

PAVKOVIĆ, Zorka
Former Yugoslavia Witnesses Documentation Project
Serbian
RG-50.587*0004

Box 1, Tape 1

In this interview, Zorka Pavković, born August 1926 in Mlakovac (present-day Croatia), talks about fleeing from the Ustaše and Italians and describes the attacks on her village throughout World War II. She mentions a massacre in the **Ivanović** trench and talks about the attack on Mlakovac in February 1943.

[00:] 00:30:00 – [00:] 09:06:13
00:41 – 09:38

Zorka Pavković introduces herself; gives her birth date and place as August 1926 in Mlakovac; remembers how the village mayor **Mihajlo Simić** organized the cutting of bushes around the village stream in the spring of 1941 so enemy soldiers could not hide there; says the war began (in that area) in August 1941 when the Ustaše started to go after civilians; mentions the massacre in **Ivanović jarak**, which she did not witness; explains how the village mayor from **Krnjak** urged people from nearby villages to bring some food to refugees from Slovenia; describes how people brought food to **Krnjak**, but were later arrested and taken to the **Ivanović** trench; says her brother went to **Krnjak** but did not stay long so he escaped the arrest; names victims from Mlakovac: **Mihajlo Simić, Simo Simić, Pajo Knežev, Tešan Uzelac, Milić Uzelac, Mile Simić, Đuro Simić, Stevan Mačević, Mile Potkrajac**; says after the massacre they fled into the woods every time the Ustaše, Germans, or Italians would go on the offensive.

[00:] 09:06:14 – [00:] 17:50:22
09:39 – 18:44

Pavković says she did not know which army was attacking them, as she only listened to what the others were saying to her; describes fleeing from the Ustaše in November 1941 and their attempt to burn down the village; mentions the Italian offensive before Christmas 1941 and how she and others once again fled and spent 15 days in the woods; says the occasional attacks continued throughout the following year and they would hide in the woods during such attacks; mentions three places where the enemy armies were stationed: **Glavica** near **Tušilović, Galovo** and near **Gojkovići**; says they *[unclear as to whom she is speaking of]* were disarmed by a partisan brigade in the autumn of 1942; says she did not see the partisan attack, but knew about it because four dead soldiers were brought from **Galovo** and buried near her house; describes an attack in 1943 after which she returned to the village and found the body of her neighbor **Mileta Srdić**, who did not leave his house because he was blind and ill; talks about an attack approximately two weeks later when the Ustaše shot at women washing clothes in the village creek, including herself, and then came into the village and killed her neighbors.

[00:] 17:50:23 – [00:] 25:54:00
18:45 – 27:07

She notes she did not see the killing of her neighbors because at the same time an Ustaše soldier was in their house; describes how he mistreated them, questioned them about their family, made them kneel and lie on the floor, and searched the house; describes how another soldier killed **Desanka Srdić** (born in 1923) when she tried to escape; says their lives were saved by a sudden arrival of partisans, scaring the Ustaše away.

[00:] 25:54:01 – [00:] 31:02:23
27:08 – 32:29

Pavković names neighbors killed in the attack: mother **Mila**, daughter **Darinka**, sons **Dmitar** and **Vlade**, **Miloš Grijak [Grljak]** who found himself there by coincidence, and **Desanka Srdić**; describes the uniform of the soldier who was in their house as yellowish, with a cap with a large letter “U”; says this attack occurred in late February 1943; says that there were many more attacks on the village through the end of the war and that they would run into the woods as soon as they learned that an army was approaching.