

Croatian Nurses Association

Backbone of nursing professionalization in Croatia

In every country, historically, professional association is one of the constitutive elements in development of nursing profession

Croatian Nurses Association (CNA) which was, by available data, founded in 1929. (some documents suggest that its founding could be two years earlier) represents the backbone of professionalization of nursing in Croatia. Association activities were focused towards publishing professional journals, organization of covention, pushing for education on university level, founding of nursing syndicate and chamber and many other activities.

During almost 90 years Croatian nurses gathered in their Association which changed its name according to changes in goverment and tried to perserve continuity despite very turbulent political turmoil. Association was founded after World War I, was active during World War II and changed its name for the last time during the breakdown of Yugoslavia and Homeland War.

It should be kept in mind that Croatia through history was in a very sensitive geopolitical area, often exposed to wars, conquest and destruction of cultural goods, to which we were witnesses in recent war where the aggressors targets were to a great extent hospitals and archives.

Austro-Hungarian Empire (1867 - 1918)



29th Oct 1918. Triune Kingdom of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonija ended state and legal relations with Austro-Hungarian Empire. With that decision rulers from the house Hasburg after 389 years stoped being rulers of Croatia and it also ment that 8 century long legal relationship between Croatian lands and Hungary was over.

Provinces of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1920-1922)



State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs was formed. The new formed state was in a disarray, there were shortages, deserters from Austro-Hungarian Empire were roaming the country, pesants were on a brink of rebellion and almost nobody paid any taxes. It seemed that like in other European coutrys like Germany and Hungary it could lead to revolution.

School of Nursing was founded in January 1921. in Zagreb and is still in operation today. Until a 1947 it was the only School of Nursing in Croatia. According to aviable data it was used as CNAs headquarters until 1991.

Organization of graduate nurses of School of Nursing in Zagreb

First organized gathering of nurses was recorded in a document singed by Lujza Wagner. By available data we assume that the association was formed between 1927. and 1928.

... During 1927. and 1928. nurses from Zagrebs school gathered on the initiative of nurse Ani Papailiopulos and discussed how to form an association for the nurses who graduated in Zagrebs school... Nurses from Zagrebs school founded „Organization of graduated nurses School of Nursing in Zagreb” and sent their rule book to the police administration.

Association of nurses of Croatia of Yugoslavian Council of Nurses 6th Jun 1929.

...nurse Janić wrote to Ljubljana and Zagreb and asked for a meeting in Zagreb with a purpose of forming a national association of nurses. Meeting was held in June in Zagreb. After discussions that lasted a hole day they agreed to form an Council of Nursing Associations of Yugoslavia ...



Kingdom of Yugoslavia banovinas (1929-1939)

On 6th Jan 1929., People assembly and all political parties are abolished and dictatorship was installed. Couple months after King Aleksandar passed a new Law of name and division of state, by which the name of the country was changed in Kingdom of Yugoslavia. All national distinctions were abolished and in return Yugoslavian nation and language were created. Borders were intentionally different than the ethnic ones.

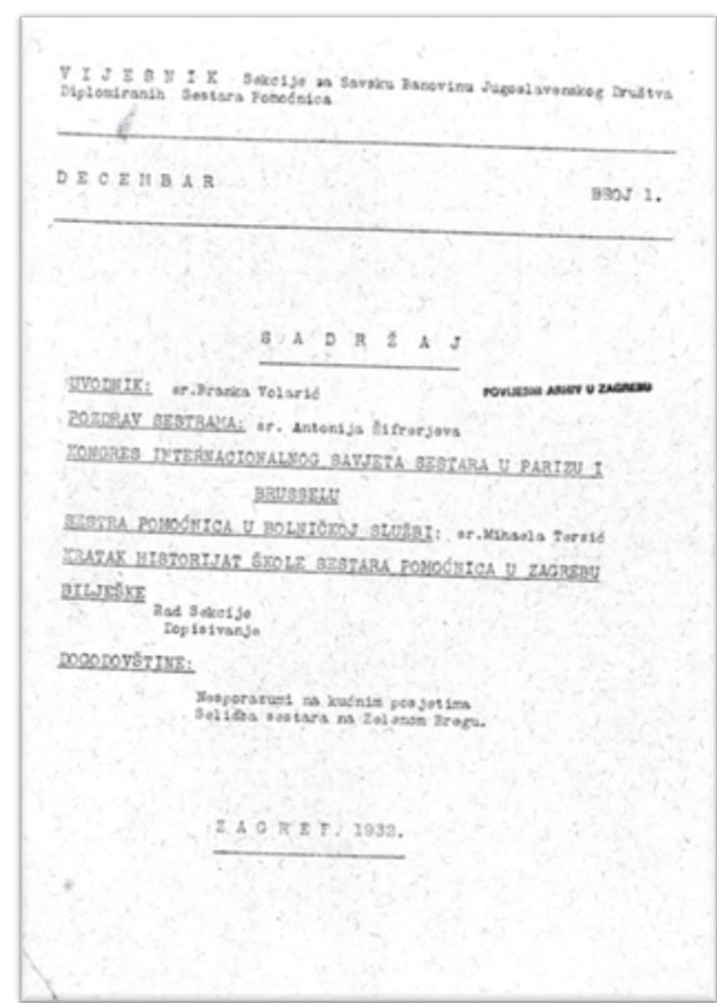
Section for Savska banovina of Yugoslavian Graduated Nurses Association 1929 -1940

