIVOTE

BORCI NOR
RADONIĆ GOJKO
ŠAULA SAVO
RADONIĆ MOMČILO
TRNINIĆ VELJKO
ŠAULA BRANKO
LATINČIĆ MILUTIN
JELČIĆ STEVO
JELČIĆ STOJAN

ŽRTVE FAŠISTI-ČKOG TERORA LATINČIĆ LJUBICA ŠAULA VASO ŠAULA OSTOJA VUKIĆ ĐURAĐ RADONIĆ LJUBOMIR

MJEŠTANI SELA LILIĆA 1980⁴³

In recent years, a monument or cenotaph to two fallen fighters from the 1992-95 war has been added in front of the community hall. While commemorative events are held at the site in early August each year (Radio Srbac, 2020b), these appear to be primarily focused on the 1992-95 war, with the commemoration of fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror during the NOB taking an incidental role.

The plaque is in excellent condition, and the inscription is clearly legible. However, at present, the community hall is disused and its condition deteriorating. This could lead to problems with preservation of the plaque, and efforts should be made to monitor the building's stability, and contingency plans should be made to ensure the plaque's preservation.

100

⁴³ Translation: In the battle against the occupiers from 1941-1945, from the village of Lilić gave their lives: Fighters of the NOR (8 names); Victims of Fascist Terror (5 names). Residents of the village of Lilić, 1980.

28. Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Kukulje



Figure 28a: Original monument



Figure 28b: Approach to the replacement monument



Figure 28c: Replacement monument, showing inscription



Figure 28d: Minor damage to the plateau

This monument lies in the centre of the village of Kukulje, between Dositej Obradović elementary school and the main road that runs east-west through the village. It is the replacement of a monument originally unveiled in 1964 (Fig. 28a). This replacement monument – according to its

inscription – dates to 2002, presumably when the plateau upon which it now stands was created, as well as the monument to the 1992-95 war beside it; the similarity in font and execution of the inscription between the two memorials further suggests this.

The original monument was a white cuboid, set upon a pedestal, which, in turn, was located upon a stepped plateau. It was topped by a five-pointed star, with the front bearing a dedicatory plaque made of a black stone inscribed with names of fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror from the village. This monument bore many similarities to a number throughout the Posavina region of Bosnia & Herzegovina, including the present-day neighbouring municipalities of Derventa and Brod. Unfortunately, during the course of research, it was not possible to locate a photograph of the monument with the inscription clearly legible. However, a photograph held in the documentation of SUBNOR Srbac shows that the original monument was in a poor condition in 1989 (SUBNOR Srbac, n.d.).

The replacement monument is in the form of a stela, made of a black granite-like stone, with a red stone five-pointed star on top. The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

PALI BORCI SELA KUKULJA U RATU 1941–1945

,			
BRKIĆ M. BOGDAN	1927–1945	LOPAR V. VLAJKO	1920–1944
BRKIĆ S. DRAGINJA	1926–1944	LOPAR V. MILAN	1925–1944
BUKOVICA LJ. ŽARKO	1929–1944	LUKIĆ V. MILE	1915–1944
VIDOVIĆ M. NEBOJŠA	1930–1945	MALBAŠIĆ D. ŽARKO	1927–1944
VIDOVIĆ V. STOJAN	1919–1944	MALBAŠIĆ O. ŽIVKO	1920–1944
GOLUB N. ĐURO	1907–1941	MALBAŠIĆ D. MIĆO	1912–1942
ILIBAŠIĆ J. DMITAR	1902–1944	MALEŠEVIĆ V. DRAGUTIN	1914–1944
ILIBAŠIĆ I. ŽIVKO	1920–1944	MALEŠEVIĆ Đ. ŽARKO	1925–1944
ILIBAŠIĆ D. JOVO	1926–1943	MALEŠEVIĆ S. DUŠAN	1928–1944
ILIBAŠIĆ M. LJUBO	1926–1944	MIHAJLOVIĆ Đ. VELJKO	1925–1944
ILIĆ M. STOJAN	1926–1944	MIHAJLOVIĆ G. DRAGO	1912–1941
JANJIĆ M. BRANKO	1913–1944	MIHAJLOVIĆ G. MIRKO	1905–1941
JOLDŽIĆ M. MILJA	1925–1944	SMOLIĆ V. PERO	1925–1944
JUNGIĆ S. OSTOJA	1912–1944	SOLDAT V. PAVLE	1927–1944
JUNGIĆ J. SLAVKO	1925–1944	TRNINIĆ P. SAVO	1911–1944
KOJIĆ D. NEBOJŠA	1912–1941	TRKULJA S. STOJAN	1921–1945
KOTARAŠ M. BOGDAN	1927–1945	CRNČEVIĆ O. MARKO	1912–1941
KOTARAŠ S. NIKOLA	1920–1944	ŠUŠNJARA T. BOSA	1924–1945
KOTUR V. BRANKO	1903–1941	ŠUŠNJARA D. JOVAN	1912–1944
ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA			

