

= Siege of Klis =

The Siege of Klis or Battle of Klis (Croatian : Opsada Klisa or Bitka kod Klisa , Turkish : Klise Ku?atmas?) was a siege of Klis Fortress in the Kingdom of Croatia within Habsburg Monarchy . The siege of the fortress , which lasted for more than two decades , and the final battle near Klis in 1537 , were fought as a part of the Ottoman ? Habsburg wars between the defending Croatian @-@ Habsburg forces under the leadership of Croatian feudal lord Petar Kru?i? , and the attacking Ottoman army under the leadership of the Ottoman general Murat @-@ beg Tardi? .

After decisive Ottoman victory at the Battle of Krbava field in 1493 , and especially after the Battle of Mohács in 1526 , the Croats continued defending themselves against the Ottoman attacks . The Ottoman conquest during the early years of the 16th century prompted the formation of the Uskoks , which were led by Croatian captain Petar Kru?i? , also called (Prince of Klis) . As a part of the Habsburg defensive system , Uskoks used the base at Klis as an important defensive position . They fought almost alone against the Ottomans , and for more than two decades defended the fortress against the Ottoman attacks .

After the final battle , which resulted in an Ottoman victory and in Petar Kru?i? 's death , the Klis defenders , who were lacking in water supplies , finally surrendered to the Ottomans in exchange for their freedom on 12 March 1537 . Citizens fled the town , while the Uskoci retreated to the city of Senj , where they continued fighting the Ottoman army . Klis became an administrative centre or sanjak (Kilis Sanca??) of the Bosnia Eyalet , and would remain so for a century .

= = Background = =

After the fall of the Kingdom of Bosnia into the Ottoman hands in 1463 , the southern and central parts of the Kingdom of Croatia remained unprotected , the defense of which was left to Croatian gentry who kept smaller troops in the fortified border areas at their own expense . Decisive Ottoman victory at the Battle of Krbava field in 1493 , shook all of Croatia . However , it did not dissuade the Croats from making more decisive and persistent attempts at defending themselves against the attacks of the much larger enemy . A new wave of Ottoman conquest began in 1521 , after which a good portion of Croatia was conquered or pillaged .

On 29 August 1526 , at the Battle of Mohács , the Christian forces led by King Louis II were defeated by Ottoman forces led by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent . Louis was killed in the battle , which resulted in the end of the independent Kingdom of Hungary as he died without an heir . Both the Kingdoms of Hungary and Croatia became disputed territories with claims from both the Habsburg and Ottoman empires . Ferdinand I , Archduke of Austria , a member of the House of Habsburg , the brother of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and a future Holy Roman Emperor himself , married the sister of Louis II and was elected King by the nobles of both Hungary and Croatia .

Owing to its location , Klis Fortress was an important defensive position during the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans . The fortress stands along the route by which the Ottomans could penetrate the mountain barrier separating the coastal lowlands from around Split , from Ottoman @-@ held Bosnia . The Croat feudal lord Petar Kru?i? gathered together a garrison composed of Croat refugees , who used the base at Klis both to hold the Ottomans at bay , and to engage in marauding and piracy against coastal shipping . Although nominally accepting the sovereignty of the Habsburg Emperor Ferdinand , who obtained the Croatian crown in 1527 , Kru?i? and his freebooting Uskoks were a law unto themselves .

= = Siege = =

= = = Failed attempts = = =

From 1513 , Petar Kru?i? was one of the commanding officers of Klis Fortress . The Ottomans

attempted to conquer the Klis Fortress on several occasions . The first major attempt was by Skender @-@ beg Ornosovi? in 1515 . The Ottomans captured Klis , a village just below the fortress bearing the same name , but the garrison in the fortress above held . Kru?i? was promoted to captain of the Klis Fortress by the ban Petar Berislavi? in 1520 . The second major attempt was in 1520 , and a year later another attempt was made by Makut @-@ pa?a , with additional 2 @,@ 000 infantry , 50 horsemen and siege equipment . Another unsuccessful attempt was made in 1522 , by Hasan @-@ pa?a from Mostar and Mehmed @-@ beg Mihalbegovi? . Later that year , Mihalbegovi? made another attempt at a siege with 3 @,@ 000 men , but failed again . During 1523 , Klis Fortress was again under attack by the Sultan 's army . Attempts were also made by Gazi Husrev @-@ beg in 1526 and 1528 , and later in 1531 and 1532 .

