

= Mladen Stojanovi? =

Mladen Stojanovi? (Serbian Cyrillic : ?????? ?????????? ; 7 April 1896 ? 1 April 1942) was a Bosnian Serb physician who led a detachment of Partisans on and around Mount Kozara in northwestern Bosnia during World War II in Yugoslavia . He was posthumously bestowed the Order of the People 's Hero .

At fifteen , Stojanovi? became an activist in a group of student organizations called Young Bosnia , which strongly opposed Austria @-@ Hungary 's occupation of Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina . In 1912 , Stojanovi? was inducted into Narodna Odbrana , an association founded in Serbia with the goal of organizing guerrilla resistance to Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina 's annexation by Austria @-@ Hungary . Stojanovi? was arrested by the Austro @-@ Hungarian authorities in July 1914 , and although he was sentenced to 16 years ' imprisonment , he was pardoned in 1917 . He graduated as a Doctor of Medicine after World War I , and in 1929 , opened a private practice in the town of Prijedor . In September 1940 , he became a member of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (KPJ) .

Following the invasion of Yugoslavia by the Axis powers and their creation of the Independent State of Croatia , Stojanovi? was arrested at the behest of the Usta?e , Croatia 's fascist ruling party . He escaped prison and went to Kozara , where he joined fellow communists that had escaped from Prijedor . The KPJ chose Stojanovi? to lead the communist uprising in Prijedor . The uprising began on 30 July 1941 , although neither Stojanovi? nor any of the other communists had much control over it at this stage . The Serb villagers of the district seized control of a number of villages and threatened Prijedor , which was defended by the Germans , Usta?e , and Croatian Home Guards . In August 1941 , Stojanovi? was recognised as the principal leader of the Kozara insurgents , who were then organised into Partisan military units . Under Stojanovi? 's direction , the Kozara Partisans began attacking the fascists from the end of September 1941 . In early November 1941 , all Partisan units in Kozara were merged into the 2nd Krajina National Liberation Partisan Detachment , commanded by Stojanovi? . By the end of the year , most of Kozara ? covering about 2 @,@ 500 square kilometres (970 sq mi) ? was controlled by Stojanovi? 's detachment .

On 30 December 1941 , Stojanovi? arrived in the Grme? district , which was in the zone of responsibility of the 1st Krajina National Liberation Partisan Detachment . The Italian troops operating in that area portrayed themselves as protectors of the Serb people . Stojanovi? 's tasks was to counter such propaganda and mobilise the Partisans of the 1st Krajina Detachment to fight against the Italians . He stayed in the area until mid @-@ February 1942 , by which time the Partisan leadership of Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina considered he had completed his tasks successfully . At the end of February 1942 , Stojanovi? was appointed chief of staff of the Operational Headquarters for Bosanska Krajina ? a unified command of all Partisan forces in the regions of Bosanska Krajina and central Bosnia . The Operational Headquarters ' main task was to counter the rising influence of the Serb nationalist Chetniks in those regions . On 5 March 1942 , Stojanovi? was severely wounded in a Chetnik ambush . He was taken to a field hospital in the village of Jo?avka . Members of the Jo?avka Partisan Company defected to the Chetniks on the night of 31 March , and took Stojanovi? prisoner . The next night , a group of Chetniks killed him . In April 1942 , the 2nd Krajina Detachment was named " Mladen Stojanovi? " in his honour , and a few months later he was posthumously awarded the Order of the People 's Hero . After the war , his service to the Partisan cause was commemorated by the construction of a memorial in Prijedor , the naming of streets , public buildings and a park after him , in song and in film .

= = Early life = =

Stojanovi? was the third child and the first son of Serbian Orthodox priest Simo Stojanovi? and his wife Jovanka . He was born in Prijedor on 7 April 1896 . Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina was then occupied by Austria @-@ Hungary ; Prijedor was located in Bosanska Krajina , the north @-@ western region of the province . Stojanovi? 's father was the third generation of his family to serve as a Serbian Orthodox priest . He had graduated from a theology faculty , becoming the first in the family to attain a higher level of education . Simo was active in the political struggle for ecclesiastical

and educational autonomy for the Serbs in Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina . Mladen Stojanovi? 's maternal grandfather was a Serbian Orthodox priest from Dubica , Teodor Vujasinovi? ; he had participated in Pecija 's revolt against the Ottoman Empire .

Stojanovi? completed his elementary education at the Serbian Elementary School in Prijedor in 1906 . In 1907 , he finished the first grade of his secondary education at the gymnasium in Sarajevo , before he entered the gymnasium in Tuzla , where he would complete the remaining seven grades . His brother Sreten Stojanovi? ? who would become a prominent sculptor ? joined him at the Tuzla gymnasium in 1908 .

