

= Battle of Loznica (1941) =

The Battle of Loznica involved an attack on the German garrison of that town by the Jadar Chetnik Detachment on 31 August 1941 . Following the World War II German @-@ led Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941 , the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was partitioned . At the time , Loznica was part of the German @-@ occupied territory of Serbia , which included Serbia proper , with the addition of the northern part of Kosovo (around Kosovska Mitrovica) , and the Banat .

The Chetniks attacked , led by Lieutenant Colonel Veselin Misita , who was killed during the assault . The Germans surrendered , and 93 were captured . This battle was closely followed by the joint Partisan @-@ Chetnik attack on the German garrison at Banja Kovilja?a .

= = Background = =

In April 1941 , Germany and its allies invaded and occupied the Kingdom of Yugoslavia , which was then partitioned . Some Yugoslav territory was annexed by its Axis neighbours , Hungary , Bulgaria and Italy . The Germans engineered and supported the creation of the puppet state , the Independent State of Croatia (Croatian : Nezavisna Dr?ava Hrvatska , NDH) , which roughly comprised most of the pre @-@ war Banovina Croatia , along with rest of present @-@ day Bosnia and Herzegovina and some adjacent territory . The Italians , Hungarians and Bulgarians occupied other parts of Yugoslavian territory . Germany did not annex any Yugoslav territory , but occupied northern parts of present @-@ day Slovenia and stationed occupation troops in the northern half of the NDH . The German @-@ occupied part of Slovenia was divided into two areas that were placed under the administration of the Gauleiters of the neighbouring Reichsgau Kärnten and Reichsgau Steiermark .

The remaining territory , which consisted of Serbia proper , the northern part of Kosovo (around Kosovska Mitrovica) , and the Banat was occupied by the Germans and placed under the administration of a German military government . This was due to the key rail and riverine transport routes that passed through it , and its valuable resources , particularly non @-@ ferrous metals .

In May , German troops of the 750th Infantry Regiment of the 704th Infantry Division were stationed in the Ma?va , Jadra and Pocerina (Cer) districts of the Podrinje region , garrisoning ?abac , Banja Kovilja?a and Loznica .

In early July , shortly after the launching of Operation Barbarossa against the Soviet Union , armed resistance began in the German @-@ occupied territory of Serbia , against both the German Army and the representatives of the German @-@ installed puppet government known as the Commissioner Government . This was a response to appeals from both Joseph Stalin and the Communist International for communist organisations across occupied Europe to draw German troops away from the Eastern Front , and followed a meeting of the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Communist Party in Belgrade on 4 July . This meeting resolved to shift to a general uprising , form Partisan detachments of fighters and commence armed resistance , and call for the populace to rise up against the occupiers throughout Yugoslavia . This also coincided with the departure of the last of the German invasion force that had remained to oversee the transition to occupation . From the appearance of posters and pamphlets urging the population to undertake sabotage , it rapidly turned to attempted and actual sabotage of German propaganda facilities and railway and telephone lines . The first fighting occurred at the village of Bela Crkva on 7 July , when gendarmes tried to disperse a public meeting , and two gendarmes were killed .

= = Prelude = =

In the Podrinje region , encompassing the Drina basin , a Partisan district committee had been formed on 29 June , to oversee the local uprising and form Partisan detachments . After collecting weapons and ammunition , the detachment 's first action was to attack the gendarmerie station in Bogati? on 7 August , disarming the gendarmes and capturing more weapons . Due to the scope of the local uprising , on 9 August the detachment was renamed the Podrinje Partisan Detachment .

They disarmed the re @-@ equipped gendarme platoon at Bogati? on 10 August , and then carried out the destruction of town archives , telephone lines and bridges in the district . By 14 August , the detachment 's ranks had swelled to about 360 fighters in six companies , the occupation forces and local collaborators were finding it difficult to use the road from the district centre ?abac to Loznica due to Partisan ambushes , and the railway line between the two towns was out of action .