... In August convention was held in Montreal and nurse Bovolini helped by Miss Jean Gunn managed to sign our Association in I.C.N. (1929.) ...

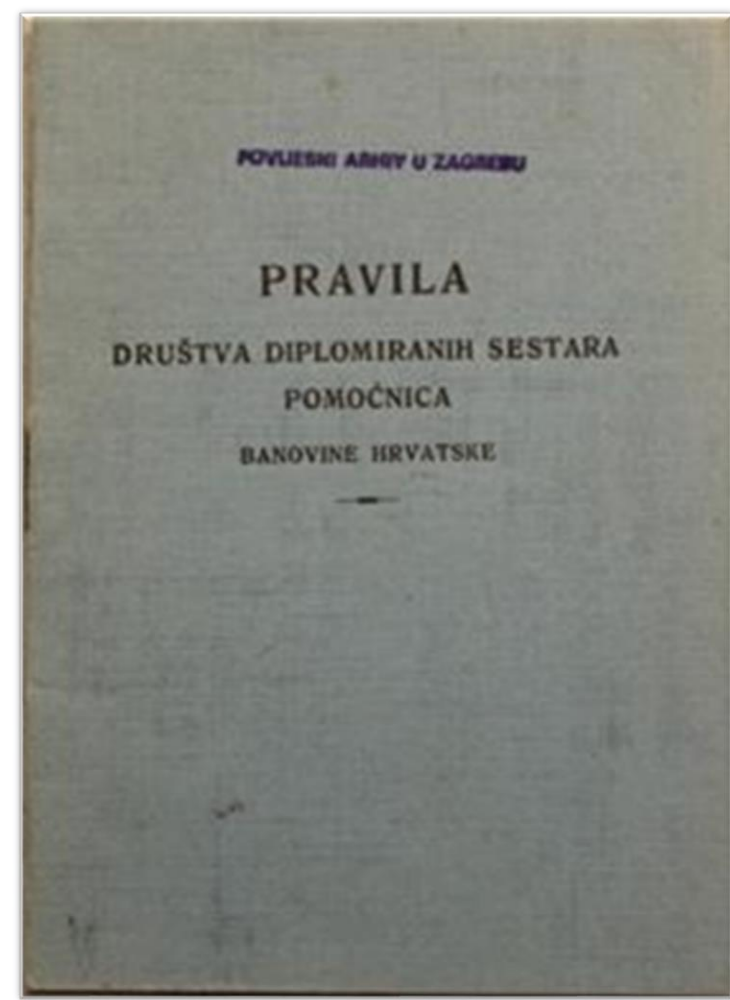
In autumn the same year nurse Bovolini returned from America and visited Zagreb. She held a lecture for nurses, represntatives of women associations in Zagreb were also invited. After that nurse proposed that instead of a council a single association should be formed with sections sorted by banovinas. Mostly new rule book of Yugoslavian Graduated Nurses Association, which mostly kept the same frame as an original association ...

The first nursing journal in Croatia and in the Kingdom was Vjesnik published by Section Savske banovine Yugoslavian nurses Association, in Zagreb in 1932.

Only one number was published after which the journal changes its name into Sestrinska riječ and becomes official journal of Yugoslavian Graduated Nurses Association.

