

**Miroslav Akmadža, ed., *Slavonski Brod i Brodsko-posavska županija u Domovinskom ratu: Zbornik radova znanstvenog skupa održanog u Slavonskom Brodu 22. i 23. rujna 2016.* [Slavonski Brod and Brod-Posavina County in the Homeland War: Proceedings from the Conference held in Slavonski Brod on 22 and 23 September 2016] (Slavonski Brod: Hrvatski institut za povijest – Podružnica za povijest Slavonije, Srijema i Baranje, 2018)**

## Summaries

Ante Nazor

### The “Daruvar Agreement“ of February 18, 1993

At the beginning of 1993, after the Serbian army in Croatia had suffered numerous defeats and the economic situation in the occupied territory of the Republic of Croatia under Serbian control had deteriorated, particularly after the International Community in May 1992 had imposed economic sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, some of the Serbian representatives in Western Slavonia estimated that the future of this part of the “Krajina” was uncertain. Hence, in Doljani on February 18, 1993 they signed an agreement on the gradual normalisation of their relations with the representatives of the Croatian government (the “Daruvar Agreement”). According to the agreement, the normalisation of relations was to be accomplished through the utilisation of practical projects, the realisation of which would have improved the daily life of people from this area (the reconstruction and mending of infrastructure, free road traffic, creating conditions for the return of displaced persons and their access to their possessions). However, the Serbian authorities in Knin prevented the implementation of the agreement and any further discussions on it. The leading politicians and military commanders of the RSK (Republic of Serbian Krajina) believed that the “Serbian population in Krajina had no perspectives for their survival in any of the variations of the Croatian State”, i.e. that any option or alternative advocating ‘coexistence’, ‘special status’ or autonomy in Ustasha Croatia would be hostile, unacceptable and repugnant



to the (Serbian) people. The signing of the Daruvar Agreement was considered to be “secession from the RSK”; it was even referred to as high treason and the signatories of the agreement were proclaimed supporters of an “autonomous and separatist policy” with the objective of splitting off “the Western Slavonia Area from the RSK” which is why the conclusion was drawn that “it was necessary to conduct an investigation and to take appropriate legal measures against the agents of such a policy. However, at the same time sources in fact affirm that there was no considerable difference in the apprehension of the ultimate goal of the Serbian policy between the signatories of the “Daruvar Agreement” and those who disapproved of the signing of the agreement. A confirmation of this is the statement of one of the Serbian signatories “that the agreement signed in Doljani had not been signed in Croatia and was not written in Croatian” and that he had signed it in conformity with the aspirations of the authorities in Knin, namely to “return to our Serbian land, to Daruvar”, because he was “convinced that Daruvar would not be won by war”.

Though the context of time and events should not be neglected, nevertheless, speaking in support of the claims that the above signatories of the Daruvar Agreement and the Serbian leadership in Knin, who were accusing the signatories, were in the end pursuing the same objective – that all Serbs should live in one state, i.e. that Western Slavonia should be a part of such a (Greater-Serbian) state, is the legal opinion, that the signatories sought from Belgrade lawyers in 1994 to prove that they had not jeopardised even “one part of the state territory” and had not been working on “changing the state borders” (the borders of “RSK”).

The procedures of the authorities in Knin (the rejection of the peace proposals of the Croatian Government and the international community and disregard for the content of the United Nations Security Council resolution) and their decisions as well as the rhetoric expressed in Serbian sources on the Daruvar Agreement, indicate that the Serbian leadership of the occupied territory of the Republic of Croatia did not wish to accept a peaceful reintegration of that territory under Croatian rule.

**Key words:** Daruvar Agreement, Western Slavonia, rebellion of the Serbs, Greater-Serbian aggression, occupied territory of the Republic of Croatia

Ivan Medved - Ivanka Cafuta

### **Cultural Events in Slavonski Brod During the Homeland War**

On the basis of the Order for the Protection of Cultural Property of the Republic of Croatia in Wartime Circumstances issued on August 22, 1991 by the Ministry of Science and Culture of the Republic of Croatia in cooperation

with the Department for the Protection of Cultural Properties in Wartime Circumstances established by the Secretariat of Social Activities of the municipality of Slavonski Brod, cultural institutions conducted special security measures concerning cultural goods and the monumental heritage. The buildings of cultural institutions were secured and given additional protection; some of the archival records were stored in securer facilities within the buildings, some were transferred to various buildings in town and the surrounding area, whereas works of art, books and museum holdings were moved to safer areas of Croatia. The employees of cultural institutions participated in the relocation of works of art, of the Brlić Family Archive and Library, the City Library and the Archive as well as the works of art of the Franciscan Monastery in Slavonski Brod and Plehan.

All buildings of cultural institutions were damaged during the devastations of the city during 1991 and 1992. Shells directly hit both the buildings of the Brodsko Posavlje Museum and the Historical Archive; the Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić Theatre and Concert Hall and the City Library, where the reading room was burnt down completely along with all the equipment and the book holdings, suffered the greatest damage.