= = Young Bosnia activist = =

Austria @-@ Hungary annexed Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina on 6 October 1908 , which caused the Annexation Crisis in Europe . The Kingdom of Serbia protested and mobilised its army , but then on 31 March 1909 , it formally accepted the annexation . In 1911 , Mladen Stojanovi? became a member of the secret association of students of the Tuzla gymnasium called Narodno Jedinstvo (National Unity) ; its members described it as a youth society of nationalists . It was one of a group of diverse student organisations later called Young Bosnia , which strongly opposed Austria @-@ Hungary 's rule over Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina . The activists of Young Bosnia were Bosnian Serbs , Muslims , and Croats , though most were Serbs . The first organisation regarded to be part of this group was established in 1904 by Serb students of the Mostar gymnasium . 1905 saw considerable political unrest among the Serb and Croat students of the Tuzla gymnasium . Although the provincial government imposed the name " Bosnian " on the language of the province (Serbo @-@ Croatian) , the students demonstratively termed it as Serbian or Croatian depending on their ethnic affiliation .

Young Bosnia 's activists regarded literature as indispensable to revolution , and most of them wrote poems , short stories , or critiques . Stojanovi? wrote poems , and read the works of Petar Ko?i? , Aleksa ?anti? , Vladislav Petkovi? Dis , Sima Pandurovi? , Milan Raki? , and later the works of Russian authors . In his final years at the gymnasium , he read Plato , Aristotle , Rousseau , Bakunin , Nietzsche , Jaurès , Le Bon , Ibsen , and Marinetti . National Unity held meetings at which its members presented lectures and discussed current issues concerning the Serbian people of Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina . All members of the association were Serbs . Generally , Stojanovi? 's lectures were about educating people on practical issues of health and the economy . During the summer break of 1911 , Stojanovi? travelled across Bosanska Krajina lecturing in villages . One of the aims of Young Bosnia was to eliminate the backwardness of their country .

In early @-@ to @-@ mid 1912 , Stojanovi? and his schoolmate Todor Ili? joined Narodna Odbrana (National Defence) , an association founded in Serbia in December 1908 on the initiative of Branislav Nu?i? . It aimed to organise a guerrilla resistance to the Austrian annexation of Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina , and to spread nationalist propaganda . National Defence soon established a network of local committees throughout Serbia and Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina . Its members from the latter territory gathered intelligence on the Austrian army and passed it to the Serbian secret service .

Stojanovi? and Ili? travelled illegally to Serbia during the summer break of 1912 to receive military training that National Defence organised for its members . They stayed for several days in Belgrade , the capital of Serbia , where they met Gavrilo Princip , another activist of Young Bosnia who was also a member of National Defence . Stojanovi? and Ili? then spent a month at army barracks in Vranje in southern Serbia , undergoing military training under the command of Vojin Popovi? , a famous Chetnik guerrilla fighter . When they returned to school , they resumed their activities with National Unity . Its members decided that Muslims should also be drawn into the association . After Trifko Grabe? was expelled from the Tuzla gymnasium for slapping a teacher during a quarrel , the association organised a school strike . Most of the students who participated were Serbs ; the strike gained little support among students of other ethnicities . The school took disciplinary measures against Ili? and Stojanovi? , who were regarded as the main organisers of the strike , and Ili? lost his scholarship .

In the autumn of 1913 , Stojanovi? commenced the final year of his secondary education . National

emaciated that Ili? could hardly recognise him . He recovered and took a course in shoe @-@ making which was given in the prison . Afterwards , he fell seriously ill and had to undergo surgery in the prison hospital . In late 1917 , the Austrian authorities pardoned all convicts of the Tuzla group except Ili? . Mladen went to his family in Prijedor . After a medical examination , he was declared unfit for army service due to his surgery and as a result was not drafted into the Austrian army . He entered the School of Medicine , University of Zagreb , shortly before the disintegration of Austria @-@ Hungary in November 1918 .

= = Interwar period = =

The Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes ? renamed Yugoslavia in 1929 ? was created on 1 December 1918 , and incorporated Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina . Stojanovi? continued studying medicine in Zagreb . As a former activist of Young Bosnia , he was offered a King 's scholarship but he refused it . In Zagreb , he reunited with his former schoolmate Nikola Nikoli? , who had also been a member of National Unity . After his release from the Zenica prison , Nikoli? was drafted into the Austrian army and sent to the Russian front where he surrendered to the Russians and participated in the October Revolution . Nikoli? 's account of the revolution influenced Stojanovi? to adopt a more leftist stance . During this period , Stojanovi? 's favourite authors were Maksim Gorky and Miroslav Krle?a . His professor of anatomy , Drago Perovi? , arranged for him to visit an anatomical institute in Vienna . Stojanovi? went there several times in 1921 and 1922 and befriended members of a leftist association of Yugoslav students at the Vienna University . When they held a protest against the king and government of Yugoslavia , Stojanovi? took part and delivered a speech . Behind the protest stood the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (Komunisti?ka partija Jugoslavije , KPJ) .