In 1534 , the Ottomans under Mihalbegovi? laid a months @-@ long siege with a constant concentrated cannonade to the fortress . Ferdinand urged the Pope to send ships to relieve the Ottoman siege . Although the Ottomans eventually lifted the siege , Ferdinand was displeased that the Pope had provided no assistance in the defense of the fortress . In 1535 , the Ottomans tried to seize the fortress by treachery , and again in 1536 , but they failed on both occasions . During that year the Ottomans started a new siege which would last until the final fall of the fortress .

When a large Ottoman force threatened the fortress , Kru?i? appealed to Ferdinand for help , but the Emperor 's attention was diverted by an Ottoman attack in Slavonia . Kru?i? led the defense of Klis , and with his soldiers fought almost alone against the Ottomans , as they repeatedly hurled armies against the fortress . No troops from the Hungarian king arrived , as they were slaughtered by the Ottomans at the Battle of Mohács in 1526 , and the Venetians balked at sending any help . Only the pope was willing to provide some men and money .

= = = Final battle = = =

Pope Paul III claimed some rights in Klis , and in September , 1536 , there was talk in the Curia of strengthening the defenses of the fortress . The Pope notified Ferdinand that he was willing to share the costs of maintaining a proper garrison in Klis . Ferdinand did send aid to Klis and was apparently hopeful of holding the fortress , when the Ottomans again laid siege to it . Ferdinand recruited men from Trieste and elsewhere in the Habsburg lands , and the Pope sent soldiers from Ancona . There were about 3 @,@ 000 infantry in the reinforcements , which made a sizeable relief force , that were commanded by Petar Kru?i? , Niccolo dalla Torre , and a papal commissioner Jacomo Dalmoro d 'Arbe . On 9 March 1537 they disembarked near Klis , at a place called S. Girolamo , with fourteen pieces of artillery . After Ibrahim 's death , Suleiman sent 8 @,@ 000 men under the command of Murat @-@ beg Tardi? (Amurat Vaivoda) , a Croatian who had been born in ?ibenik , to go and lay siege to Klis fortress (Clissa) , and fight against Kru?i? . An initial encounter of the Christian relief force with the Ottomans was indecisive , but , on 12 March they were overwhelmed by the arrival of a great number of Ottomans .

The attempts to relieve the citadel ended in farce . Badly @-@ drilled reinforcements sent by the Habsburgs fled in fear of the Ottomans , and their attempts to re @-@ board their boats at Solin Bay caused many vessels to sink . Niccolo dalla Torre and the papal commissioner managed to escape . Kru?i? himself ? who had left the fortress to make contact with the reinforcements - was captured and executed ; the sight of his head on a stick overwhelmed the remaining defenders of Klis , who were now willing to give up the fortress in return for safe passage north . After Kru?i? 's death , and with a lack of water supplies , the Klis defenders finally surrendered to the Ottomans in exchange for their freedom , on 12 March 1537 . Many of the citizens fled the town , while the Uskoci retreated to the city of Senj , where they continued fighting the Ottoman army .

= = Aftermath = =

During the Ottoman wars in Europe , Klis Fortress became an administrative centre or sanjak (Kilis Sanca??) of the Bosnia Eyalet , and would remain so for a century . As the first Sanjak @-@ Beg of Klis , Murat @-@ beg Tardi? built a notable mosque inside the Klis Fortress . That same year , the

Ottoman forces took Vrana , while Nadin and Peru?i? fell in 1538 .

Months after the fall of Klis , the Ottoman ? Venetian War of 1537 @-@ 1540 started , and in that war , as well as the Ottoman ? Venetian War of 1570 @-@ 1573 , the Ottomans took much of the Dalmatian hinterland near ?ibenik and Zadar . On 7 April 1596 , Split noblemen Ivan Alberti and Nikola Cindro , along with Uskoci , Polji?ani , and Ka?telani irregulars , organized a liberation of Klis . Assisted by dissident elements of the Ottoman garrison , they succeeded . Mustafa @-@ beg responded by bringing more than 10 @,@ 000 soldiers under the fortress . General Ivan Lenkovi? , leading 1 @,@ 000 Uskoci , came in relief of the 1 @,@ 500 Klis defenders . During the battle , Ivan Lenkovi? and his men retreated after he was wounded in battle , and the fortress was lost to the Ottomans , on 31 May . Nevertheless , this temporary relief resounded in Europe and among the local population .

The Venetians fought for decades before they finally managed to re @-@ take Klis . During the Cretan War of 1645 @-@ 1669 , the Venetians in Dalmatia enjoyed the support of the local population , particularly the Morlachs (Morlacchi) . Venetian commander Leonardo Foscolo seized several forts , retook Novigrad , temporarily captured the Knin Fortress , and managed to compel the garrison of Klis Fortress to surrender .