The first royalist Chetnik units were mobilised by order of Dra?a Mihailovi? in August 1941 . In late July , Mihailovi? had sent a regular officer , Lieutenant Colonel Veselin Misita to the Jadar district as his emissary . Misita had established himself at the Trono?a Monastery near Loznica . The abbot of the monastery was Georgije Boji? , who was also a captain in the Royal Yugoslav Army reserves . In August , Misita and Boji? held a meeting with pro @-@ Chetnik people from the Jadar district to set up the Jadar Chetnik Detachment . Other key attendees included Nikola Gordi? and Mika Komar?evi? . On 15 August , the 25 @-@ strong Cer Chetnik Detachment was formed under the command of a regular artillery officer , Captain First Class Dragoslav Ra?i? . Due to Mihailovi? 's position that the Chetniks should prepare for an uprising , but not engage in fighting the occupiers until the time was right , some Chetniks left the Jadar detachment and joined the more aggressive Ra?i? or the Partisans .

Ra?i? signed a mutual cooperation agreement against the occupation forces with the commander of the Podrinje Partisans , Neboj?a Jerkovi? . Due to its lack of action against the Germans and puppet government , the Jadar Chetnik Detachment became quite isolated . Their leadership realised that the Partisans were getting stronger with each success against the occupiers , and the Chetnik position was becoming relatively weaker due to their inaction . Misita 's decision to attack Loznica was a consequence of the cooperation agreement Ra?i? signed with the Partisans .

= = Battle = =

At the time of the attack on Loznica , the Jadar Chetnik Detachment consisted of a large number of poorly organised peasants , drawn mainly from the villages around the town . The Germans had established strongpoints in the gymnasium , Vuk Karad?i? Cultural Centre , and the " Laze Hajdukovi? " cafe . The attack commenced at 07 : 00 , with Misita in the vanguard . He was killed at the head of his troops while throwing hand grenades at German positions . Many of the Germans surrendered in the face of the Chetnik assault . During the battle , Misita 's Chetniks suffered 18 killed and four wounded , while the Germans incurred several killed and wounded and 93 captured . The remaining Germans fled in the direction of Banja Kovilja?a . The wounded Germans were taken to hospital , and the rest of the captured troops were escorted to the monastery , and treated humanely .

At the same time as the Jadar Chetniks were attacking Loznica , Ra?i? 's Cer detachment attacked the village of Bogati? in accordance with the Chetnik @-@ Partisan agreement . The gendarmes had been reinforced by the 6th Company of the German 750th Infantry Regiment with artillery support . On the second day of the attack , the garrison was reinforced by the 7th Company of the 750th Infantry Regiment arriving from Sremska Mitrovica , and an additional platoon sent from ?abac . After two days fighting , Ra?i? 's Chetniks withdrew to Cer mountain with considerable losses , after which they marched to Loznica to join the Jadar Chetniks .

= = Aftermath and legacy = =

Following its capture , the Chetniks established a command post in the town and mobilised the populace . Supporters of the Partisans formed a local unit and directed workers into the fields and a nearby mine . The Partisans also set up a workshop in the town to manufacture hand grenades . After their failed attack on Bogati? , the two Chetnik detachments decided to attack Banja Kovilja?a . Launched on 1 September , this attack was initially unsuccessful . After being reinforced by the Podrinje Partisans , the town was captured in the early hours of 6 September . In the meantime , other elements of the Podrinje Partisan Detachment had expelled the German garrison and collaborationist gendarmes from Bogati? on 3 September . On 6 October 1941 , Loznica was re

@-@ occupied during the German Ma?va operation .

Josip Broz Tito 's biographer Vladimir Dedijer described Misita 's death as a great loss for the uprising . On 31 August 2008 , the deputy speaker of the Serbian National Assembly , Bo?idar Deli? of the Serbian Radical Party , dedicated a plaque to Misita in the Vuk Karad?i? Square in Loznica . One of the people present was the man that had applied for the plaque to be installed , Bo?idar Pani? , who had idolised Misita in his youth , and had lit a candle for him every year .

= = = Books = = =

= = = Journals = = =

= = = Websites = = =