



# Military Hospital of Valjevo, from its beginnings until the Great War

## Valjevska vojna bolnica, od prvih dana do Velikog rata

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### Introduction

The general, well-known name of the Hospital of Valjevo does not apply to any particular hospital facility or a hospital as institution, as far as the first years of the WWI are concerned, but it rather denotes the time process. As part of a series of specific events, due to which the whole city at the end of 1914 and beginning of 1915 became one large hospital, there were two permanent and six auxiliary hospitals, distributed in dozens of central or associated facilities in Valjevo together with the changing number of field hospitals in the city and its surroundings. Previous historiographic research has been focused on the situation as a whole emphasizing the general development and care of the wounded and diseased<sup>1-3</sup>.

Thus, the details related to the two earlier hospitals, which had existed before the wars, were largely neglected, and they are: the Civilian District Hospital of Valjevo and the Military Hospital of Drina Division. While there is more information about the Civilian Hospital due to the written records, which partially systematize its beginning and its development<sup>4-5</sup>, setting up of the Military Hospital has eluded the attention of the researchers; some details about it were mentioned casually and could be found in some works related to other military topics<sup>6-7</sup>. This is the reason why the aim of this paper is to open up the topic with the first records and then follow the history of the hospital over the first three decades of its continuing existence, that is, from its founding in 1883 until the start of the WWI. This may be a way to lay the foundations for further systematic research, if some unknown archive documents have evaded our research efforts.

The history of the Military Hospital of Valjevo is inevitably connected with the strategic position of Valjevo

city situated in the background of the Drina River and historical environs along its banks which could or have formed continuous, hostile challenges starting from the first days of the uprising in the early 19th century until the escalation of WWI in 1914. Being located in the immediate background of possible and real warfare, Valjevo was recognized by the military command not only as a place of military headquarters, but also as a convenient gathering place for the reception of wounded and sick soldiers.

There are three different periods in the history of Military Hospital of Valjevo. The first period is related to the crisis caused by the education of the Serbian National Army in 1860 and the Serbian-Turkish incident in Belgrade in 1862. The second period covers the Serbian-Turkish wars 1876–78, and, finally, the third one was the time of great reforms in the army which were being carried out by King Milan Obrenovic starting from 1883. The hospitals from the first and the second period, and the second and the third period, had no observable continuity, while a hospital established in the third period had continued to exist up to WWI, and even after it, although throughout the first 15 years, it was officially designated to be a temporary, and then, from the beginning of 20th century, as a permanent one.

### *Volunteer Hospital at the time of the crisis in 1862*

One of the basic tasks Prince Mihailo Obrenović challenged himself after his second coming to power in 1860 was to liberate Serbia from the Turkey's dominance. That is why, in August 1861, the Law on Standing People's Army was adopted, which, in addition to the existing few army units, projected the formation of a national, mobilizing military

force capable of embarking on the liberation war. This led to intensively tense relations with Port which culminated in an incident on Čukur Česma on June 3rd to 15th 1962, Turkish bombing of Belgrade from the city fortress on June 5th to 17th. The tensions were expected to be solved by arms and it seemed likely that they would spread over the other Balkans nations. The escalation of the conflict, however, ended by a diplomatic intervention of the great powers, which in the following year led to the emigration of Turks from Serbia (except the Danube cities of Belgrade, Šabac, Smederevo and Kladovo).

Before reaching the agreement, during the period of uncertainty, Prince Mihailo was preparing for the possible outcome of the war, and among other things, he initiated the formation of so-called "Volunteer Corps" consisting of 3,000 people, mostly Serbs, volunteers coming from Serbia, Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire, as well as representatives of other Slavic nations under command of the former Austrian officer Antonije Orešković. One of the two legions of this corps, called "Borderline Corps", had been stationed in the improvised military cottages in Valjevo since the end of June, so that they could carry out the armed activities in Bosnia and agitate people to an uprising. Another one, called "Bulgarian Corps" was in Aleksinac. However, since there was no escalation of the conflict because of the diplomatic decisions brought at Kanliš Conference on September 30 – October 11, at the request of the great powers, the corps was dismissed at the end of October and early November 1862, but a certain number of educated officers and soldiers remained in the Serbian army<sup>8-10</sup>.