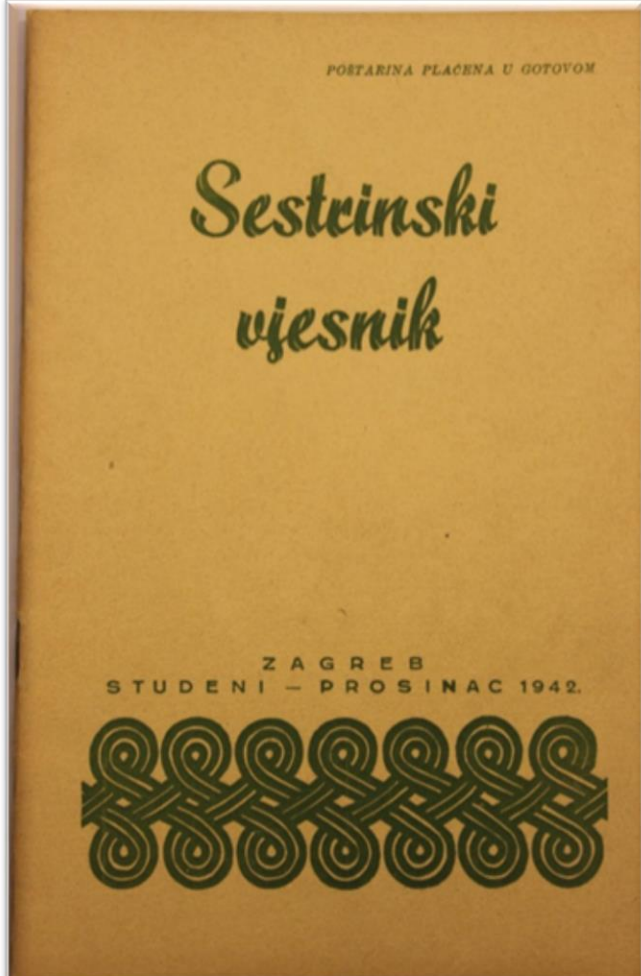


Sestrinska riječ 1933.-1940.
Editor Lujza Janović Wagner



In 1939. banovinas Savska and Primorska unifined into Croatian Banovina. Banovina was actually a state in a state and it encompassed territories of former Savska and Primorska banovinas (with parts of todays Bosnia and Herzegovina). It had judicial, legislative and administrative autonomy from Beograd.

The Independent State of Croatia was a World War II fascist puppet state of Germany and Italy. It was established in parts of occupied Yugoslavia on 10 April 1941. Its territory consisted of most of modern-day Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as some parts of modern-day Serbia and Slovenia.



Graduated Nurses Association of Croatian Banonvina Association's rule book adopted on 18th Aug 1940

Graduated Nurses Association of Independent State of Croatia 1941 - 1945 Sestrinski Vjesnik 1942 - 1944

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Croatian Nurses Association

Backbone of nursing professionalization in Croatia

Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

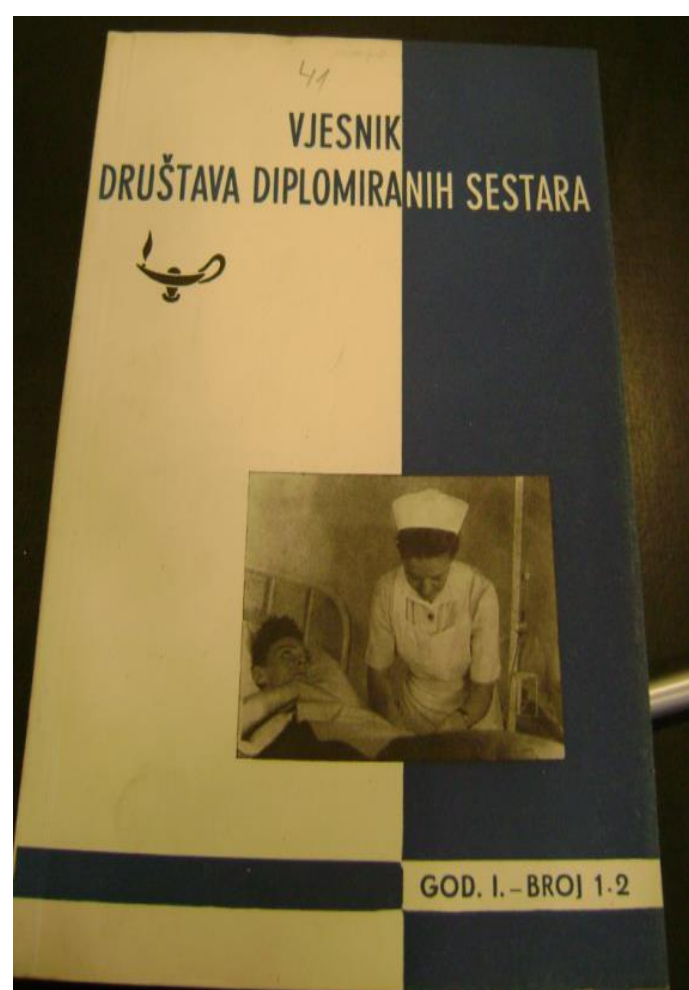
After second World War Croatia changed its name a couple of times in the formed Yugoslavia
Federal State of Croatia - 1944.
People's Republic of Croatia – 1946.
Socialist Republic of Croatia – 1963.



Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Associations archive materials for the period between 1945. and 1954. is not located for now but according to few information that are available it can be assumed that the Association kept working in that period.

Graduated Nurses Association of Federal State of Croatia (data unavailable) Graduated Nurses Association's Journal 1954.-1961.



Nurses Association of Socialist Republic of Croatia 1963.-1991.

Nurses Association of Socialist Republic of Croatia's Journal 1969.-1990.



Sections of Nurses Association of Socialist Republic of Croatia published their own journals.

Neuropsychiatry section of Nurses Association of Socialist Republic of Croatia

Psychiatry care 1966.-1971.



Pneumophthisiology section of Nurses Association of Socialist Republic of Croatia

Bulletin 1975.-1989.



Section for Primary Health Care of Nurses Association of Socialist Republic of Croatia

Nurse and family



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Republic of Croatia

On referendum on Croatian independence held on 19th May 1991. majority of voters (93.24%) voted for independent and autonomous country. Following that decision Croatian parliament on 25th Jun 1991. brought a decree on independent and sovereign Republic of Croatia by which Croatia became an independent state. Unable to solve Yugoslavian crisis on 8th Oct 1991. it severed all ties with former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia



Republic of Croatia



Croatian Nurses Association 1992.- In 1993. on ICN meeting in Madrid CNA was accepted into membership as an independent state.

Nursing Journal 1995.-



STRATEGIC PLANING

CNA started an initiative to form a nursing syndicate.
Croatian Nursing Syndicate was founded on 11th May 1991.



CNA proposes a plan for a Law on nursing and in cooperation with Ministry of Health and Social Welfare forms a Nurses Chamber on 17th Sep 2003.



CNA publishes a document **Strategic frame for development of nursing in Croatia 2008.-2014**. The document highlights priorities of nurses in Croatia: development of university programs, research work and empowerment of publishing in nursing

Signing of an agreement to develop a university program for nurses - Masters Degrees In Nursing.

Signed by School of Medicine in Zagreb in 2008. and Faculty of Medicine in Osijek in 2009.



„So it takes work and work, diligent, calm, with joy and never giving up on our goal: perfecting nursing.”
Sestrinska riječ (1937.) 1-4; Zagreb
Lujza Wagner Janović (1907.-1945.)

References:
HUMS, Jedna profesija – jedan glas, Hrvatska udruga medicinskih sestara, Izvješće o radu 2004. – 2012.
Stana Lovrić I opet bih bila sestra – svjedok jednog vremena, Zagreb, 2017.
Sestrinski glasnik od 1992. do 2016.
Rimac B., Franković S., Krajnović F. Strateški okvir razvoja sestrinstva u RH 2008-2014., Sestrinski glasnik, 2008; 4 213-18



Celebration after the declaration of Croatian independence

Nurses in war and peace Homeland War (1991.-1995.)

Then I realized that those devoted and brave people besides their love for people, which pushed them into medical profession, also have an endless love for their country. With their self-sacrificing devotion for saving human lives in the worst circumstances of war, nurses wrote the most beautiful chapter of their profession. We all owe them warmest recognition and deepest gratitude.

War minister of health prof.dr.sc. Andrija Hebrang



Headquarters of Croatian government in Zagreb after aerial bombardment by Yugoslavian army (1991.)