In spite of war conditions the staff of cultural institutions (some of them were in the units of the Croatian Army) continued their work in their home institutions, in spaces put at their disposal in the city and in locations outside the city. They restored their damaged buildings, worked with the users, brought residents together for various programmes, published texts in professional journals and newspapers, participated in projects for gathering the testimonials of displaced persons from Slavonia and Baranya accommodated in Brod, attended radio and television broadcasts, took pictures of the devastations of the war and collected records related to the multi-party political system and the Homeland War. With the project "Croatian Artists in Slavonski Brod" and the event "Zagreb for Slavonski Brod" they presented Brod and their cultural-historical heritage in the country and abroad with the objective of promoting the truth about the Homeland War and collecting support for the restoration of monumental heritage cultural institutions.

After the fall of Bosanska Posavina in October 1992, when the systematic destruction of the city had ceased, until August 1995, cultural institutions organized exhibitions, lectures, book launches, concerts ... Many events were continued: the classical and contemporary music event "Brod Musical Summer", "Brodsko kolo", a traditional culture event, the exhibition of the Sava Watercolourist Colony and the cultural and literary event "U svijetu bajki Ivane Brlić Mažuranić" (In the Fairy Tale World of Ivana Brlić Mažuranić) promoting and inspiring children's creativity and the creativity of adults for children; in the course of this event, with the support of UNICEF, the project

“Kultura u službi rehabilitacije djece stradale u ratu” (Culture Serving in the Rehabilitation of Children Affected by War”) was accomplished.

Of particular significance for the people of Brod was that the Brod Fortress had been put at the city’s disposal as well as the donation of the works of the sculptor/painter Branko Ružić to his hometown for the future Ružić and Contemporaries Gallery in 1993. In 1994 the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first written mention of the name Brod was marked through rich publishing activities, a symposium and numerous other programmes in which figures from the art and culture world also took part; at the beginning of 1995 the Art Gallery of Slavonski Brod was established. In parallel with various cultural programmes, the restoration of cultural monuments damaged during the war continued as well as the restoration and construction of cultural institutions, which went on till 1998. Apart from the basic cultural institutions and the involvement of their employees in numerous programmes, amateur artist also contributed to cultural events in Slavonski Brod during the war years.

**Key words:** Homeland War, cultural properties, City Library, Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić Theater and Concert Hall, Brodsko Posavlje Museum, Historical Archive, amateur artists

Mario Kevo

### **The Activities of the Hospital in Slavonski Brod in 1991 and 1992**

Although Slavonski Brod was during 1991 not in the vicinity of the frontline of the battlefield, the civic, civilian and other services made preparations for a possible escalation of the conflict. The Medical Center, with the Hospital of Slavonski Brod, became, starting from summer 1991, a rear-echelon hospital and assisted in receiving and caring for the wounded from the area of Western and Eastern Slavonia. Even though the hospital made adjustments in order to adapt its care for the wounded in military actions, it was only after spring in 1992 and after theatre of war in Bosanska Posavina was opened, that complete attention was focused on wartime medicine. In other words medical services were transferred to basement facilities in new and improvised circumstances where difficulties arose on a daily basis. The hospital was often hit by airborne and artillery missiles and dozens of newly wounded arrived daily. The lack of working space and space for technical equipment was a great challenge for the medical services in the process of saving lives and in performing high-quality work. Because of the conditions and the fact that after Zagreb the Brod Hospital was treating the largest number of victims in the Homeland War, in 1992 physicians came from several cities throughout Croatia in order to help their colleagues in the Brod hospital. During 1992 around 9,800 operations were performed, with a very small mortality rate.

Even though the activities took place in basement facilities, the work of the medical staff was highly professional and there was no indication of a decline in the quality of their work, not even for one moment. Several times the employees were commended publicly for major contributions to life-saving and for maintaining a high-level medical system in difficult war conditions. The Slavonski Brod Hospital worked under such conditions until October 1992 when the conflicts in Bosanska Posavina ceased and when it was no longer a hospital at the frontline. In the city's most difficult moments it was a source of humanity, morality and professionalism.

**Key words:** Slavonski Brod, Hospital, Medical centre, Homeland War, the wounded

Mato Artuković

### **Slavonski Brod and the Brod Posavina County in Serbian Newspapers during the Homeland War**

This paper first discusses the cult of “endangered Serbs” in the 1990s so that the occurrences that inevitably emerged from it can be understood. Furthermore the paper provides insight into the writing of the Serbian newspapers chosen, describing the occurrences in Slavonski Brod and the Brod Posavina County during the Greater-Serbian aggression and the struggle to liberate this part of Croatia. All these religious, student, military or political newspapers, advocated the Greater-Serbian programme justifying it by the “endangered Serbs”. How the “endangered Serbs” were brought into existence, is shown in the writing of the newspaper *Politika* by the example of the alleged abolition of the street name Nikola Tesla in Slavonski Brod. Added to this some parts of the Brod Posavina County were occupied and in 1991 the non-Serbian population was expelled from these parts because they were considered “centuries-long Serbian land”. The liberation of the occupied territories during the “Bljesak” (Flash) military and police campaign was characterized in Serbian newspapers as “aggression” and “occupation”. In their reflections on the responsibility for the sufferings of the people, the journalists did not for a single moment take into account the chronology of the occurrences to explain the tragedy. The descriptions of the Croats and the territories in the newspapers were abundant in clichéd stereotypes: in Croatia there are only “Ustashas”, Ustasha hordes”, “fascists”, “clerical fascists”, “terrorists”, “slaughterers”, “resurrected fascism”, “Nazism” and “neo-Nazism”; in addition to this there are not only “Croatian Ustashas” but also “Shqiptar Ustashas”. In Slavonski Brod as well as in the entirety of Croatia, the Croatian Democratic Union was mostly labelled with these terms. The myth of millions of victims in Jasenovac is the most exploited topic of Serbian journalism at the time.

