

= Jovan Babunski =

Jovan Stojković ( Serbian Cyrillic : Јован Стојковић ; 25 December 1878 ? 17 February 1920 ) , known as Jovan Babunski ( Јован Бабушки ) , was a Serbian Chetnik commander ( Serbian : vojvoda , војвода ) during the Balkan Wars and World War I. Following the murder of his brother and nephew by the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization ( IMRO ) , he joined a Chetnik band and took command of Chetnik units on the Vardar River , where he and his men often engaged Bulgarian and Ottoman forces .

With the outbreak of the First Balkan War he joined the Serbian Army and was wounded while fighting in the village of Strevica . During the Second Balkan War , he joined a Serbian volunteer detachment and fought at the Battle of Bregalnica . During World War I , Babunski and his Chetnik detachment fought Austro -@- Hungarian forces in the summer of 1914 and later fought on the Salonika Front , where Babunski was ordained by French General Louis Franchet d 'Espèrey after he and his men captured two German midget submarines and their crews . After the war , Babunski and his 250 @-@ strong force helped Serb authorities suppress Bulgarian resistance in the Macedonian towns of Bitola and Tikveš , committing several atrocities in the process . Considered one of the most famous Chetnik commanders of his time , Babunski died in Veles in February 1920 .

= = Early life = =

Jovan Stojković was born in the village of Martolci in central Macedonia along the Babuna Mountains near Veles on 25 December 1878 . Some sources state that he was born in 1875 . In his youth he earned the nickname " Babunski " , derived from the name of Mount Babuna near which his birthplace was located . He began his education at age ten , attending what was the only Bulgarian @-@ language elementary school in Veles at the time . It was here that his teacher Bulgarianized his name into " Ivan Stojkov " . Displeased , Babunski 's father responded by taking his son to the Serbian consulate in Skopje , from where he was taken to continue his education in Belgrade . After studying in Belgrade , Valjevo and Niš , Babunski worked as a Serbian @-@ language teacher in the towns of Tetovo and Veles in the Azot region .

= = Guerrilla activities = =

In 1905 , Babunski 's brother and nephew were killed by the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization ( IMRO ) . Seeking revenge , he joined the Chetnik band of Gligor Sokolović and Temeljko Barjaktarević . That year , he became a Chetnik vojvoda . Afterwards , he defended the right bank of the Vardar River against Bulgarian insurgents and protected persecuted Serb villages against Bulgarian and Ottoman attack . Through these actions , Babunski became one of the five leading Serbian guerilla chiefs in Macedonia . In 1907 , the Chetnik song " The Serb Trumpet Plays For Me " ( Serbian : Srpska mi truba zatrubi ) was composed in his honour following his successful command of Chetnik forces during an attack against a group of IMRO militants commanded by Stefan Dimitrov . With the Young Turk Revolution in 1908 , Ottoman authorities declared a ceasefire between their forces and those of the Chetniks . Babunski left Chetnik ranks and returned to civilian life . He was later arrested by Ottoman authorities but quickly escaped from prison . That year , he returned to the Kingdom of Serbia .

= = Balkan Wars and World War I = =

Babunski fought with the Serbian Army during the First Balkan War and was wounded in a skirmish with Ottoman Turkish forces in the village of Strevica while serving under commander Vojin Popović . During the Second Balkan War , he fought with a Serbian volunteer detachment at the Battle of Bregalnica . With the outbreak of World War I Babunski formed the Sava Chetnik detachment , which was then placed under the command of Major Vojislav Tankosić . The unit went on to fight the

Austro-Hungarians in the late summer of 1914 and later destroyed a railway bridge on the Sava River to prevent Austro-Hungarian forces from crossing it . In 1915 , Babunski and his men returned to Macedonia and fought Bulgarian guerillas . That autumn Babunski and his Chetniks were assigned to the town of Kaçanik , where they joined other Serbian forces in fighting a Bulgarian division that they managed to hold to a standstill for nearly a month despite suffering heavy losses . With the Serbian army 's retreat through Albania that winter , Babunski and his men withdrew to the Greek island of Corfu . They then joined Serb forces at the Salonika Front . Here , Babunski was assigned to the Serbian First Army and was involved in guarding Lake Prespa from the Bulgarians . Later , he and his Chetnik detachments participated in capturing enemy soldiers and gathering intelligence from the front . In 1917 , French General Louis Franchet d 'Espèrey awarded Babunski a medal following the capture of two German midget submarines and their crews by him and his men . Babunski was also a recipient of the Order of the Star of Karaorë .

= = Post war = =

After the war , Babunski was given command over a force of 250 men who helped Serb authorities suppress resistance in the towns of Bitola and Tikveš . During this time , forces under his command committed several atrocities in both Macedonia and Albania . Several further atrocities were carried out in Bregalnica and Tikveš and targeted local leaders sympathetic to Bulgarian komitas . Chetnik bands , including those of Babunski , enslaved locals and turned them into forced labourers for the armed forces of the Kingdom of Serbs , Croats and Slovenes . By the summer of 1919 , Serbian and Yugoslav authorities decided that Chetnik bands such as those of Babunski were not " furthering the state 's aims in the region . " The armed forces were then deployed to maintain order in the southern territories of the state and more than 50 000 Serbian professional soldiers were sent to Kosovo and Macedonia . Babunski died in Veles on 17 February 1920 , after falling from his horse and getting influenza .

= = Legacy = =

Described by historian Dušan T. Bataković as " exceptionally courageous and determined , " Babunski is considered one of the most famous Chetnik commanders of his time . A monument dedicated to him was constructed in Veles in 1924 , but it was blown up by the Bulgarians during World War II . A street in the Zvezdara neighborhood of Belgrade used to bear his name . His nom de guerre ( " Chetnik name " ) , Babunski , was adopted as a surname by his descendants . Jovan is the great-grandfather of Macedonian footballer Boban Babunski , and great-grandfather of footballers David and Dorian .