Stojanovi? graduated as a Doctor of Medicine in 1926 , and he worked for two years as a trainee physician in Zagreb and Sarajevo . He then opened a private practice in Pu?i?a on the Adriatic island of Bra? . In 1929 , he returned to Prijedor , where he opened a practice on the first floor of the Stojanovi? family house , where his mother had lived alone since his father 's death in 1926 . Stojanovi? soon became a popular figure in Prijedor ; his patients said that simply talking with him was curative . He treated poor people for free ; he once sent a homeless man to a hospital in Zagreb and paid for his surgery . Stojanovi? earned well and had a good standard of living . People from other areas of Bosanska Krajina also went to him for medical treatment . In villages around Prijedor , where brawls were common , rowdies sang about him :

In 1931 , Stojanovi? was contracted to the Prijedor branch of the state railway company to provide healthcare for its employees . In 1936 , he was contracted to an iron ore mining company in Ljubija , a town near Prijedor , and would visit the mining company clinic twice a week . He also taught hygiene at the gymnasium in Prijedor . Together with other intellectuals from the town , he gave lectures to the miners at their club in Ljubija . His lectures were usually about medical issues , but he also described the economic and social position of workers in more advanced countries . He socialised with the miners and treated their family members for free . He was very active socially , and also participated in sports . In 1932 , he founded the tennis club of Prijedor , which continues to bear his name . Stojanovi? once bought new kit for all members of the Rudar Ljubija football club . His contracts with the railway company and the mining company were both terminated in 1939 . The railway employees protested in Prijedor , and Stojanovi? 's contract with that company was subsequently renewed .

The Ljubija miners were on strike between 2 August and 8 September 1940 . Some of the leaders of the strike were members of a secret KPJ cell in Ljubija , which was formed in January 1940 . The KPJ had been outlawed in Yugoslavia since 1921 . The KPJ organisation of Banja Luka sent its experienced member Branko Babi? to help the strike leaders . According to Babi? , a communist from Prijedor introduced him to Stojanovi? at the beginning of September 1940 . Babi? stayed for several days at the doctor 's house , running the strike . Seeing Stojanovi? as a communist sympathiser , Babi? proposed that he join the KPJ . Stojanovi? at first declined , saying that he still had bourgeois habits , though he had read much of the Marxist literature . After further conversations with Babi? , Stojanovi? agreed to become a member of the party .

At the end of September 1940 , Babi? and all five members of the Ljubija cell held a meeting at which they unanimously decided to admit Stojanovi? into the KPJ . Babi? held him in high esteem and regarded him as ardently devoted to the communist cause . Some communists , however , continued to refer to Stojanovi? as a communist sympathiser , and some regarded him as a " salon communist " .

= = Onset of World War II = =

On 6 April 1941 , Yugoslavia was invaded from all sides by the Axis powers , led by German forces . Stojanovi? was assigned as a physician to an infantry battalion based in Banja Luka . For several days after the invasion this battalion moved toward Dalmatia , before it completely disintegrated without fighting the enemy , and Stojanovi? returned to Prijedor . The Royal Yugoslav Army capitulated on 17 April , and the Axis powers proceeded to dismember Yugoslavia . Almost all of modern @-@ day Croatia , all of modern @-@ day Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina , and parts of modern @-@ day Serbia were combined into a puppet state called the Independent State of Croatia (Croatian : Nezavisna Dr?ava Hrvatska , NDH) . It was an " Italian @-@ German quasi @-@ protectorate " , which was controlled by the fascist Usta?e led by Ante Paveli? . One of its policies was to eliminate the ethnic Serb population of the NDH through mass killings , expulsions and forced assimilation , and many Serbs fled from the NDH to the German @-@ occupied territory of Serbia .

These repressive measures included taking prominent Serbs hostage against Serb attacks . To avoid being taken as a hostage , Stojanovi? paid 100 @, @ 000 dinars to the Usta?e in Prijedor . Resistance began to emerge in occupied Yugoslavia ; royalists and Serbian nationalists under the leadership of then @-@ Colonel Dra?a Mihailovi? founded the Ravna Gora Movement , whose members were called Chetniks . The KPJ , led by Josip Broz Tito , prepared to rise to arms at a favourable moment . In the view of the KPJ , the fight against the Axis and its domestic collaborators would be a common fight of all Yugoslav peoples .