An interesting fact is that some of the most significant occurrences in Brod were not mentioned by these newspapers, such as the demonstrations of several thousand citizens because of the arrival of JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) tanks from Derventa on May 5, 1991, demonstrations of thousands of workers in the Đuro Đaković works when the JNA took tanks out of the factory, the operation "Vlak" (Train) on August 28, 1991, the liberation of the military quarters on September 15/16, 1991.

**Key words:** Slavonski Brod, Brod Posavina County, Serbian newspapers, Homeland War, Greater-Serbian aggression

Jakša Raguz

### **The Level of Security, Public Order and Peace in the Area of the Municipality of Slavonski Brod in 1991**

Even though Slavonski Brod, the second largest Slavonian city, wasn't affected by war sufferings in 1991, as most of the other Slavonian cities did, its strategic significance as a transportation hub, the position between the battlefields of Eastern and Western Slavonia, the existence of the JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) Garrison and of the Serbian ethnic community had considerable impact on the worsening of security, public order and peace in the municipality of Slavonski Brod in the war year of 1991. The increasing number of criminal acts, the blowing up of structure, constant tensions concerning the closure and opening of the Sava bridges for traffic as well as air strikes were constant occurrences until the end of 1991.

All this was only an introduction to the real cataclysm that Slavonski Brod and Brod Posavina experienced in the following year, 1992, with the collapse of every form of normal life in the Slavonski Brod community, sensibly breached as early as 1991.

**Key words:** Slavonski Brod, Homeland War, the police, safety, public order

Ante Cvitković

### **The Epidemiological Situation during the Homeland War in Slavonski Brod and the Brod Posavina County**

The epidemiological situation during the Homeland War was satisfactory. The infectious diseases that had appeared were within the parameters expected in time of war. The appearance of certain diseases such as tuberculosis reached its climax at that time. The members of the Croatian Army and of

the Ministry of the Interior became infected with epidemics such as bacillary dysentery, diarrhoea, food poisoning, type A viral jaundice, mumps and by haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, by which only a small group of members of the Croatian Army was infected after their stay in the forests of Pšunj. There were also records of epidemics of type A viral jaundice found among pupils, staphylococcal food poisoning, of refugees affected by head lice, diarrhoea and bacillary dysentery due to consuming water from local water systems, trichinosis, salmonella infections and rubella.

With epidemiological interventions such as vaccination (e.g. against tetanus among the elderly) and the implementation of disinfection measures, disinfestation and pest control prevented the emergence of a series of the kind of epidemics that may be expected in wartime under inadequate living conditions when people are assembled in groups and relocated. In conditions of risks of outbreaks of alimentary and waterborne diseases and when there was an increased exposure to certain infectious diseases (e.g. natural-focal diseases) the Epidemiological Service operated within the Medical Centre and after 1994 within the Institute of Public Health of the Brod Posavina County. Even though the epidemiological situation was under control, the long-term influence of Luna artillery rockets on health has not yet been examined or described.

**Key words:** Homeland War, infectious diseases, Epidemiological Service

Mladen Barać - Mario Tomas

### **The Occupation of Military Features of the Yugoslav People's Army in the Territory of the Municipality of Slavonski Brod in 1991**

The beginning of the Homeland War in 1991 left indelible traces on the establishment of the Republic of Croatia and the local environments that were actively involved in the war. The Municipality of Slavonski Brod, according to the development of events that affected Croatia in 1991, was one of only a few that had a high level of involvement in the war, though its position was not in the frontline of the battlefield and it was not a target for large-scale hostile attacks. This involvement was reflected in the participation of military units of the municipality in combat actions outside the domicile area and on the battlefields of Western and Eastern Slavonia, but at the same time there were tasks in Slavonski Brod and its surrounding area to fulfil which required extra effort. Among the local authorities, cooperation and the consensus existed, which was not a frequently met feature in the Croatian areas affected by the war in 1991. Particularly highlighted are the activities of the 108<sup>th</sup> Brigade that according to its disposition was a reserve unit performing tasks



similar to those of Guardian A Brigades. What made Slavonski Brod and its surroundings stand out was the connection of several social segments making efficient operations and cooperation possible. A contribution to this was also the economic potential of the area which, mainly through the Đuro Đaković factory complex, produced professional personnel. This personnel helped in the establishment and development of numerous components of the units as well as in equipping them which was on many occasions improvised. This was of particular significance when the overall supply system and the equipping in the Republic of Croatia as a whole had not reached a level high enough to have met the necessities in the field. The cooperation of the Crisis Management Units and the commanders of the units was according to the municipality-oriented security and political organization at the time at an adequate level for efficient task executions.

