

R BH /Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina/, HZ HB /Croatian Community
of Herceg-Bosna/, HVO /Croatian Defence Council/
HERCEG STJEPAN BRIGADE, KONJIC

DEFENCE
MILITARY SECRET
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Kostajnica, 19 May 1993
at 2200 hours

HVO GS /Main Staff/, MOSTAR
To Dinko ZEBIĆ personally

COMMAND OF OZ /Operations Zone/ J/I H
/South-Eastern Herzegovina/
To Miljenko LASIĆ personally
MOSTAR /handwritten, circled: 61/

COMMAND OF OZ S/Z H /North-Western
Herzegovina/
TOMISLAVGRAD

COMMAND OF THE RAMA BRIGADE
To Željko ŠILJEG personally
PROZOR

Report

Some time after 1000 hours, provocations around the village of Vrci began and there was regrouping of their forces. We retaliated to these movements and shelled their positions. The fighting lasted around two hours, after which it stopped.

While we were retaliating fiercely, the Muslims devised an inhuman move. During the fighting, Blek asked for Banda, and when he established contact with him, he told him that Katica and the child of one of our soldiers from Vrci were with him and that he would rape and mutilate her and that we would hear everything over the radio station and how he would do that until Vrci surrendered. Katica had remained in the town of Konjic with a small child during the blockade by the Muslims. He started saying all kinds of horrible things about Katica and the Croats. He asked that Vrci surrender and that he would then release the woman and child. Our soldiers from Vrci could not accept such a deal because they are aware that their surrender would mean the liquidation of all soldiers, and based on the enemy's threats, of civilians as well. They forced the woman to beg her husband over the radio station to surrender if he wished her and the child well, and she did so. Through sobs, the woman did as they asked.

After that, one of our soldiers got on the line and told Blek that we had recorded everything and that we were just passing it on to various local and international organisations, after which he changed his tone and said that he would release her and that nothing would happen to her or to a single civilian, because he did not wish to commit ethnic cleansing (we have the material recorded on a cassette). Banda proposed to him that we conduct an exchange of civilians, /on the principle of/ all for all, including those from Vrci, and then if Blek wanted war, he should go ahead, we will be waiting for him, prepared for a forceful defence. After this, he talked some more, something about the UN, how they would come and resolve

everything, just for the soldiers to surrender, and that this surrender could only be done through the UN from Jablanica, and under no circumstances through the UN from Mostar (???)

After this, there was another attack on Vrci which lasted from 1400 to 1700 hours, and later subsided a little. The attack was repeated soon afterwards and has been going on until now (2200 hours), and there are no indications that it will stop soon.

All the territory lost on Bokševica was finally recaptured today and the terrain was mopped up. The lines facing the enemy are firm and the soldiers are ready to carry out orders that are issued to them.

Three bodies were found of soldiers who were killed on 9 May 1993 during the Muslim attack on Bokševica. The funeral will take place as soon as the bodies are brought to the village of Kostajnica. Several days ago (while most of Bokševica was under their control), the Muslims sent one of our women from Mrakovo with a message that their /soldier/ killed on Bokševica be handed over to them or they will kill all Croatian civilians from Mrakovo. We then asked for the bodies of our soldiers (the three that I mentioned above) who were on territory which was under their control. The woman returned to Mrakovo and did not come back again, so we are worried about the Croats in Mrakovo. The bodies that we found on Bokševica (of those killed on 9 May 1993) were located on the spots where they had been killed (one of them had been captured and was shot afterwards, as our doctor claims following an on-site investigation). The enemy is still holding Tisov Do and Muratovica on Bokševica and fired from there today at our positions on Bokševica. Significant quantities MTS /materiel and technical equipment/ and ammunition were found on Bokševica.

Report on the situation in the area of the 1st Battalion (from the area of the town of Konjic and its surroundings).

This is how the TUĐMAN-IZETBEGOVIĆ agreement of 18 May 1993 in Međugorje is being interpreted and implemented by the soldiers of the so-called BH Army on 19 May 1993: at around 1200 hours, movements of the army were noticed in the town, and especially at approaches to the Croatian villages of Zabrđe and Zaslivlje. At around 1400 hours, an all-out artillery attack began on these villages and the lines of defence. At around 1500 hours, infantry attacks began on Zabrđe from the Pomola and Turija sector through the Lokvice sector. We repulsed the attack successfully at around 1900 hours. On our side, one HVO soldier was killed and one woman was wounded. We do not know what losses they suffered but they are sure to be heavy again this time.

Brigade Commander
Zdravko ŠAGOLJ

/stamp:/

ECV, Name of organ: GS HVO Sent-Received Telegram no. 2903 On 19 May 19 93 at 2315 hours TLP, TGR, TLF, _____, RRV, ŽV, <input type="checkbox"/> Rv Processed by: /signed: KARAČIĆ/ (signature)
/expansions: GS HVO – HVO Main Staff ECV – Communications Centre Dispatch Service TLP – Teleprinter; TGR – Telegraph TLF – Telephone RRV – Radio Relay Communication ŽV – Wire Communication Rv – Radio Communication/