In addition to volunteers, in 1862, a field battery of the People's Army was stationed in Valjevo, and they were accommodated in the cannon sheds which were built according to the order given by the Minister of Internal Affairs N. Krištić on November 15–27 1862<sup>11</sup>. Previously, besides the old gunpowder storage located in Nenadović Kula, a new one was made. A quite common road run between these two, as can be seen from a report of the Minister of Construction representative, a French officer H. Mondin on October 13–25<sup>12</sup>.

The above mentioned military preparations for the eventual conflict were accompanied by the organization of the medical service. In addition to organizing a temporary hospital in Belgrade with 800 beds, the present Director of the military medical service, Dr Beloni, ordered to appoint the doctors and define the locations for hospitals all around Serbia so that patients and the wounded could be admitted, especially in border areas<sup>13</sup>. One of the hospitals was also located in Valjevo and its main purpose was the care of volunteers. This "Volunteer Hospital" was formed according to the order of the Minister of the Military, Mondin on July 27 - August 8, 1862. That was why an empiricist Dimitrije Kaparis, the Captain 2nd class, was sent to Valjevo with "all necessary medicines and instruments". In the order of the Ministry of the Interior from August 2–14, you can read: "A hospital home for hundreds of patients will have to be determined by the district authorities, and exactly 400 blankets, 100 straw-bags, 100 pillows, and 400 shirts should be procu-

red"<sup>14</sup>. Immediately after that, the Minister of the Military sent further instructions to military authorities on August, 7–19: Everything that people of that district have acquired will be abandoned in present and handed over to their district authorities in due time, and this will be used to put up a district hospital"<sup>15</sup>. In the report of the commander of the Volunteer Corps from August 28th / September 9th, 1862, as Vladan Djordjević wrote: "This year (1862) volunteers have started to gather in Valjevo and the Military Minister sent Dimitrije Kaparis to Valjevo to be a doctor, and beside treating volunteers, he was a corps doctor. Immediately upon his arrival to Valjevo, he examined the entire volunteer corps and, after that, 154 volunteers were discharged as incapable of military service"<sup>16</sup>. Among the volunteers, there was a certain Danišević, a medical student from Russian Poland, "who had escaped from the Kronstadt fortress"<sup>17</sup>, but it is not known if he joined the hospital.

In all likelihood, Valjevo Volunteer Hospital was closed down when the Volunteer Corps was dissolved in autumn 1862, and Dimitrije Kaparis, who arrived to Valjevo from a small Military Hospital of Požarevac (with only 20 beds), continued his service and at the beginning of 1864 we could find him working as a doctor in a temporary military hospital in Čuprija<sup>18</sup>.

Regarding the further existence of any military medical service in Valjevo, in the period starting from the closure of the Volunteer Hospital in autumn 1862 until the formation of a war auxiliary hospital from the period of the Serbian-Turkish wars from 1876 to 1978, the available information are meagre and does not allow to get a complete historical picture. According to the data from that period regarding the state model of engaging officers and planning military activities<sup>19-21</sup>, it can be seen that, as before, no units of Standing Army were stationed in Valjevo, at least not in the long run, but there was still an artillery battery of the People's Army established in 1862. It was a part of the Drina and Sava Command with the Headquarters in Šabac. The plans of the military hospitals show that there were hospitals in Belgrade, Kragujevac and Čuprija, however, in the tabular presentation of the number of physically treated soldiers, Vladan Djordjević pointed out to other hospitals, apparently auxiliary or temporary medical objects, which number changed yearly, as well as their locations. Thus, as we saw, in 1862, when there was a Volunteer Hospital in Valjevo, there were also five hospitals in Serbia: Belgrade, Topčider, Kragujevac, Zaječar and Valjevo, in which 58 soldiers were treated. In 1863, Valjevo was not mentioned, but in the review of 1864, Valjevo appeared to be one out of ten places where patients were hospitalized. That year, as one of the places for treatment, Šabac, the Headquarters of the Drina and Sava Command was said to have only 2 patients. In the next 2 years, in 1865 and 1866, Valjevo was not mentioned, but Šabac, where 12, i.e. 8 patients were treated. In 1866, Užice was found to be listed as a treatment place, and it was also included in the Drina and Sava Command. In 1867, (when a Civilian District Hospital was established in Valjevo), Valjevo was mentioned as a place where 48 soldiers were treated, and there was no word about Šabac, while in the following year, in 1868, there