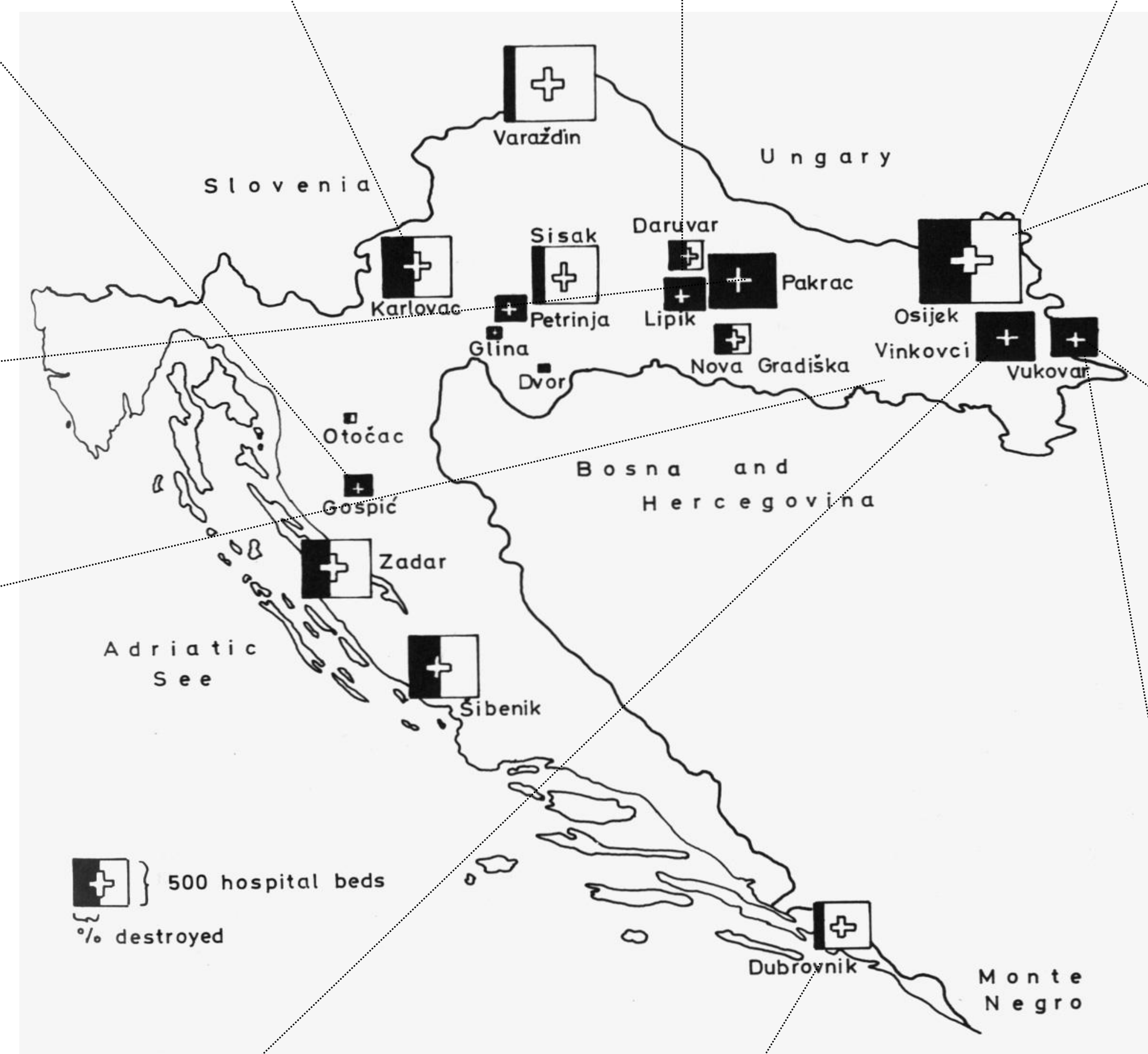
Homeland War (1991.-1995.) was a defensive war for independence and unity of Croatia against the aggression of united Serbian army - extremists from Croatia, Yugoslav People's Army (YNA) and Serbia and Monte Negro.

In the beginig of the war, due to lack of military facilities, educated personel for war conditions and reservs of medical materials, care for the wounded was left to the civilian health care. With formation of Croatian army and escalation of war an integrated civilian – military system was created, in which military gave first aid and transport while all further treatment was done by civilian healthcare. During the Homeland War all 58 healthcare institutions treated 30 578 wounded. Of them 7169 were civilians, 21 959 soldiers, 58 UN peace forces and 613 enemy soldiers. For 779 wounded there is no clasification but for most it is probable that were enemy soldiers.Rate of mortality for the wounded treated was, for the war conditions, very low even in the hardest work conditions it was 1.75% and falls among the best resoultis that can be found in the literature. During the aggression on Croatia at least 402 children were killed. At the same time 1044 were wounded. 5497 lost one parent and 74 lost both. In Homeland War 15 nurses were killed, 3 are missing and 7 were imprisioned in Serbian camps. . After the occupation of War Hospital 98 nurses were imprisioned in the hospital and after transit camp in Sremenska Mitorvica were exchanged in Dvorovima in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



In the night between 28th and 29th Sep 1991. employees of Pakrac Hospital with the help of soldiers evacuated patients from psychiatry ward. With an improvised bridge builed with hospital beds and boards they enabled the escape of patients and transport to saefty. In the cover of night and mist escape was finished without any deaths or injuries.