Operation Barbarossa , the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union , began on 22 June 1941 . On the same day , the Usta?e began arresting communists and their known sympathisers in the towns of Bosanska Krajina , including Prijedor . The communists had predicted this , and most of them avoided capture by escaping to the villages or hiding in the towns . Stojanovi? was one of the few communists arrested in Prijedor . He was imprisoned with the Serb hostages on the second floor of a school in the town . They were subjected to forced labour , being led each morning through the town to repair the road to Kozarac . The column of hostages was usually headed by Stojanovi? carrying a shovel on his shoulder . The Croatian Home Guards guarding the prison treated him well . While detained , Stojanovi? lectured a group of hostages about Marxism .

On the day of the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union , the Executive Committee of the Communist International ? headquartered in Moscow ? telegraphed the Central Committee of the KPJ to take all measures to support and alleviate the struggle of the Soviet people , and to organise partisan detachments to fight the Axis in Yugoslavia . The Executive Committee also stressed that the fight , at the current stage , should not be about socialist revolution , but about the liberation from the Axis occupiers . In response to this appeal , the leaders of the KPJ decided on 4 July in Belgrade to launch a nationwide armed uprising , which began three days later in western Serbia . The members of the KPJ @-@ led forces were called Partisans , and their supreme commander was Tito . On 13 July , in Sarajevo , the KPJ Provincial Committee for Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina , headed by Svetozar Vukmanovi? , organised the province into military regions : Bosanska Krajina , Herzegovina , Tuzla , and Sarajevo .

The Prijedor communists were keen to rescue Stojanovi? from his imprisonment , but their attempts to bribe the Usta?e to release him failed . They also considered storming the school in which he was kept . On 17 July , just after midnight , Stojanovi? asked a guard to let him go to the toilet on the first floor of the school . The guard let him go and followed closely behind him . When they were halfway down the stairs , Stojanovi? shouted " Fire ! " as smoke came from a room on the second floor . During the commotion of the guards and hostages extinguishing the fire , Stojanovi? entered the

toilet and escaped through the window . He went to the village of Orlovci , several kilometres from Prijedor , where he was accompanied by Rade Ba?i? ? a young communist who had earlier escaped from the town . Ba?i? escorted Stojanovi? toward Mount Kozara (978 m (3 @,@ 209 ft) high) , north of the Prijedor plain .

After Stojanovi? 's escape , the Usta?e arrested his wife , Mira . His son , Vojin , born in 1940 , was cared for by Mira 's former husband . Mira was released from prison after several months , and she and Vojin went to Dubrovnik . Stojanovi? 's brothers and sisters had lived in Belgrade since before the war .

= = Yugoslav Partisan = =

= = = Kozara area = = =

= = = = July ? August 1941 = = = =

On the morning of 19 July 1941 , Stojanovi? and Ba?i? arrived at the camp of the communists and their sympathisers who escaped from Prijedor , situated at Rajli?a Kosa above the village of Malo Palan?i?te . The news of Stojanovi? 's escape soon spread throughout the Prijedor district . The group , mostly in the early twenties , enjoyed an increase in their credibility and esteem since a well @-@ known and respected doctor had joined their camp . People from surrounding Serb villages brought food and other supplies to Stojanovi? and his young comrades . Stojanovi? gave speeches to the villagers , telling them to be prepared for an impending uprising and urging them to bring him rifles they were hiding in their homes . The camp at Rajli?a Kosa was the first Partisan camp in the Kozara area .

Kozara , located in northern Bosanska Krajina and centred around Mount Kozara , covers about 2 @,@ 500 square kilometres (970 square miles) . In 1941 , the area had a population of nearly 200 @,@ 000 people . The villagers were mostly Serbs , and the towns in the area ? the biggest of which was Prijedor ? had a mixed Bosnian Muslim , Serb , and Croat population . Several villages were inhabited by ethnic Germans or Volksdeutsche . The economy of Kozara was dominated by agriculture , but there were about 6 @,@ 000 workers employed in a coal mine and several plants . The first communist cells in the area were established shortly before the Axis invasion , mostly in the towns . Kozara had seen four uprisings against the Ottomans during the 19th century .

On the night of 25 July 1941 , at Orlovci , Stojanovi? and seven other leading communists of Kozara had a meeting with ?uro Pucar , the head of the KPJ Regional Committee for Bosanska Krajina . Pucar told the assembled communists that military actions against the enemy should start as soon as possible . The actions should be of a guerrilla type , for which purpose Partisan detachments should be formed . Stojanovi? and Osman Karabegovi? were appointed to lead the uprising in the Prijedor district . On 27 July , in western Bosanska Krajina , Partisans took the town of Drvar , marking the beginning of the uprising in Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina . At this stage , the insurgents in Kozara were still not organised into military units . In the district of Prijedor , Stojanovi? and Karabegovi? had little control over the men from the villages who took up arms . Pucar referred to the district 's insurgents as the " Prijedor Company " , the bulk of which were villagers , numbering several hundred men . Many of them had no firearms .