was information about Šabac, Loznica, Užice and Valjevo where 44 patients were treated out of which 1 patient passed away. The same places were mentioned in 1869 when 22 soldiers were treated in Valjevo. Over the next two years, Šabac, Loznica and Užice were also mentioned, but there was no information about Valjevo. Then, again, in 1872, along with already mentioned places, Valjevo appeared as a place with 29 patients. The same situation occurred in 1873 when 30 patients were treated and 2 of them died in Valjevo; in 1874 there were 8 patients, while in 1875, the data referred only to Belgrade and Kragujevac, "because, in the time when this report was being written, Dr Laza Dokic took the rest of other records with him"<sup>22</sup>.

*Reserve Military Hospital of Valjevo from the time of the Serbian-Turkish wars from 1876 to 1878*

The warfare between Serbia and Turkey, which Prince Mihailo began to prepare with the aim of a total liberation, occurred during the reign of Prince Milan Obrenović. In the period from 1876 to 1878, there were two wars. The first one started in July and lasted until November 1876. After the initial success on the south-eastern front, the Serbian troops were overwhelmed and due to the diplomatic intervention of great powers Serbia was saved from a total defeat. The Serbian army, with its police-like (or, gendarmerie model of organization), weakly armed and trained, despite the 2,500 Russian volunteers, officers, and almost 200 different medical profiles, starting from doctors and pharmacists to nurses, was not able to resist superior Turkish army which was larger, better trained and equipped with modern German weapons. Yet, as the great Serbian statesman Jovan Ristić said, "blood of Serbs and Russians spilt together and in that way fortified the fraternity of our two peoples." During that time, the Western Serbian Army, the Drina Division (the Director of medical care was Major Dr Josef Holec) had somewhat more success in fighting around Zvornik and Semberija, temporarily conquering Janja, but unsuccessfully attacking Bijeljina.

There was a need for medical care of the wounded at the beginning of the hostilities and a temporary military hospital was opened in Valjevo. Dr Aleksa Djukić, the Captain 2nd class, a volunteer from the western Srem was appointed to be a Director. He arrived to Valjevo with his young Russian wife on April 21 – May 2. County and municipal authorities were ordered to designate buildings in which 400–800 wounded and sick people could be accommodated if needed, and to establish a local committee to assist the authorities. In the hospital, Dr Djukić's wife worked as a nurse and helped her husband who had been sick with tuberculosis when he came. A doctor Vojislav J. Subotić was sent to join the staff in July, a doctor Djordje Šainović in August, and a Russian doctor Dr Perestrajtkovic with two male nurses in September<sup>23–24</sup>.

The second Serbian-Turkish war started on 7/19 December 1877 to the insistence of Russia which in April started the war with the Ottoman Empire, liberated Bulgaria, conquered the fortress Plevna after the siege and reached the gate of Constantinople. Niš, Pirot, Leskovac, Vranje, were

freed, and Serbs stepped onto Kosovo soil where they were stopped because a treaty was signed. The provisional peace treaty between Russia and Turkey was signed in March 1878 in San Stefano, with very unfavourable conditions for Serbia, because Russia forced the constitution of the Great Bulgaria. The treaty was revised at the Berlin Congress in the middle of the same year when Serbia gained full independence, and besides, keeping the support of Austria, it also maintained the inclination of the Chancellor Count Bismarck with regard to conquered territory.

