

**ВОЕНА БОЛНИЦА – СКОПЈЕ,
СЕДУМДЕСЕТ ГОДИНИ ОД
ФОРМИРАЊЕТО 1944 - 2014.**

**MILITARY HOSPITAL SKOPJE,
SEVENTY YEARS SINCE
ESTABLISHMENT, 1944 - 2014**

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On November 18, 2014, in the large (cinema) hall of the Public Health Institution (PHI) General City Hospital “8th of September” - Skopje, a jubilee monograph was promoted, entitled “Military Hospital - Skopje, seventy years since establishment, 1944-2014”. The authors of the monograph are: Ilija Gligorov, Andreja Naumovski and Doncho Donev, and the editor is Doncho Donev. Reviewers of the monograph are: Prof. Dr. Sasho Stojchev and Academician Prof. Dr. Momir Polenakovic. The monograph is written on 82 pages and enriched with 44 figures, pictures and other

illustrations. Bibliography consists of 45 references arranged in alphabetical order. The monograph was published in Skopje in November 2014 and the publisher is the Institute of Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine “Ss Cyril and Methodius” University in Skopje.

In front of about 150 attendees the monograph was promoted by Prof. Dr. Sasho Stojchev and Academician Prof. Dr. Momir Polenakovic. Describing the contents and meaning of the monograph they emphasized its great contribution to the history of medicine and the study of the history of health culture in R. Macedonia. The audience was addressed by the authors Ilija Gligorov and Andreja Naumovski, and the author and editor Doncho Donev who revealed some details about the course of collecting the materials and information related to the history of the Military Hospital, about the team work and methodology of composing and designing the book.

Military Hospital-Skopje continued the bright tradition of the General Hospital of People’s Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Macedonia and contributed to the protection of health of soldiers, military insured and civilians in R. Macedonia and broader. It continues to operate today through the strong civilian medical institution - PHI General City Hospital “8th of September” - Skopje and its properly organized military medical facility - Military Medical Center.

Until the final liberation of the country (May 15, 1945) the treatment of the soldiers and population was done by the military sanitation service and almost all medical educated professionals at the territory were mobilized. After the war was over, reorganization of the entire health service in the country was started. The strong connection among the military sanitation service and the population, which was established during the war, continued after the liberation. Military sanitation service was actively involved in actions for improving and control of the epidemiological situation in the country, and in all situations where there was a massive number of injuries (serious accidents, earthquakes in Skopje and Debar, etc.). During the 1963 earthquake in Skopje the Military Hospital-Skopje delivered extensive care and services to the injured people. In only three days (26-28.07.1963), in a field surgical ward, more than a half of the injured or 618 wounded of which 202 (33.4%) severe cases were treated. The contribution of the Hospital was enormous for which it received the highest honors. In 1986 the Hospital was awarded the City of Skopje award “13th of November”.

Military Hospital in Skopje, from Nov 15, 1944 to July 26, 1963, was working as an Army Hospital in the hospital facility "Crescent" in Skopje. After the catastrophic earthquake in 1963, due to demolition of the main building, the hospital equipment and staff were partly moved to the Military hospital in Nis, and partly left in some of the remaining undamaged pavilions. In 1971, a large new medical complex in Skopje settlement Karposh was put into use and the core of the complex was the Military Hospital in Skopje. Until 1992 the Hospital was operating under the command of the then Yugoslav People's Army, and after the independence it was under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defense of R. Macedonia (till the end of 2009). From the organizational and managerial point of view, the complex of military health-care institutions (including the Hospital) passed through several stages. On 01.01.2010 the Military Hospital was transformed into PHI City General Hospital "8th of September" - Skopje and the Military Medical Center.

Through a retrospective study, based on the use of archival materials, encyclopedias and other available sources of information and review of relevant literature, as well as based on personal experiences and observations of the authors and others, this anniversary monograph has been prepared as a basis and incentive to start with a more extensive study for a more detailed research and presentation of findings and facts.

Some of the available sources of data about the development and functioning of the Hospital in the past years are poor and do not have precise data. Much of the archival material was taken during the displacement of the Yugoslav Army, under which command the Military Hospital-Skopje had been until 1992, and deposited in the archives of the Republic of Serbia. Also, during the transformation of the Military Hospital in Skopje in 2010, part of the documentation in the archive and in the hospital library became inaccessible. However, the data and information from various alternative sources provide a clear picture of the different stages in the development and activities, and importance of the Military Hospital in Skopje in the past 70 years. During the period between 1944 and 2009, various organizational and administrative documents were written about the Military Hospital in Skopje, and at the end of each year "Annual Report" was written. Once, a document entitled "History of the Military Hospital in Skopje" was written. All reports written by 1991 are deposited in the archives of the Republic of Serbia, and reports since 1992 to the transformation of the Military Hospital in Skopje, as strictly confidential, are stored in the General Staff Headquarter of the Macedonian Army and the Ministry of Defense of R. Macedonia. In

addition to these reports on the development and functioning of the Military Hospital in Skopje, some written reports, technical articles and statistical reports were written and publicly posted or published in scientific journals. These materials are not systematically collected in “historical holdings”. Some of them are stored in libraries, and others are privately owned. A particular problem was to identify individuals who had been managers of the Military Hospital in Skopje in the period 1953-1958. Some of the presented data are based solely on verbal communication with people who worked at that time in the Hospital. Statistical data on the work performed (treatment) were submitted and published within the health statistical service of R. Macedonia. The data collected in different periods were submitted by different methodology depending on the regulations and the compatibility of military and civilian health insurance. For the period since its establishment until 1971 there are few actors alive who worked in the hospital at that time and who could give more complete and reliable data about certain aspects of the Military Hospital in Skopje by “oral historiographical method”.

We believe that this jubilee edition (monograph) will arouse interest for an institutional implementation of a project with historical scientific methodology and that a comprehensive historical work “Military Hospital in Skopje - from foundation to transformation” would be published as a new edition. The Military Hospital in Skopje was an important segment of the health system of the country and left an excellent basis for continuous work in the same direction through the newly formed PHI General City Hospital “8th of September” Skopje.

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