According to Pucar , the Prijedor Company was directed to attack Ljubija . On 30 July , contrary to Stojanovi? 's direct order , the insurgents attacked Veliko Palan?i?te and rescued fifteen hostages held by the Usta?e . The insurgents then advanced toward Prijedor and developed a position facing the town , which was defended by Croatian Home Guards , Usta?e , and German forces . A front line stabilised after three days of fighting , leaving the Prijedor Company in control of seven villages . Railway traffic between Ljubija and Zagreb was disrupted , stopping the export of iron ore from Ljubija to Germany . The uprising in Kozara also involved the districts of Dubica and Novi . By mid @-@ August , five detachments of Partisans had been formed within the territory held by the Kozara

insurgents . These detachments , including the Prijedor Detachment commanded by Stojanovi? , together held the front line facing Kozarac , Prijedor , Lje?ljani , Dobrljin , Kostajnica , and Dubica .

The leaders of the uprising in Kozara met on 15 August 1941 in the village of Kne?ica . At the conference , Stojanovi? was recognised as the principal leader in Kozara ; this recognition mostly resulted from his pre @-@ war social status and good reputation among the people . It was concluded that forming a front line was a mistake because it was not consistent with guerrilla warfare . At some point during the conference , Stojanovi? stressed the importance of keeping as many enemy troops as possible in the area , so that they could not be sent to the Russian front to fight the Red Army . As the five detachments in the area were tied to their specific territories , it was decided that another detachment ? which could operate anywhere in Kozara ? should be formed . It was decided that Stojanovi? would command this new Kozara Detachment , and Karabegovi? would be the political commissar . It was promptly formed with about forty men . Carrying a red banner , the Kozara Detachment paraded for a couple of days through villages in the Partisan @-@ held territory . The villagers gathered and Stojanovi? delivered speeches .

Croatian Home Guards , Usta?e , and a German battalion from Banja Luka ? about 10 @,@ 000 soldiers ? attacked the Partisan @-@ held territory in Kozara on 18 August 1941 . The enemy troops broke through the Partisan front line and penetrated into the area . They burnt houses and looted cattle and grain in the villages . Some of the villagers became demoralised , and blamed the Partisans for their losses ; some placed white flags on their houses . The Partisan units retreated deeper into forested areas in the mountains . Stojanovi? led the Kozara Detachment toward Lisina , the highest peak of Kozara . In the evening , he assembled his men and told them that they were in the army of the KPJ and all peoples of Yugoslavia , so they could not allow themselves to be attached to any specific village or area . He advised those who could not detach themselves from their homes to lay down their weapons and leave . Several men left the detachment , which then moved toward Lisina where they organised a camp and spent some time in military training and political indoctrination . The attack of 18 August was the first counter @-@ insurgency operation in Kozara , and the Partisans emerged from it without significant losses .

= = = = September ? December 1941 = = = =

The leaders of the Kozara uprising assembled again on 10 September 1941 , at the foot of Lisina . The five detachments of the Kozara Partisans were re @-@ arranged into three companies , possessing 217 rifles altogether . At the end of September , the Kozara Partisans began attacking NDH and German troops , initially targeting weaker elements . These operations gave them military experience and they also captured weapons and ammunition from the enemy . More men joined the Partisans , and two more companies had been formed in Kozara by the end of October . The Partisans gained control over a number of villages . After a reorganization , Partisan units in Kozara were merged into the 2nd Krajina National Liberation Partisan Detachment in early November 1941 . Stojanovi? was appointed commander of this detachment . By mid @-@ November , it consisted of 670 men organised in six companies and armed with 510 rifles , 5 light machine guns , and a heavy machine gun .

Between the end of September and the end of December 1941 , the Kozara Partisans conducted around forty military operations against the enemy . Stojanovi? helped plan and execute the major operations , including the battles of Podgradci , Mrakovica , and Turjak . Stojanovi? argued that the village of Podgradci should be captured because it was situated deep within Kozara , because the enemy could easily disrupt the Partisans ' advance toward other villages of the district of Gradi?ka , and because there was a sawmill in Podgradci which supplied the NDH and Germans . On 23 October 1941 , Partisans under Stojanovi? 's command took Podgradci after five hours of fighting . The sawmill and its stored products ? including a large quantity of railroad ties , with which the Germans were allegedly planning to repair railways destroyed by Soviet partisans in occupied Ukraine ? were burnt down . Stojanovi? saw this action as a symbolic collaboration with the Red Army . A number of Usta?e and Croatian Home Guards were captured in Podgradci . The Usta?e were promptly executed , and the Home Guards were given a speech by Stojanovi? before the

Partisans gave them food and escorted them across the Una River .