Although the focus of military activities during the war was on the southern and south-eastern border with Turkey, a high level of readiness, there were occasional skirmishes on the western border of the river Drina, which was protected by Drina Corps counting about 20,000 soldiers. The Head of the corps' medical care was medical Major Dr Stefan Nedok. The military command formed two temporary military hospitals, one in Šabac, where a doctor was a young Berlin student of Medicine Laza Lazarević, and the other one in Valjevo, in which Dr Herman Kraus was appointed a Director. A little more information about the work of the medical service in Valjevo during the Second Serbian-Turkish War was recorded in the third book written by Dr. V. Djordjević under the title "Reserve Hospitals in Valjevo" based on a report of its Director, Dr Kraus: "in a storage, the whole medical supply was left after the last war in such quantity that not only the 1st and 2nd classes of the People's Army could be provided to satisfy their needs for some time, but also the hospital with 200 patients. As far as the hospital building is concerned, it was difficult at the beginning, and for that reason, the patients had to move several times: from the barracks to a school building, and when the school started on March 1st, then from the school again to Kasino and the District Court ... Now there is a school again in the former cannon barracks, where 30 beds could be installed, and in the District Court there are places for 26 patients. In the second building, there is a place for both, a pharmacy and a hospital office. The hospital personnel consisted of a Director of the hospital, 1 medical assistant, 1 pharmacist, commissioner and subcommittee as well as other necessary staff. The first patients were admitted on December 1st, and by the end of May, they were dismissed; 72 in total, 383 total number of patients and wounded, 279 sent to command, 72 sent home, 8 died"<sup>25</sup>.

This war was devastating for weak Serbian medical resources: till the cease-fire agreement, 7 doctors out of 60 died: Majors Dr Stefan Nedok and Aleksandar Verminski and Captains 2nd class Dr Aleksa Djukić, Dr Adam Derman / German /, Dr Rade Petrović, Dr Periša Šljivić and Dr Andrej Bikl, and later on, the eighth – Captain Dr Ilija Milijić<sup>26</sup>.

At the end of the war, since 1879, the Standing army was stationed in Valjevo: the Headquarters of the Drina Artillery Regiment and its two field batteries. At that time, according to the state model, military hospitals, either permanent or temporary, existed in Belgrade, Kragujevac and Niš, and temporary in Čuprija, Kušumlija, Kladovo, Prokuplje, Vranje, Leskovac and Karanovac (Kraljevo)<sup>19</sup>. Reserve Military Hospital of Valjevo was, in all likelihood, dissolved at the end of the war conflicts, and was re-established

in 1883, when the prince, then the King since 1882, Milan Obrenović, started to implement new military reforms.

#### *Valjevo Military Hospital of the Drina Division*

After the peace was made, there was a break in development activities until 1883, when 3 "Laws" were published in the "Official Military Letters", which enabled gradual progress in the organization of the Serbian army, including the field of medical care, and with attained level of development, it entered Balkan Wars (1912) and WW1 (1914). By the first law, the "Law on the Organization of the Ministry of Defence", the Medical Section gained autonomy; by the second, "Law on the Arms of the Army", professional medical personnel was defined, and by the third one, "Law on the Formation of the Army", the internal organization of medical care was determined. This third law defined the territorial division of the state in 5 divisions and certain centres (Moravska - Niš, Drinska - Valjevo, Dunavska - Belgrade, Šumadijska - Kragujevac and Timočka - Zaječar). Thanks to its geostrategic position, Valjevo became the headquarters of the Drina Division, the location of its commanding staff and a part of the operational units<sup>6-7</sup>.

In the first year of implementation of the reforms, besides the command of the Drina Division, Valjevo had 2 units out of 12, deployed in 3 infantry battalions. Since 1885, there were already 4 infantry troops in Valjevo, and after the new military reforms, at the beginning of the 20th century, 24 infantry troops and artillery were located in Valjevo<sup>6,19</sup>.