ŽRTVE FAŠISTIČKOG TERORA SELA KUKULJA U RATU 1941–1945

BUKOVICA B. ŽIVOJIN	1919–1942	MIHAJLOVIĆ Š. VID	1888–1943
BUKOVICA P. MILAN	1886–1942	MIHAJLOVIĆ Š. CVIJO	1900–1944
BUKOVICA M. MILOVAN	1914–1942	OBRADOVIĆ B. SAVKA	1909–1943
VIDOVIĆ D. MILAN	1881-1941	PEJAŠINOVIĆ S. MILAN	1910–1945

DRAGANOVIĆ O. STOJAN	1870–1943	SEKIMIĆ PAVA	1889–1942
ILIBAŠIĆ F. BOGDAN	1932–1943	TODIĆ M. OSTOJA	1908–1945
ILIBAŠIĆ F. SAVO	1930–1943	TRKULJA S. VID	1924–1944
JARIĆ JOVO	1908–1943	TRKULJA P. DUŠAN	1932–1944
JUNGIĆ M. MARA	1904–1944	CEROVAC P. DRAGO	1922–1943
JUNGIĆ M. MILAN	1901–1944	ĆURLIK S. MILE	1922–1942
KOTARAŠ V. MILAN	1901–1944	ŠUŠNJARA S. ALEKSA	1875–1941
LAZIĆ Đ. SAVO	1910–1944	ŠUŠNJARA D. ŽIVKO	1908–1941
MALBAŠIĆ S. VID	1916-1941	ŠUŠNJARA N. PETAR	1894–1941

PODIŽE UDRUŽENJE BORACA NOR-A SELA KUKULIA 29. 11. 1964. OBNOVLJEN - 2002⁴⁴

While, as mentioned above, it has not been possible to recreate the text of the original inscription, it can be seen that one name has been added to the current monument; the original clearly shows two rows of 12 names and one of 13, bringing the total to 37, and the documentation accompanying the 1989 photograph held by SUBNOR Srbac also gives this figure. However, it may well be the case that another name was added to the original monument prior, as seen at other sites both within Srbac municipality (see, for example, the plaque in Stari Martinac; above, p.74) and elsewhere, prior to its demolition, or alternatively that the creation of the replacement monument presented the opportunity to correct a historical omission.

The replacement monument is in good condition. However, in spite of Kukulje being the first village in Srbac municipality to have initiated a popular uprising (on 13 July 1941), it would appear that commemorative events – with the exception of those primarily dedicated to the 1992-95 war – are rarely held at the site.

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⁴⁴ Translation: Fallen fighters of the village of Kukulje in the war of 1941-1945: [38 names]; Victims of Fascist Terror of the village of Kukulje in the war of 1941-1945: [26 names]. Erected by the Association of Fighters of the NOR of the village of Kukulje 29.11.1964, renovated 2002.

Current Situation - Summary

A total of 30 monuments and memorials are known to have existed on the territory of Srbac municipality. Of these, two memorial plaques (in **Povelič** and **Donji Srđevići**) were replaced before 1992 (with both being replaced by larger stand-alone monuments), while two monuments (in **Srbac town centre** and in **Kukulje**) were replaced after 1992. Additionally, a further three memorial plaques (in **Vlaknica**, **Razboj Župski** and **Stari Martinac**) have been relocated in recent years. Several other memorials have been the subject of interventions, including the addition of dedicatory plaques (the **Partisans' cemetery in Srbac** and the **monument to Victims of Fascist Terror on Stegića Ada in Razboj Ljevčanski**), replacement of damaged or stolen elements (**monument to mark the place of death of NH Zdravko Čelar in Gornji Srđevići**), and general repair of damage (**monument to the XII Slavonian Assault Brigade, Gornja Lepenica**). Additionally, it would appear that interventions have been undertaken on buildings upon which a number of memorial plaques are installed; usually to accommodate plaques to commemorate the more recent 1992-95 war (for example, those in **Dugo Polje** and **Donji Kladari**). Likewise, a number of monuments have seemingly been slightly relocated in order to provide space for monuments to the 1992-95 war within the same space or enclosure. This appears to be the case in **Prijebljezi** and **Sitneši**.