The third counter @-@ insurgency operation in Kozara was undertaken at the end of November 1941 by about 19 @,@ 000 Croatian Home Guards , Usta?e , and Germans . The Partisans emerged from the operation without significant losses , though NDH propaganda claimed that the rebels in Kozara were destroyed and that Stojanovi? had been killed . The Kozara Partisans never repeated the mistake of frontal resistance . When stronger enemy forces advanced toward them , they manoeuvred to position themselves behind the attackers , thus avoiding battles they could not win . The Partisans therefore did not defend villages . During the third counter @-@ insurgency operation , the Usta?e and Germans killed hundreds of Serb civilians in the villages , resulting in a loss of support for the Partisans among the population . Stojanovi? thought that a significant victory over the enemy would be the best way to restore the lost support .

After the third counter @-@ insurgency operation , a battalion of the Croatian Home Guard was stationed on Mrakovica , a peak in Kozara . Stojanovi? ordered an attack by five companies of the 2nd Krajina Detachment on the battalion , which began on 5 December 1941 at 5 : 30 am . The battle ended by 9 : 30 am with a decisive victory to the Partisans . They lost five men , while 78 Home Guards were killed and around 200 were captured . The Partisans seized 155 rifles , 12 light and 6 heavy machine guns , 4 mortars , 120 mortar rounds , and 19 @,@ 000 rounds of small arms ammunition . The last action of the 2nd Krajina Detachment under Stojanovi? 's command was the battle of Turjak . Four companies of the detachment attacked and captured the village on 16 December 1941 , taking 134 Home Guards prisoner . Letters written by the Home Guards to their families revealed their extremely low morale . The capture of Turjak opened up the district of Gradi?ka to the Kozara Partisans . The Home Guards retreated from Podgradci without significant resistance . Soon , most of the district was under Partisan control and Stojanovi? 's detachment controlled most of Mount Kozara and the surrounding Potkozarje region .

More men joined Stojanovi? 's detachment , and at the end of 1941 it had over one thousand well @-@ armed soldiers organised in three battalions of three companies each . The detachment established good relations with the Muslim population of the area , with a number of Muslims from Kozarac joining the Partisans . On 21 December at Lisina , Pucar held a meeting with the communists of Kozara . At the meeting , Stojanovi? presented a short history of the uprising in Kozara . Pucar stated that the 2nd Krajina was the best @-@ organised detachment in Bosanska Krajina .

On 24 December , the Home Guard 's Banja Luka headquarters offered a reward for Stojanovi? . A Home Guard document described him as the most intelligent and dangerous rebel leader , who planned and carried out attacks in a highly systematic manner . The headquarters was especially concerned about Stojanovi? 's treatment of captured Home Guards : he would give them a communist propaganda speech , offer them food and cigarettes , dress their wounds , and let them go home . According to the headquarters , this treatment rendered these particular Home Guards useless in future operations against the Partisans . According to Drago Karasijevi? , the courage and fighting spirit of the Kozara Partisans became famous in Bosanska Krajina , in other parts of Bosnia and in the areas of the NDH bordering on Bosnia . In the villages of Kozara , people sang about Stojanovi? :

= = = Grme? area = = =

On 29 or 30 December 1941 , Stojanovi? arrived in the area of Grme? in western Bosanska Krajina , which was in the zone of responsibility of the 1st Krajina National Liberation Partisan Detachment . This zone also included Drvar , where the uprising in Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina began . The military activities of the Partisans there diminished after the capture of Drvar by Italian troops on 25 September 1941 . In the Italians ' propaganda , they presented themselves as protectors of the Serbian people against the Usta?e . Groups of Serbs collaborated with the Italians . According to Karabegovi? , the Partisans of the 1st Krajina Detachment became more active after Pucar held a conference with their commanders on 15 December 1941 , but this activity was still weak in northern parts of Grme? . Stojanovi? went there to counter the Italian propaganda and to mobilise the

Partisans against the Italians and their collaborators ; he was accompanied by Karabegović .

According to the writer Branko Ćopić , who was a Partisan in Grmeč , Stojanović was greeted by a crowd of villagers and welcomed with the traditional bread and salt ceremony when he crossed the Sana River . Prominent villagers shook hands with him , and they compared him with Miloš Obilić ? a famous Serbian epic hero from the medieval Battle of Kosovo . Several women approached Stojanović to kiss his hands ; he declined this mark of respect , saying that he was not a priest but a communist .