Given the paucity and composition of the engineers' units of JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) and the personnel in depots and the Degman (battle tank) from the perspective of the quantitative relation of the warring parties, it can be concluded that in comparison to Croatian forces, much more numerous, these forces could not provide a long-lasting resistance; in addition to this the Croatian forces had by then the advantage of having gained valuable experience in combat actions on the battlefields of Western Slavonia, and the Special Police Unit and the Unit of the 3<sup>rd</sup> A Brigade had gained experience in combat actions on the battlefields of Eastern Slavonia. What posed a great threat in the attempt to take over facilities, considering the explosives in the hands of the JNA, was the potential for large scale-destruction and mass sufferings of civilians in Slavonski Brod and the surrounding area. Taking into account such a potential threat, which had been avoided, the success of Croatian forces exceeded just the taking of hostile facilities. All this made it possible successfully to put an end to the uncertainties of the war in September in Slavonski Brod in favour of the Croatian forces, the efforts of whom were subsequently redirected to the support of other Croatian areas affected by war.

**Keywords:** Homeland War, Slavonski Brod, Yugoslav People's Army, military facilities, 1991

Natko Martinić Jerčić

### **Contributions to the War Journey of the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Croatian Army from its Establishment to the Vance Plan**

Like numerous other units of the Croatian Army in 1991, the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade of Nova Gradiška was established in wartime conditions. Nevertheless the units of the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade succeeded, along with other Croatian units, in stopping the breakthrough of the Banja Luka 5<sup>th</sup> Corps of the JNA (Yugoslav



People's Army) on the Nova Gradiška battlefield. Subsequently, practically a month after its establishment, it was engaged in the operation *Orkan-91* (Operation Hurricane-91) and made a significant contribution to it by liberating a number of places of the Nova Gradiška battlefield. The war activities of the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade in the first war phase ended in January 1992 when the Vance Plan came into existence. The fact that within the period examined, eighty-one soldiers were killed and more than two hundred injured, testifies to the contribution of the 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade to the defence of Croatia in 1991; ultimately, this facilitated the international recognition of the independent Republic of Croatia in mid-January 1992.

**Key words:** Homeland war, Croatian Army, 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Croatian Army, Nova Gradiška, Western Slavonia, Operation *Orkan-91* (Operation *Hurricane-91*), military history

Mate Rupić

### **Archival Sources for Research into the Occupation of Western Slavonia (1990-1995)**

Archival records of the occupying units and the authorities of the occupied territories of Western Slavonia have been preserved only in fragments. This in particular refers to the period of the beginning Serbian rebellion and aggression against Croatia in the 1990-1992 time. Unfortunately, we do not know how many of the records can be found outside the Croatian State Archives in institutions (military, safety, intelligence), in police departments and administrations, however we are witnesses to there being more of them. The organization of archival records of the RSK (Republic of Serbian Krajina) that were brought to the archives in piles and without any indices, is still in progress; most likely these archival fonds and collections will be subsequently completed with newly found and compiled archival records. For almost all above the fonds and collections of the HMDCDR (Croatian Homeland War Memorial and Documentation Centre) summary inventories were compiled and because new records kept coming in, new inventories were compiled; all these inventories might undergo several revisions. The archival records are available to the public and researchers.

**Key words:** archives, archival records, Western Slavonia, war in Croatia 1991-1995

Ivan Mikuš

### **Humanitarian Aspects of the Homeland War in Slavonski Brod**

This paper examines certain aspects of the humanitarian activities, that were an indispensable feature of the Homeland War in the Slavonski Brod area during the war years, primarily in 1991 and 1992, and that to a large extent have not been sufficiently explored.

At issue was the question of solidarity in the context of war, in which the existence of the individual was directly or indirectly threatened. This implied research into the concrete practice of solidarity. The solidarity, that had before the war been in the scope of the regular activities of certain institutions became a necessity without which thousands and thousands of displaced persons and refugees would on a long-term basis not have survived. The necessities that arose from the war and the humanitarian catastrophe as a result of the tidal wave of war migrants, left marks on the collective memory of the local community and the individual.

The intention was to present the humanitarian activities of institutions, organizations and associations that stood out from others: Caritas, the Feniks Association, the Red Cross, the Committee for the Collection and Distribution of Humanitarian Aid of the municipality of Slavonski Brod (a voluntary, non-institutional body), the Office for the Collection and Distribution of Humanitarian Aid (a municipal institutional body), the Social Support Centre, even though there were also other institutions participating in humanitarian activities. The research comprises the following humanitarian activities: the organization of the activities of the above institutions, their cooperation, concrete activities of the reception and care of war migrants (displaced persons and refugees) and the obligation to meet their requirements as well as the transportation of humanitarian parcels, storage, the quantity, structure and distribution of humanitarian aid, the roles of individuals and their involvement in the organization of humanitarian activities, the connections and contacts of various humanitarian participants at state and international level and international donors.

One of the approaches in the clarification of the collective memory of the local community was to use the method of oral history, however with concrete agents and their humanitarian activities. Institutionally organized collective memories were examined by means of archival records of the Slavonski Brod State Archive (e.g. the Protocols of the Board for the Collection and Distribution of Humanitarian Aid of the municipality of Slavonski Brod) or through other relevant institutions and secondary historical sources such as local periodicals.