Overall, the general condition of monuments and memorials to the NOB is better than in most municipalities observed to date throughout Bosnia & Herzegovina. Additionally, most monuments and memorials are the focus of dedicatory events, either on an annual basis or as part of occasional commemorations by both the local SUBNOR branch and local communities. Exceptions to this do, however, exist: certain monuments need to be monitored for signs of deterioration of their condition. These include, in particular, the memorial plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror in Lilić, which is currently situated on a seemingly abandoned community hall, and the monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror in Gornji Kladari, the base of which is in poor condition and leaves the monument at risk of collapse; a risk compounded by the fact that it appears as if the monument is rarely visited, and is not the focus of any regular commemorative activities. While the monument in Korovi is in relatively good condition, its approach has been much altered in recent years, and efforts should be made to rehabilitate its immediate environs and include its maintenance in the activities of local or municipal services. The ossuary of Victims of Fascist Terror in Srbac's town cemetery is in good condition, and its immediate environs are well-maintained by local authorities.

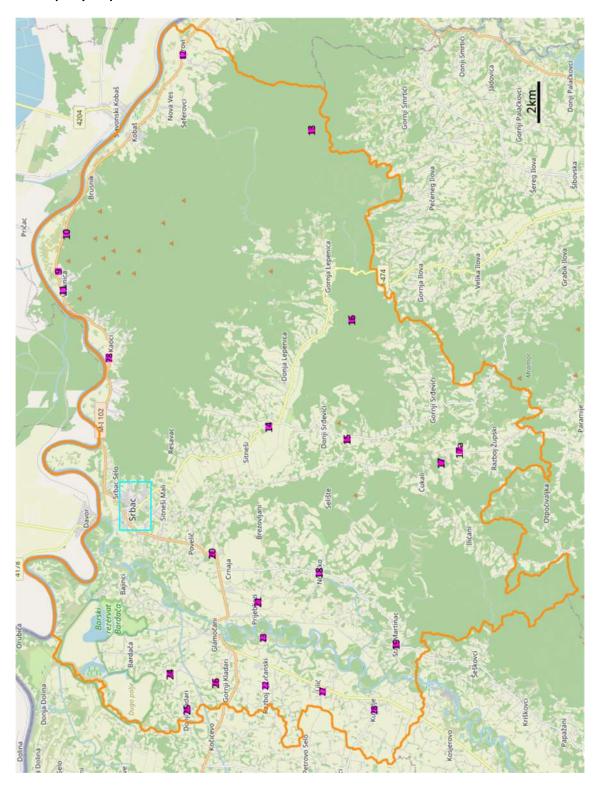
The three busts in the town centre (of **NH Slobodan 'Danko' Mitrov**, **NH Zdravko Čelar** and **NH Sava Vujanović 'Žuća'**) all survive in good condition, in spite of potential evidence of vandalism on the bust of NH Sava Vujanović 'Žuća'. As busts are known to be targeted for the purposes of metal theft, the condition of these should be carefully monitored, and any evidence of efforts to remove them should immediately be reported to the authorities. Furthermore, a decision should be made on whether to attempt to clean the bust of NH Sava Vujanović 'Žuća', in consultation with an institution or group of individuals with relevant competences.