Stojanović visited the villages in the area , inspecting individual companies and platoons of the 1st Krajina Detachment . His visits were accompanied by parades of Partisan units and by mass gatherings . Partisan songs were sung , slogans were shouted , and banners were waved . Stojanović gave speeches to the villagers and soldiers . He said that the Italian troops in the area were not protectors of the Serbs , but occupiers and enemies . He branded those who collaborated with the Italians as traitors to the Serbian people . Stojanović 's speeches were not well received by some people , who spread rumours that he was not Mladen Stojanović , but a " Turk " (Muslim) impersonator . According to them , Stojanović had been killed by the Ustaše in August 1941 and the communists were using an impersonator to deceive the people . Few people gave credence to these rumours .

On 22 January 1942 , at the headquarters of the 1st Krajina Detachment in the village of Majkić Japra , Stojanović presided over a conference of the detachment staff and political activists of Grmeč . He criticised the detachment headquarters because it had no division of functions and there was no personal accountability among its members . He also stated the headquarters had no communication with the companies of the detachment , did not act as a military @-@ political leadership , and there were no designated couriers available at all times at the headquarters . Stojanović was generally pleased with the Grmeč Partisans , describing them as courageous , enthusiastic , firm , and trustworthy but somewhat inexperienced . However , he said that the platoons of the detachment were dispersed in villages and had no contact with each other . In this way , according to Stojanović , the Partisans were losing their soldierly characteristics and becoming more like peasants . Stojanović criticised the views of some Partisans that political commissars should be abolished . He warned that the Partisans who wore emblems other than the red star would be punished for indiscipline .

At the conference , Stojanović installed Milorad Mijatović ? a Partisan from Kozara ? as the new commander of the 1st Krajina and Petar Vojnović as deputy commander , while Velimir Stojnić and Salamon " Moni " Levi remained as commissar and deputy commissar , respectively . Levi was an acquaintance of Stojanović 's from his visits to Vienna in 1921 and 1922 . During his tour of Grmeč , Stojanović met the young writer Branko Ćopić , and encouraged him to write poetry about the fight of the Partisans . Stojanović said poetry was more acceptable for the Partisans than prose . " Poetry and revolution , " he remarked , " always go hand in hand . " He stayed in the area until mid @-@ February 1942 . The Partisan leadership of Bosnia @-@ Herzegovina considered that Stojanović had successfully countered the Italian propaganda and improved the condition of the 1st Krajina Detachment during his tour .

= = = North @-@ west central Bosnia = = =

Stojanović left Grmeč and went to Skender Vakuf in northwest central Bosnia to participate in the first regional conference of the KPJ in Bosanska Krajina , which was held from 21 to 23 February 1942 . In the Partisan territorial structure , the military @-@ political region of Bosanska Krajina included central Bosnia . At the Skender Vakuf conference , presided over by Pucar , Stojanović and Karabegović , the participants analysed the military and political situation in the region . The increase of Chetnik influence ? which was strongest in southeastern Bosanska Krajina and northwest central Bosnia in the zones of responsibility of the 3rd and 4th Krajina Detachments ? was a big problem for the KPJ . A number of Partisans of these detachments joined the Chetnik side . Only in Kozara had Chetnik influence been held at bay . At the conference , Stojanović was appointed to lead a unified command of Partisan forces in Bosanska Krajina , but on 24 February he

was replaced with Kosta Na? . The unified command was named the Operational Headquarters for Bosanska Krajina , and Stojanovi? became its chief of staff and deputy commander .

According to Na? , the split between the Partisans and the Chetniks in Bosanska Krajina and central Bosnia began on 14 December 1941 in the village of Javorani . Lazar Te?anovi? , the schoolteacher in Javorani , influenced members of the local Partisan unit to join the Chetnik side . Te?anovi? then organised a Chetnik unit of about 70 to 80 men , and at the beginning of March 1942 he and his men were in the village of Lipovac . On 5 March , Stojanovi? , Na? , and Danko Mitrov (the commander of the 4th Krajina Detachment) set out for Lipovac with the Kozara Proletarian Company , an assault unit formed in February 1942 . According to some sources , they went to Lipovac for pre @-@ arranged negotiations with Te?anovi? , while other sources state that they intended to disarm Te?anovi? and his Chetniks . When the column of the Partisans approached the school in Lipovac , they were ambushed by Chetniks , and Stojanovi? was severely wounded in the head . The Partisans remained pinned down by Chetnik fire until evening ; thirteen were killed and eight beside Stojanovi? were wounded . At nightfall , he and the other wounded were transported to the Partisan field hospital in Jo?avka .