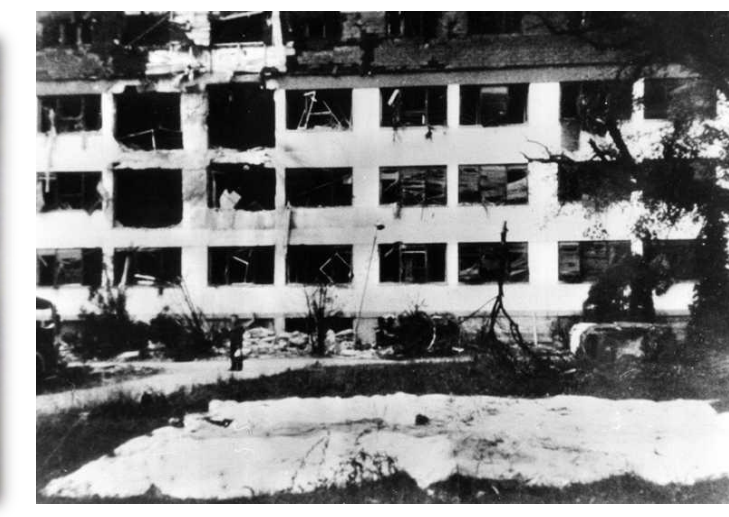
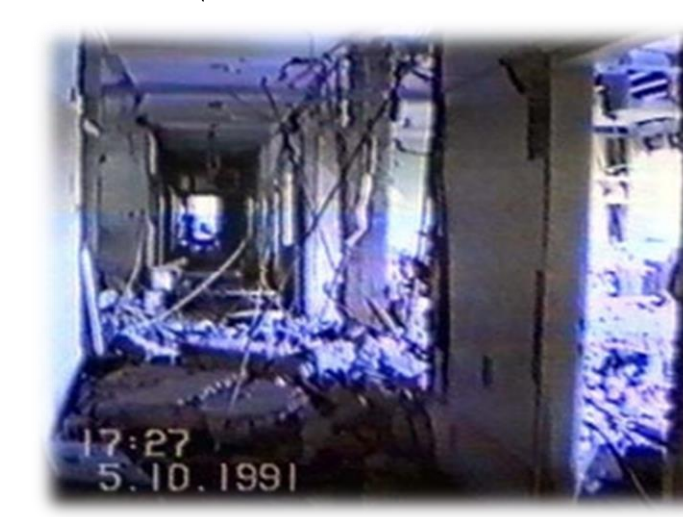
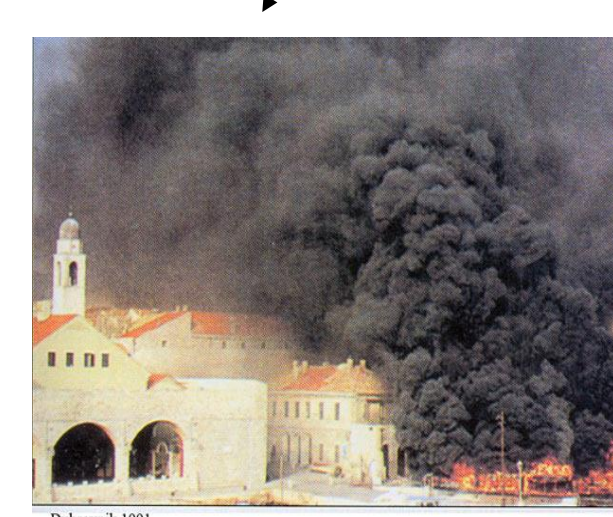
In the attack on Slavonski Brod during 1992. 11651 artillery shells were fired, 130 heavy bomobs dropped and 13 land to land missiles launched on the city. Between 1991. and 1995. 7330 wounded were treated in towns hospital. During 1992. more than 20000 children from Slavonski brod municipality were moved across Croatia because of security concerns.



In the days of the hardest attacks on the hospital between the 13th and 17th Sep 1991. all employees remained in the hospital for a the next couple days. Grenades were falling over the whole hospital.

Medical Center Vukovar employed 933 workers and 337 of them were nurses. In the War Hospital Vukovar remained 130 nurses. On the 20th Sep 1991. in the early hours of the morning members of Serbian paramilitary forces and JNA took out 400 men from the hospital: wounded, employees and their family members and other civilians. At least 267 people were executed at different scaffold, most on Ovčara, where over 200 people were shoot, among them were 20 hospital employees.