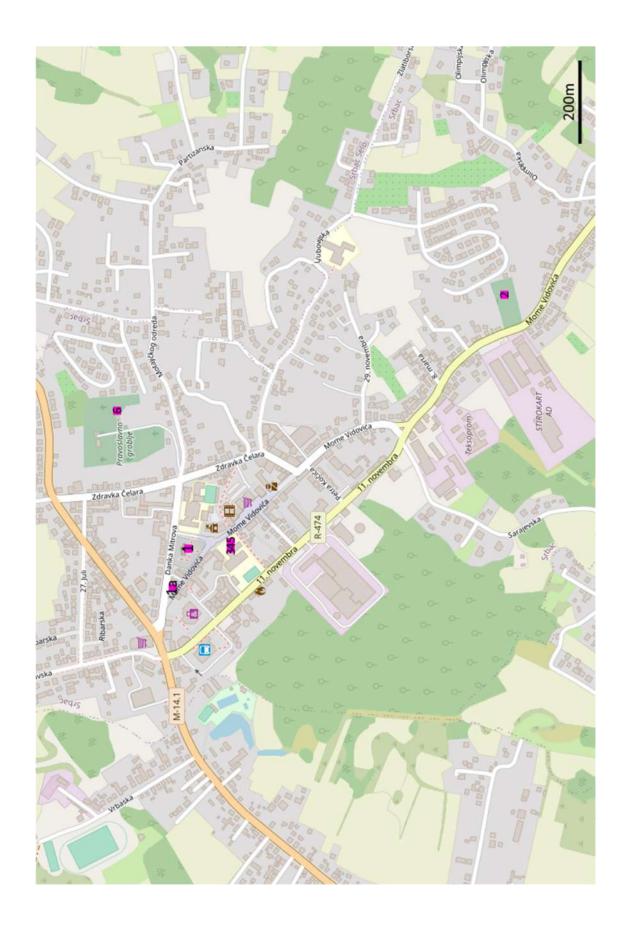
Not only does this bust bear traces of vandalism, but texts on certain monuments and memorials have been modified, with the intention of erasing the names of certain groups that participated in assaults on Partisan forces and civilians. These include references to Četniks on the monument to the 1st Proletarian Brigade in Vlaknica and monument to mark the place of death of NH Danko Mitrov in Donji Srđevići, both of which have been renovated in recent years. Attempts should be made to restore the original texts on these monuments, and other monuments mentioning Četnik collaboration with occupying forces on the territory of the municipality should be monitored for similar attempts.

While both the monument and plaque in **Kaoci** are in good condition, it may be the case that in future years the local community considers one of the two to be 'superfluous' to commemorative needs. It is recommended that the municipal SUBNOR organization maintains a dialogue with the local community, and particularly those responsible for the administration of the community hall, to ensure the long-term preservation of both the plaque and monument. Likewise, the **fountain in Vlaknica** should be monitored; it is now a 'forgotten' monument, but acts as tangible historical evidence of the gatherings previously held at this location.

From a historical perspective, further research is needed to determine the authors of several monuments. In particular, this includes the **monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror in Nožičko**, which, as stated above, bears strong artistic similarities to a number of other monuments throughout the region, and also the **monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror** (and 'Victims of War') **in Razboj Ljevčanski**, which incorporates an unusual (possibly unfinished) motif.

Municipality Map





Key:

1	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Srbac
1a	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Srbac (replacement)
2	Cemetery with 55 fallen Partisans & 22 fallen Polish fighters of the NOVJ, Srbac
3	Bust of NH Slobodan 'Danko' Mitrov, Srbac
4	Bust of NH Zdravko Čelar, Srbac
5	Bust of NH Sava Vujanović Žuća, Srbac
6	Ossuary and memorial for 13 Victims of Fascist Terror, Srbac
7	Monument to fallen fighters, Kaoci
8	Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Kaoci
9	Monument to the 1st Proletarian Brigade, Vlaknica
10	Memorial fountain, Vlaknica
11	Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Vlaknica
12	Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror, Korovi
13	Monument to the XII Slavonian Assault Brigade, Gornja Lepenica
14	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Sitneši
15	Monument to mark the place of death of NH Danko Mitrov, Donji Srđevići
16	Monument to mark the place of death of NH Zdravko Čelar, Gornji Srđevići
17	Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters, Razboj Župski
17a	Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters, Razboj Župski (original location)
18	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Nožičko
19	Monument to fallen fighters, Stari Martinac
20	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Povelič
21	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Prijebljezi
22	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Razboj Ljevčanski
23	Monument to Victims of Fascist Terror executed in March 1944, Razboj Ljevčanski
24	Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Dugo Polje
25	Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Donji Kladari
26	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Gornji Kladari
27	Plaque to commemorate fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Lilić
28	Monument to fallen fighters and Victims of Fascist Terror, Kukulje

Accurate coordinates of individual monuments are available from the authors upon request.

List of Figures

Cover image – 'Srbac municipality.svg', created by Wikimedia Commons user 'Andrein'. Available: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Srbac municipality.svg. Last edited 2 April 2009.

Figure 1a: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/, published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 1b: Unknown author, taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2436125203083393/, published online 13 December 2018.

Figure 1c: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2436125203083393/, published online 13 December 2018.

Figure 1d: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2436125203083393/, published online 13 December 2018.

Figure 1e: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 1f: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 1g: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2d: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2e: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2f: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2g: Unknown author, taken from the album "Partizansko groblje, prenosenje posmrtnih ostataka 1964." on *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.222276236396842, published online 6 June 2021.