**Key words:** Homeland War, humanitarian activities, solidarity, humanitarian aid, Municipal General Headquarters of Civil Defence, Board for the Collection and Distribution of Humanitarian Aid of the Municipality of Slavonski Brod, Office for the Collection and Distribution of Humanitarian Aid, Social Work Centre, Caritas, Red Cross, donors

Ana Holjevac Tuković

### **Slavonski Brod in the Period from March to October 1992 (an Overview of Hostile Attacks on the City and its Tribulations)**

To occupy Posavina and to make it a part of the self-proclaimed Republika Srpska, was one of the crucial strategic goals of the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the forces of the Yugoslav People's Army and the Serbs from Posavina tried to occupy Bosanski Brod in March 1992, the conflicts spread to the Croatian territory. Slavonski Brod and its surroundings became the target of Serbian attacks; one of the targets was the Sava River Bridge between Slavonski and Bosanski Brod. By destroying the bridge, the Serbian side intended to cut off the Posavina Croats and the Bosniaks from the Croatian hinterland and to destroy Slavonski Brod which they deemed the stronghold of the Croats from Posavina in the sense of morale as well as in the material sense. From spring 1992 until October 7, 1992, when the Serbian forces and the JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) took over Bosanski Brod, Slavonski Brod suffered heavy attacks. Alone in the period from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 7, 1992, 102 persons were killed in Slavonski Brod and 485 were injured. The air-raid alarm was sounded 166 times and the general alert alarm 435 times. The targets were mainly civilian, such as schools, churches, the City Hospital, the market place. The consequences of the attacks were severe, for in addition to the lost lives and several thousand injured, Slavonski Brod suffered great material damage. As well as residential buildings, cultural monuments suffered also severe damage.

**Key words:** Homeland War, Slavonski Brod, Brod Posavina County, war damage, refugees

Nikolina Vuković

### **The Activities of the Crisis Committee of the Municipality of Slavonski Brod 1991-1992**

The Activities of the Crisis Committee of Slavonski Brod during the crucial period of the defence of Croatia's territories can be characterized as an example of the successful coordination of municipal authorities and local

communities during the establishment of a unified defence system on the local level. The reason for this were the early-announced defence preparations during the first half of 1991, the successful deployment and establishment of Crisis Committees in local communities, the determination of the municipal leadership as well as resolute decision-making in accordance with the occurrences and the elimination of the military threat in the form of JNA barracks in the municipal territory. The scope of activities of the Crisis Committee was the protection of the state border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, because of the strategic position of the municipality of Slavonski Brod, as well as the safety situation which was dependent on the events and on military activities in Bosanska Posavina. Ultimately, the coordination of the civil and military components of society within the municipality of Slavonski Brod led by the Crisis Committee proved to be a successful example of the organization a chain of defence at a local level.

**Key words:** Slavonski Brod Crisis Committee, municipality of Slavonski Brod, Executive Council, Yugoslav People's Army, rebel Serbs

Gordana Slanček - Domagoj Zovak

**Notes from the Ivan Senjug Ujak JNA Barracks in Slavonski Brod – The Conditions inside the Barracks and the Political and Safety Situation in the Territory of the Municipality of Slavonski Brod (1990-1991)**

Pursuant to an order from the Command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Military District of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) from December 1989, all subordinate JNA Commands were obliged to contact their headquarters and to report weekly on the political and safety situation in their area of responsibility as well as on the morale and the political situation in general. By paying special attention to social conditions, the JNA wanted in fact gain control within the Garrison, because it was important to preserve the unity of the control and command system of the JNA, which comprised members of various Yugoslav ethnicities. In order not to lose control over these changes, they kept the events in Slavonski Brod and its surroundings under daily observation so as to be ready to take measures should there be major changes in the political system.

JNA data from the fonds of the State Archive in Slavonski Brod, and the Ivan Senjug Ujak Barracks, Slavonski Brod (HR-DASB-73) presented in this paper, show the way in which the JNA observed the social, political, economic and safety situation in the area of responsibility of the Slavonski Brod Garrison, how important this information are for the prevention of turmoil among the soldiers inside the Garrison (due to ethnic, religious, cultural differences as well as cultural-ideological differences in general) and how they dealt with the changes occurring around them.

No armed rebellion of the Serbian population in the municipality of Slavonski Brod occurred, hence the JNA Garrison of Slavonski Brod was not put to use in support of Greater-Serbian hegemony, which eventually resulted in a two-day armed conflict between the members of the JNA from the Ivan Senjug Ujak Barracks and the members of the Croatian Army and the police.

How much the fact that until the end of August, 1991, a Croat was in command of the JNA Garrison in Slavonski Brod had an impact on the above two-day conflict between the opposed parties, i.e. would the consequences, taking into account the extent of the probable destruction and sufferings in Slavonski Brod and the surroundings, have been much more disastrous, remains for further research.