As you can see from this review, not rich in details, during the two decades, Valjevo grew into a strong garrison centre with developing military infrastructure. In 1885, at the edge of Valjevo city, on Ilidža, a construction of pavilion complex of the first barracks was already completed (later on, the 17th Regiment barracks, namely, Kadinjača barracks after the WWII). Afterwards, in 1899, on the Krušik hill, a construction of a monumental barrack of the 5th Infantry Regiment of the Drina Division was completed, and during the first decade of the 20th century, at the exit from Valjevo, beside the Belgrade road, a pavilion complex of artillery barracks with storages was built. Then, they built a building for the Drina Division Command in the center of the city, and on the west from the Krušik hill, a number of storages and other auxiliary and ancillary facilities, including a building for the accommodation of the Drina Division hospital unit<sup>27-28</sup>.

The transformation of Valjevo into a garrison centre implied the formation and development of military medicine and an opening of the Drina Military Hospital. In 1883, Dr Jovan Djokić, the Captain 2nd class, became its first Director being at the same time a medical desk-officer of the Drina Division<sup>29</sup>. In addition to the hospital in Valjevo, the Drina Hospital Company with a driving squadron was established, and since then a Commander of the Hospital Company had also been a hospital commissar.

By examining the established state and military models (taking into account that the situation shown in the scheme for a particular year actually corresponds to the situation from the previous year, during which the published data were

collected), it was noted that in 1883 and 1884, in the first years of existence, the Military Hospital of Valjevo was named as permanent. Then, for a long period of 15 years, from 1885 to 1899, it was run as a temporary, but since 1900, after the implementation of the reforms, completion of the construction of a large barrack for the 5th Regiment and considerable growth in a number of soldiers, the Military Hospital of Valjevo began to function again as permanent. By the WWI, during the three decades of its existence, there were 12 Directors of the Military Hospital, with some of them performing the duty alongside the duties of medical desk-officers of the Drina Military District.

As we pointed out, the first Director of Military Hospital of Valjevo was a medical Captain 2nd class, Dr Jovan Djokić. In 1884, he was acting as a medical desk-officer of the Drina Division Command. The Assistant Director of the District Hospital was Dr Svetozar Atanasijević, a physiologist, and there was also Waclaw Sypniewski, a contractual medical assistant 1st class. In the following years, from 1885 until June, the duty of the Director of the Military Hospital was performed by Major Dr Vasa Brentović. When the Serbian-Bulgarian War started, the regiments of the Drina Division were also engaged. Its military desk-officer Major Dr Ljubomir Vesović was killed during the Battle of Slivnica which the unprepared Serbian army lost. During the war, Major Dr Alois Kumer stayed in Valjevo, in the Military Hospital and Regional Command, and after signing the peace and according to a peacetime schedule of 1 – 13 March 1886, remained in the office performing the same duties<sup>30</sup>.

During the three-year period from 1886 to 1888, a sanitary major Dr Oswald Hajnc was the Director of the Military Hospital, as well as the desk-officer for the Department of the Drina Regional Divisional Command, while Sub-Lieutenant Ljubomir Subotić was an apothecary. Soon after that, during 1888, the function of the Director was temporarily performed by a medical Captain 2nd class, Dr Mihailo Lorenc, replacing the sick Hajnc, who died at the beginning of 1889, from "incarcerated hernia"<sup>31</sup>. In 1889, both positions were held by Dr Jevta Ristić, a medical Captain 1st class, while Dr Lorenc was still working with him as a doctor. A similar situation remained during the following 5 years, from 1890 to 1894, according to the state scheme, Dr Ristić performed only the duties of a sanitary desk-officer in 1890, whereas, in 1890 Dr Lorenc was the acting Director of the hospital while in 1891 that position was vacated (from 1892 to 1894), and Dr Ristić (since 1893) resumed both functions, and Dr Lorenc (attained the rank of Captain 1st class in 1892) still remained a doctor. During this period, a doctor assistant was Pavle Oško, a contracted Sub-Lieutenant, and Ljubomir Subotić, a physiotherapist, was an assistant. Since 1890, there was a notion about a position of a doctor for the Garrison Headquarters, which was occupied by young doctors, but it often used to be vacant. During the next two years, from 1895 to 1896, Major Dr Ristić was again at the position of the medical Director of the Drina Regional Divisional Command, and Dr Jevgenije Branovački, Lieutenant Colonel, replaced him in 1897, while Dr Svetozar Arsenijević (attained the rank of Major in 1896), who previously, in 1891, as a Lieutenant, worked as a troop doctor for the Garrison Headquarters. Besides him, there was a pharmacist