Figure 2h: Unknown author, taken from the album "Partizansko groblje, prenosenje posmrtnih ostataka 1964." on *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.222276236396842, published online 6 June 2021.

Figure 2i: Unknown author, taken from the album "Partizansko groblje, prenosenje posmrtnih ostataka 1964." on *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.222276236396842, published online 6 June 2021.

Figure 2j: Unknown author, taken from the album "Partizansko groblje, prenosenje posmrtnih ostataka 1964." on *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.222276236396842, published online 6 June 2021.

Figure 2k: Unknown author, taken from the album "Partizansko groblje, prenosenje posmrtnih ostataka 1964." on *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.222276236396842, published online 6 June 2021.

Figure 21: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2m: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 2n: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 3a: Unknown author, taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2301663059862942, published online 10 September 2018.

Figure 3b: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2301663059862942, published online 10 September 2018.

Figure 3c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 3d: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 4a: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2772312422798001/, published online 22 June 2019.

Figure 4b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 4c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 5a: Unknown author, taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2301955016500413, published online 10 September 2018.

Figure 5b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 5c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 6a: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 6b: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 7a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 7b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 8a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 8b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 9a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 9b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 9c: Radio Srbac (2019). *Lijep gest Ostoje Suvajca iz srbačkog sela Vlaknica*. Taken from *RadioSrbac Srbac*:

https://www.facebook.com/radiosrbac.srbac/posts/pfbid03KkuEaZcpqTMWfFRimp2uNcGRbP4JjdxK UWAf6oyV6ouuFLUKJjxEcT4wP3oxVbEl, published online 17 July 2019.

Figure 10a: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 10b: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 11a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 11b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 11c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 12a: Unknown author, taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*: https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/ [comments], published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 12b: Anonymous spomenicinob.info contributor, February 2022

Figure 12c: Anonymous spomenicinob.info contributor, February 2022

Figure 12d: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 12e: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 13a: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 13b: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 13c: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 13d: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 14a: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 14b: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 14c: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 14d: From: Unknown author (1987). *Mjesna zajednica Sitneši u NOB-i i revoluciji* in "Znanje – imanje": Sitneši p.6, published 31 May 1987. Taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*: https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2474732779222635, published online 7 January 2019.

Figure 15a: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 15b: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 15c: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 15d: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 15e: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/

[comments], published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 15f: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 16a: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/, published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 16b: Unknown author (1989), held in the archives of SUBNOR Srbac.

Figure 16c: Unknown author, taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/865633546799241/, published online 1 June 2014.

Figure 16d: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 16e: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 16f: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 17a: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 17b: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 17c: Unknown author, taken from "Zupski Razboj": https://www.facebook.com/Zupski-Razboj-165074780181288/photos/182280468460719, published online 10 January 2011.

Figure 17d: Unknown author, taken from "Zupski Razboj": https://www.facebook.com/Zupski-Razboj-165074780181288/photos/326996187322479, published online 8 January 2012.

Figure 18a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 18b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 18c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 18d: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 18e: Predrag Zec (n.d.), in Mihaljčić, R. (ed.) (2020). Погинули Борци НОБ-а и Сарадници НОП-а, 1941 – 1945, са подручја општине Градишка / Босанска Градишка (unpublished manuscript), p.134. Gradiška: Municipality of Gradiška/Bosanska Gradiška, City of Gradiška, SUBNOR Gradiška

Figure 19a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 19b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 19c: Miodrag Davidović (via Google Maps), May 2016

Figure 20a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 20b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 20c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 21a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 21b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 22a: Unknown author, taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/, published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 22b: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/, published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 22c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 22d: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 22e: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 22f: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 22g: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 22h: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 22i: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 23a: Unknown author, taken from *Srbac - stare fotografije*:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/

[comments], published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 23b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 23c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 23d: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 24a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 24b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 24c: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 25a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 25b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 26a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 26b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 27a: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 27b: Dalibor Miljević, November 2021

Figure 28a: Unknown author, taken from Srbac - stare fotografije:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175/permalink/2683285301700714/, published online 9 May 2019.

Figure 28b: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 28c: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

Figure 28d: Dalibor Miljević, June 2022

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Social media

Facebook group "Srbac - stare fotografije": https://www.facebook.com/groups/465627580133175

Personal communication

Bogdan Davidović, resident of Srbac, president of SUBNOR Srbac

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Anonymous Srbac resident, May 2022