**Key words:** Yugoslav People's Army, the 679<sup>th</sup> JNA Pontoon Battalion, Slavonski Brod Garrison, the 17<sup>th</sup> JNA Corps, Homeland War

Željko Karaula

### **The Activities of the 105<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Croatian Army from Bjelovar on the Brod Posavina Battlefield**

The Tactical Group of the 105<sup>th</sup> Brigade from Bjelovar in two short intervals, on orders from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia (GSHV), took action in Bosanska Posavina in order to protect the front lines in the vicinity of Bosanski Brod and to protect the Croatian people living in this area. On both occasions the Tactical Group of the 105<sup>th</sup> brigade came to Bosanska Posavina when the Croatian forces started their retreat from this area partly due to the pressure of the stronger Serbian forces, partly to the Croatian forces being considerably uncoordinated, demoralized and having received ambiguous military and political instructions. The assignment was at that time primarily defence-oriented. In a relatively short time, 18 members of the TG-105 were killed, which from the military point of view had not occurred in the Brigade since the tragedy also involving 18 members of the Brigade, who were killed in an ambush in Kusonje near Pakrac on September 8, 1991. According to data so far known, the 105<sup>th</sup> TG had in the military sense fulfilled its assignment in Bosanska Posavina in firmly keeping the line of defence, despite difficult conditions on the battlefield.

**Key words:** 105<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Bjelovar, Bosanska Posavina, OG Eastern Posavina

Davor Marijan

### **The Bosnian Posavina Corridor – Meaning, Combats, Interpretations**

The war in Bosanska Posavina in 1992 mainly came down to the establishment and problematizing of the Corridor connecting the eastern and western parts of Republika Srpska, as well as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with the Republic of the Serbian Krajina in the occupied territory of the Republic of Croatia. Such a transportation hub was important for the survival of the Serbs, into which they had invested all available forces and resources. The struggles for a Corridor breakthrough began on June 24, 1992 and ended on October 6 of the same year with the occupation of Bosanski Brod. The Serbian forces gained a military victory in these battles as they had been more successful in all crucial segments of the armed conflicts. The battles took place while the Republic of Croatia was demobilizing and reorganizing the Croatian Army; at the same time the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina mobilized all human and material potentials in order to establish their own national state in this republic. Soon it was claimed that the Serbian victory was the result of a political agreement between the Croatian and Serbian leaders in Karadžević, and also between the Croatian Community of Herzeg-Bosnia and Republika Srpska in Graz. In this paper attention is drawn to some of the unfounded interpretations of the participants as well as to some characteristics of the conflicts and the opposing sides which have been neglected even though they indicate why the conflicts for the Corridor ended in a Serbian victory.

**Key words:** Bosnian Posavina, Croatia, Croatian Defence Committee, Croatian Army, war, Corridor

Željka Križe

### **Reports of Croatian Newspapers on War Sufferings in the Slavonski Brod Area from March to October 1992**

During the more than six months in which the Slavonski Brod area and, primarily, the city itself were exposed to constant attacks of the Serbian forces, the newspapers, it can be said, regularly reported on the events, however not with the same intensity. At the time of the first attacks on the city, in late March and throughout April, the reports were concise and usually presented the context of events on the battlefield of Bosanski Brod; as this place was the first that suffered armed attacks, closer attention was drawn to this city, as well as to other areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina where military operations had started.

After severe attacks on the city in early May, when in only one day six children were killed, the number of reports on the Slavonski Brod area incre-

ased and they became more comprehensive but also emotional. Their rhetoric was mainly moderate and the rhetorical devices used by them did not reveal emotional reactions to the events. *Večernji list* used usually neutral terms for the enemy, such as “Serbian Army” or simply “the enemy”, occasionally “the occupier”, while in *Vjesnik/Novi vjesnik* hostile forces were referred to as the “Yugo-Army” and “Chetniks”, however with no further labelling. After the time of the above events, the terms used for the enemy were supplemented by negative epithets and the events were described with emotion-charged terms. After the summer, in both the newspapers the terms “Trans-Sava Chetniks”, “savage Chetniks” or “Serb-Chetniks” became customary terms. Apart from reports on the attacks and the sufferings, the newspapers published throughout the summer articles that also addressed economic and social issues in the context of the ongoing war and the articles more frequently contained photographs.

In the period before the fall of Bosanski Brod which marked the culmination of war events in Bosanska Posavina and in consequence in the Slavonski Brod area, the newspapers kept reporting on war sufferings on a regular basis; more comprehensive articles summarising the damage of the month before were published, as well as articles describing the everyday life of the inhabitants and the problems they had to cope with, their approaches, and criticisms were also conveyed. Labelling the enemy was in this period very common and neutral terms to describe them were used rarely; the events, that is the descriptions of the situation in the city and the surroundings at times contained lyrical elements rather than newspaper style.

Eventually, from examining the newspapers selected, the conclusion can be drawn that the Slavonski Brod area, particularly the city of Slavonski Brod, was indeed well represented in them within the period from March to October 1992, apart from the first two months when this area was given a little less attention due to the turbulent wartime events that were occurring in the area of adjacent Bosnia and Herzegovina. The rhetoric in the newspaper gradually changed and became harsher as the attacks on the city intensified; neutral terms used to describe the enemy were more often supplemented by negative epithets, typical in times of war. The situation in Slavonski Brod was presented from different perspectives and in addition to informative reports, economic and cultural topics were discussed as well as the everyday life of the citizens, which certainly must have had a positive effect on the sensitization of the populace for the sufferings of the population in Slavonski Brod and the surrounding area.