Stojanovi? was in the field hospital for about 10 days before he was moved to a house around 800 metres (870 yards) away . At the end of March 1942 , the Operational Headquarters for Bosanska Krajina and the headquarters of the 4th Krajina Detachment were both located in Jo?avka . The two headquarters and the field hospital were attacked on the night of 31 March by members of the Jo?avka Partisan Company , who had joined the Chetnik side under the influence and leadership of Radoslav " Rade " Radi? , the deputy commissar of the 4th Krajina Detachment . That night , the Chetniks killed 15 Partisans in Jo?avka . According to Danica Perovi? , the physician who attended Stojanovi? , the Chetniks took his weapons and posted a sentry outside the house . Through a messenger , Radi? told Stojanovi? to write a letter ordering Danko Mitrov to remove all Partisan units from the area around Jo?avka . Stojanovi? , however , wrote a letter encouraging Mitrov to continue the Partisan fight . The next night , a group of Chetniks came to Stojanovi? , placed him on a blanket , and carried him out of the house . When they approached a nearby stream called Mlinska Rijeka , one of them shot Stojanovi? twice , killing him .

On 2 April , local villagers buried Stojanovi? on a steep , wooded hillside . By the end of April 1942 , most of the companies of the 4th Krajina National Liberation Partisan Detachment had joined the Chetnik side or disintegrated . Rade Radi? became the commander of the Chetnik detachments in Bosanska Krajina . After the war , Radi? was sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Yugoslavia ; he was executed by firing squad in 1945 . Stojanovi? 's remains were exhumed and reburied at Prijedor in November 1961 .

= = Legacy = =

On 19 April 1942 , the headquarters of the 2nd Krajina Detachment changed its name to the 2nd Krajina National Liberation Partisan Detachment " Mladen Stojanovi? " . The Kozara Partisans vowed to avenge Stojanovi? 's death on all the " enemies of the people " . The 2nd Krajina Detachment and four companies of the 1st Krajina Detachment liberated Prijedor on 16 May 1942 . On 7 August 1942 , the Partisans ' supreme headquarters proclaimed Stojanovi? a People 's Hero of Yugoslavia .

A monument to Stojanovi? was created by his brother Sreten after the war and erected in Prijedor . Streets , firms , schools , hospitals , pharmacies , and associations were named after Stojanovi? throughout socialist Yugoslavia , and songs were composed celebrating him as a hero . A Partisan film about him , titled Doktor Mladen , was released in Yugoslavia in 1975 . Stojanovi? was played by Ljuba Tadi? , who received an award for his performance at the Pula Film Festival .

Each year in April , Stojanovi? is commemorated in Prijedor and wreaths are laid at his monument . At the 2012 commemoration , the president of the Partisan War Veterans ' Association of Republika Srpska declared :

Mladen je bio ?ovjek za primjer , revolucionar od najranije mladosti pa do kraja ?ivota , najpopularnija li?nost ustanka na Kozari , Krajini i mnogo ?ire i jedan od najhrabrijih boraca i

rukovodilaca Narodnooslobodilačke borbe . Zato je njegov je lik ostao da živi u sjećanju zajedno sa slavom herojske Kozare .

= = Poetry = =

In his youth , Stojanović wrote poems , only one of which is published ? in a 1918 issue of the literary magazine Književni jug , whose editor was future Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić . For this poem , Stojanović was inspired by the Serbian epic hero Ailing Dojčin . A number of Stojanović 's poems are preserved in a notebook that belonged to his closest school friend Todor Ilić . According to the poet Dragan Kolundžija , Stojanović 's poems are lyrical miniatures composed in free verse , focused on man and nature , and filled with melancholy . Kolundžija finds that what inspired Stojanović to write poetry is reflected in his verse Krvav je bol (Pain is bloody) . According to poet Miroslav Feldman , who first met Stojanović in 1919 in Zagreb , his poems were sad and permeated with a yearning for a brighter , more joyous life .

Stojanović wrote an essay , which is published as the foreword to a 1920 book of poetry by Feldman , titled Iza Sunca (Behind the Sun) . In 1925 , Stojanović initiated the creation of an anthology of Yugoslav lyric poetry . On this project , he worked with Feldman and Gustav Krklec . The poets completed the anthology , but for an unknown reason it was never published . Stojanović 's poetic inclinations were manifested in his letters to his wife Mira Stojanović , especially when he writes about his patients :

I , kad se podižu i osjećaju strujanje snage i proljeća u svojim žilama ja kao da dolazim sebi , ostavlja me neki zanos i ja tražim druge bolesne oči djece , žena , majki , staraca ; nalazim ih i ponovo zaboravljam sve .