Monument to children killed in Homeland War in Slavonski Brod



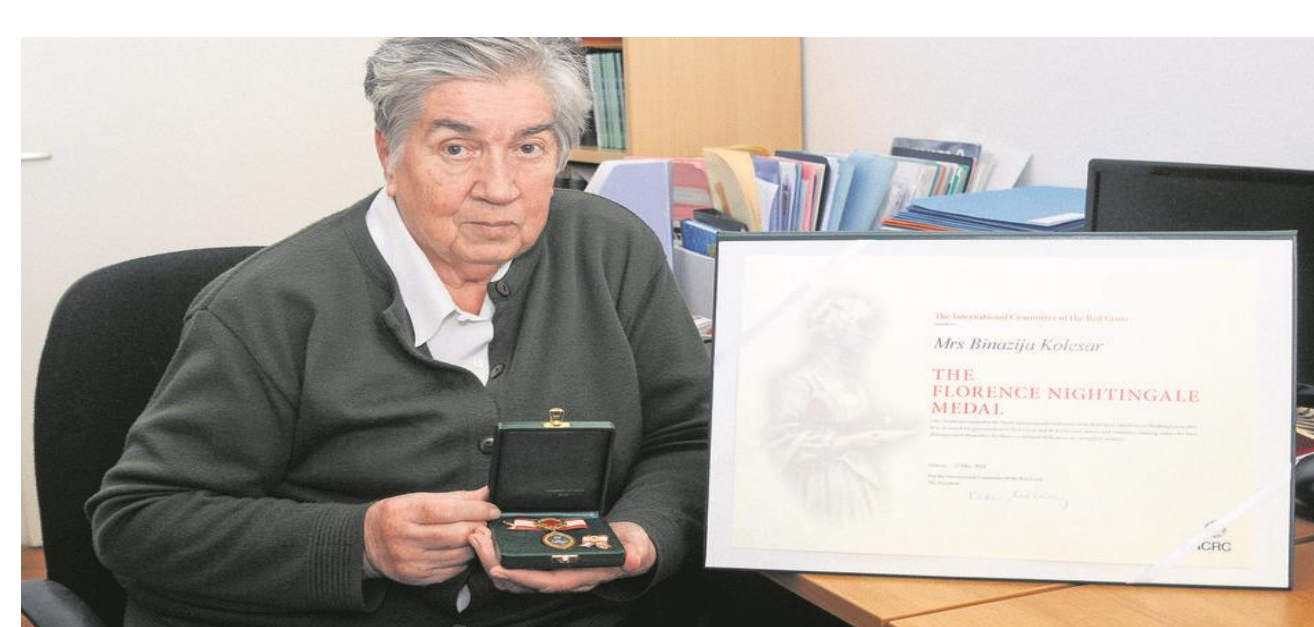
Nurses in Armed forces of Croatia



Navy



Army



In December 2013. nurse Binazija Kolesar, head nurse of War hospital Vukovar was awarded Florence Nightingale medal



CNAs Association of Homeland War nurses

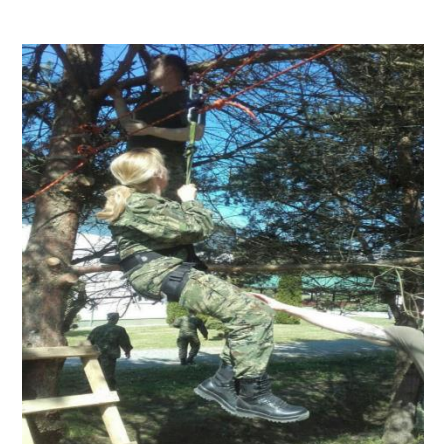
Contribution of nurses in recent Homeland War and the role that nurses have in health care system during the time of war is a valuable insight into the organization of nursing in crisis.

On 12th Nov 2016. CNA formed the Association of Homeland War nurses. That date is also The day of remembrance for Vukovar victims.