**Key words:** Homeland War, Brod Posavlje, Slavonski Brod, media, war reporting



Ivan Brigović - Ivan Radoš

### **The 101<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Croatian Army in the Eastern Slavonian Theatre (November 1991- June 1992)**

The 101<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Croatian Army from Susedgrad was sent in to Eastern Slavonia as reinforcement for the defenders of that area with the objective of reinforcing and stabilizing the battlefield during a general offensive of JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) units and rebel Serbs, who, after they had gained control of Vukovar on November 18, 1991, set off in attack along the entire line of the Eastern Slavonian theatre. It was the first Brigade from Zagreb and in general the first brigade of the Croatian Army sent by the General Staff as a complete unit to take action at such a great distance from the main area. This paper discusses the activities of the Brigade on the frontline of the battlefield in the south-western part of Osijek focusing on two battles, one in Paulin Dvor and the other in Antunovac in late November and early December 1991, as well as the changes on the battlefield after the implementation of the Vance Plan on January 3, 1992. The problems the Brigade units had to face have been outlined as well as the everyday life of the Brigade members on the battlefield and their relations to the local population.

**Key words:** 101<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Croatian Army, Homeland War, Eastern Slavonia 1991-1992

Đuro Škvorc

### **Pupils and Secondary Schoolteachers of the Matija Antun Reljković Secondary School from Slavonski Brod in Križevci – School Education in Exile 1992/1993**

The difficult war situation in Slavonski Brod and other places in 1992 as a result of the destructions caused by the Serbian artillery and mortars from the Bosnian side on a daily basis forced the authorities of the city to decide on the relocation of pupils to other places of the Republic of Croatia, not affected by military actions. Among these pupils were the schoolchildren from the Matija Antun Reljković Secondary School, who were accommodated in various locations in Križevci. In order for them to be able to accept being relocated, their teachers were there to take care of them. The accommodation for most of the pupils was of the boarding home types, they took classes in the Agricultural School in Križevci and in the Primary School in Gornja Rijeka. Owing to the hospitality of the hosts who had provided the school premises, most of the classes were held in Križevci and not in three locations outside Križevci as initially planned. The personnel of the Radio Stations in Križevci and Brod made sure the children had at least some kind of connection with their families. The

city authorities of Križevci and command of the barracks made every effort to make life and leisure time easier for the children by giving them the opportunity to borrow books from the Križevci library free of charge and to socialize with the youngsters from Križevci at sports events. That their teachers had taken good care of them was shown by the good grades they took back with them to Slavonski Brod and their good behaviour in their host town.

**Key words:** Matija Antun Reljković Secondary School, pupils, schoolteachers, Križevci, Slavonski Brod, Gornja Rijeka

Julija Barunčić Pletikosić

### **The Sufferings of the Catholic Church in the Homeland War in the Area of today's Đakovo-Osijek Archdiocese**

From numerical data gained through research into the destruction of religious architecture in the area of the Đakovo-Osijek Archdiocese (according to ecclesiastical territorial-administrative division), or of the area of the Brod Posavina County (according to the territorial organization and subdivision of the Republic of Croatia into Counties), the figures of 93 slightly or seriously damaged churches, 18 chapels and more than 12 monasteries and houses of orders in the area of the archdiocese, and the 24 slightly or seriously damaged churches, 8 chapels and 2 monasteries in the area of the County, an idea is gained of the extent of destruction of the religious architecture of the Catholic Church in Croatia. Even though the numerical data on demolished religious architecture of the area of the Đakovo-Osijek Archdiocese listed are only a part of the overall statistical data on the extent of the destruction, they testify to a systematic and deliberate destruction of cultural monuments and church property and symbols by the Serbian aggressor during the entire period of the Homeland War. Ecclesiastical monuments, mostly churches and chapels, were continuously demolished from the second half of 1991, during the most severe attacks of the JNA and Serbian paramilitary units, but also during the entire period of the Serbian occupation until 1995. A great number of churches and chapels, which had already been demolished in military activities in 1991, were later blown up and razed; the documents of the so-called RSK (Republic of Serbian Krajina) discussed in this paper, and also of other war-torn areas and (arch)dioceses, or counties of the Republic of Croatia or those parts of the territory under Serbian occupation testify to this.

**Key words:** Homeland War, sacred architecture, the Catholic Church, Đakovo-Osijek Archdiocese, Slavonski Brod County

Dražen Živić

### **Demographic Changes in the Brod Posavina County (1991-2011): the Course, Causes and Effects of Depopulation**

The basic indicators of the demographic dynamics and structure of the Brod Posavina County in the period from 1991 into 2011, clearly indicate that the demographic changes show prevalent depopulation characteristics. Thus, the overall “official” number of inhabitants of the Brod Posavina County from 1991 to 2011 showed a 9.4 % decrease, whereas the number of “state” inhabitants decreased 2.4 %. From 1991 to 2014 the county had more deaths than live births; from the annual viewpoint there was a continuous natural depopulation going on from 2001. In both of the midterm census periods analysed, the migration calculation was negative, meaning that the Brod Posavina County, in its entirety, lost population both naturally and mechanically. In addition to the overall, natural and emigrational depopulation, the population of the Brod Posavina County was also affected by the demographic aging process; indicators such as the youth and age coefficient as well as the aging index, which almost doubled from 1991 to 2011 (an increase from 58,4 to 96,5) testify to this. This process implied a depopulation increase because it determined new unfavourable trends in bio-reproduction and nuptiality. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1992, 29 settlements out of 185 in the County were occupied. The overall “official” number of inhabitants in the occupied settlements of the period examined decreased by 37.9 %, while the equivalent population “in the country” declined by 34.0 %. Between 1991 and 2011 the “official” number of inhabitants decreased in 164 out of 185 settlements, 4 settlements remained without inhabitants, and only 17 settlements of the Brod Posavina County achieved a demographic increase. Along with the inherited destabilisation factors of demographic development, the Homeland War was of great significance for the modern trend and structure of the population of Brod Posavina County which in the domain of direct demographic losses and forced migrations significantly affected the regular course of demographic changes and accelerated the depopulation. Part of the demographic consequences of the Homeland War was compensated for by immigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Key words:** Homeland War, Brod Posavina County, demographic development, depopulation

