

SABORSKO IN THE CROATIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

During the Croatian War of Independence, the territory of the Saborsko municipality was completely occupied. Plaški was the centre of the Serbian rebellion in this part of Croatia. Saborsko was the most affected by the war in the former Ogulin municipality. It was the only Croatian majority settlement occupied in the same area. When the Yugoslav People's Army and Serb forces occupied Saborsko, the occupied territories of the Ogulin municipality were merged with the rest of the so-called SAO Krajina. On the day of the occupation of Saborsko, on 12 November 1991, and days after that, 40 villagers were killed and the village was completely destroyed. All Croats were expelled from the occupied territory. An effective defense of the Ogulin area and the long-term defense of Saborsko prevented the rebel Serb forces in merging the occupied territory and the villages of the Serbian majority located in Gorski Kotar. This prevented cutting off Croatia in a vital part where all roads between the sea and lowland Croatia pass. The one-hundred-day defense of Saborsko from the first mortar attack on 5 August 1991 until the fall on 12 November 1991 greatly relieved the Ogulin and Karlovac front lines. A total of 52 civilians and defenders of Saborsko were killed, 6% of all the residents. This is one of the highest percentages of victims in one settlement during the Croatian War of Independence. A total of 66 Croats were killed and died in the wider area of the municipality and parish of Saborsko. Most Serbs fled shortly before Operation Storm. The said military operation reinstated the constitutional and legal order of the Republic of Croatia in the occupied territory on 5 August 1995.

Key words: Saborsko, Croatian War of Independence, Greater-Serbian aggression, victims, suffering