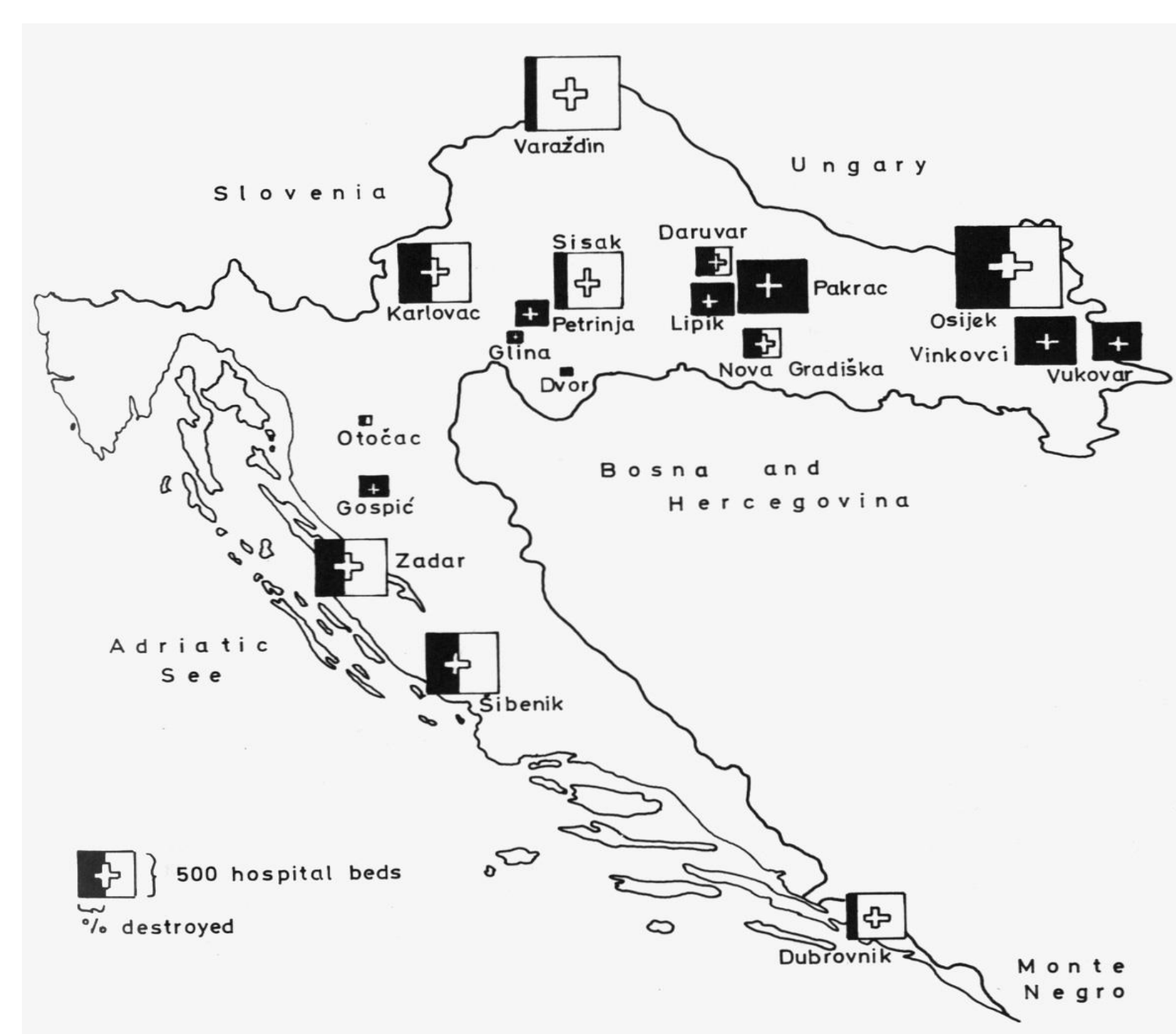
Association has for its goals: ensure a status of veterans for nurses that cared for wounded on the field and in the War hospitals, erect memorials to nurses that died during the Homeland war, organize education for nurses that care for veterans, establish yearly convention under the name „So we do not forget the 90s“, gather documentation and testimonys of nurses, to write a monograph dedicated to nurses in Homeland War, recomend materials for a class Nursing care in crisis (wars, floods, earthquakes, terorism).



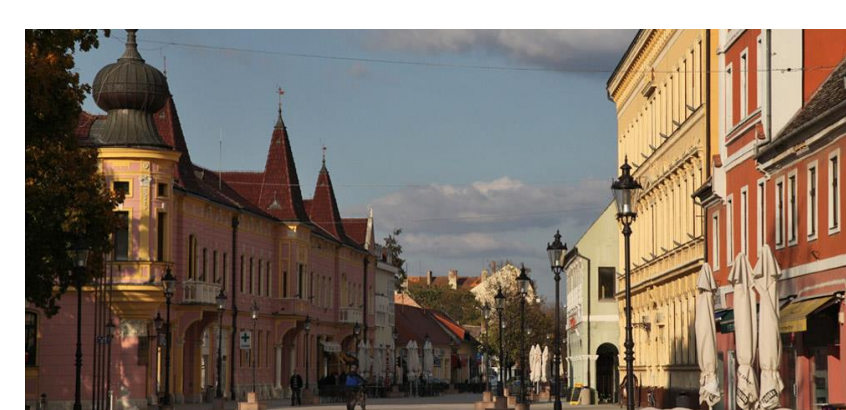
Work and care for refugees



Training



War areas today



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Lacković Z., Markeljević J., Marušić M., Croatian Medicine in 1991 War against Croatia: A Preliminary Report, CMJ War Suppl 2 1992;33:110-119

Archive of CNAs Association of Homeland War nurses

Archive of CNAs Association for the History of Nursing

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