Marin Sabolović

### **A Military-Geographical Analysis of the Operational Area of the Bosnian Posavina Theatre**

The Bosnian Posavina theatre was the result of the aggression of the aggressor joint forces against a local population supported by troops from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Croatian Defence Council) and the Republic of Croatia during 1992; thus after the offensive operation "Koridor 92" (Corridor 92) of the Army of Republika Srpska the operational activities reached a climax. The geographical features of the operational area are marked by the transitional Peri-Pannonian area which is closely linked to the loess plateau of the Pannonian region in the North between the Sava, Drava and Danube rivers. The operational area is dominated by the Sava River and its tributaries and is characterized by alluvial deposits. The only slightly vertically articulated area is highly favourable for operational activities such as movements of land force. The domination of deciduous forests, a limiting factor for force movements, favourable, however, for concealment, provides relative protection from direct combat actions and opportunities to take cover regardless of seasons, that is, of the vegetation shedding leaves. The mobility assessment of the operational area is affirmed by a large number of passable transit routes, forest paths and areas remote from roads with favourable slopes which had great impact on the implementation of operations. This paper discusses the analysis utilisation process and the operational process in the examined area on the basis of the digital terrain model of the Bosnian Posavina theatre within the scope of a multi-criteria GIS (Geographical Information System) analysis, and the objective of the paper is to outline basic military-geographical features of the operational area based on data output. This methodology comprises the implementation of the general morphometric and specialized multi-criteria military-geographical analyses stipulated by military standard (OCOKA- Observation and Fields of Fire, Cover and Concealment, Obstacles, Key or Decisive Terrain, Avenues of Approach) such as the analysis of hillside slopes, roadway slopes, mobility analysis, direct visibility analysis for direct combat actions, analysis of surface purposes, protection possibilities and their correlation.

**Keywords:** Military-geographical analysis; War of independence; Bosanska Posavina; Bosanska Posavina Theatre

Gabrijela Baričić

### **Children as Victims in the Homeland War in Slavonski Brod 1991 – 1993**

During the Homeland War in Slavonski Brod from 1991 to 1993, children were deeply affected by the severe destruction of war. In daily attacks, over 30 children became direct war victims (they were killed in the park, in front of a house, on the street and even in the cellar) and many others were wounded. The research presents the typical everyday life of children in war conditions in the town, using the oral history method. Interviewing 8 adults (who were children between 9 and 15 at the time) everyday life is observed through some categories and symbolic spots. The most significant domain is the shelter, obviously representing security, family harmony and neighbourly amusement. Wartime is remembered for its alerts, sirens and bombing, which created all kinds of fear. In the summer of 1992 elementary school children were temporarily evacuated to safer areas in Croatia and some European countries to protect them from certain death. Daily attacks indirectly affected the normal educational system. Serbian aggression on Slavonski Brod made schooling impossible to organize so the municipality of Brod relocated school children and schools with teachers, educational experts and school directors to safe areas in Croatia. The evacuation of children was only partly successful, with the support of the Croatian government, and child evacuees came back home for Christmas 1992. During the war, school facilities were seriously damaged, and had served as refugee and army centres. The paper presents how children, adults, local authorities and school employees tried to diminish overall effects of warfare on children.

**Key words:** children, war victims, Homeland War, Slavonski Brod, education.

Nenad Grgurica

### **The Customs System on the Sava River during the Homeland War**

Organization of the customs system on the border crossings on the River Sava during Homeland War was difficult because the aggressor had occupied that part of the Croatian territory across the bridges near Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška, and attacked targets in the Republic of Croatia from the right bank of the River Sava. In such circumstances the Customs Administration established customs offices in Slavonski Šamac, Slavonski Brod and Županja. The only customs office that was working after the war broke out in BiH was on the Županja-Orašje ferry crossing toward the free territory of Bosanska Posavina where the customs office of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna was working.

Right after the Flash and Storm campaign, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Croatia organized customs offices in the liberated territories along the River Sava. Cross-border traffic and customs control was established after the normalization of political relations. At first, there were pontoons and ferries, and later cross-border bridges to Bosnia and Herzegovina after their reconstruction: in Jasenovac, Stara Gradiška, Slavonski Brod, Slavonski Šamac, Županja and Gunja.

**Key words:** Customs Administration of the Republic of Croatia, Customs Administration of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna, Administration of Customs of the Republic of Serbian Krajina