employed in the hospital, but not another doctor, while young doctors were replacing each other out of the hospital, as a Garrison Headquarters troop doctors, and one of them, medical Lieutenant Andreja Liška, a medicine undergraduate, became a doctor in the Military Hospital in 1897.

Over the next three years, from 1898 until 1900, the position of the Director of the Military Hospital is taken over by the medical Lieutenant Colonel Dr Roman Dalmajer, who in 1900 took over from Dr Branovački the position of the District medical desk-officer. At that period, in the hospital, beside an administrator and pharmacist (former physiotherapist) there was always one doctor (occasionally two), and, out of the hospital, one troop doctor either at the Garrison Headquarters, or at the King Milan 5th Infantry Garrison, yet not every year. Since 1906, these positions are taken over by hospital doctors as additional duties.

From 1901 to 1903, the positions of a medical desk-officer for the Drina Regional Divisional District and a Director of Drina's permanent military hospital were joined again into one and performed by a sanitary Lieutenant Colonel, Dr Josif Hrnjiček who worked together with a hospital physician and pharmacist. However, there were no special troop doctors outside the hospital. From 1904 to 1909, Dr Milan Pecić, a medical Major (attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1908), was in charge of the Headquarters of the Drina permanent Military Hospital. He was also appointed a medical desk-officer in 1905 replacing Dr Hrnjiček, who in 1904 ceased to perform this duty. Since 1906 until the beginning of the war in 1914, the medical desk-officer was Lieutenant Colonel Dr Vladimir A. Popović (attained the rank of Colonel in 1912) and beside him, there were one pharmacist and one doctor engaged in the hospital, too.

In the second year of Dr Pecić's managing the hospital, in summer 1905, in the Units of Valjevo, primarily in the 17th Infantry Regiment Garrison located in the barracks on Ilidža, a large epidemic of abdominal typhus spread. There were 136 soldiers from the 17th Garrison (16% out of a total), 5 out of 5th Garrison, 1 driver and 9 male nurses (out of 40); 9 males died. Three doctors fought the epidemic, one of them also performed a duty of a sanitary desk-officer, and otherwise small capacities of the hospital were increased from 35 to 50 beds. That is why many soldiers were in one of the pavilions of the 17th Garrison barracks, while officers were treated at their homes<sup>32-33</sup>. The second epidemic, but with fewer consequences, was the epidemic of dysentery and was recorded in summer 1909<sup>34-35</sup>.

Since 1910, Dr Jordan T. Stajić, a medical Major (attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1912) became the Director of the Department of Surgery, while Dr Pavle Vojteh, a Captain 1st Class, was at the Internal Department and Melhior Artiko a pharmacist. Dr Stajić was absent for a few months, from April to the beginning of the wars in the fall, and he was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Dr Negasav Velizarić.

#### *Military Hospital of Valjevo in Balkan Wars*

Before the horrors Valjevo went through during the WWI, Valjevo hospital had been in the rear lines, and accepted not only Serbian, but also wounded enemies during the

Balkan wars in 1912–13, when besides the permanent hospital, the two reserve military hospitals were opened to operate in several city facilities<sup>36</sup>. After the war started, all military doctors went to military units, while in Valjevo, a district doctor Dr Selimir Djordjević and a young Valjevo citizen, a Berlin student Dr Draginja Babić, were working in the military hospital. But many foreign doctors, who already came to Valjevo, were also helping them. Some of them wrote their memories at this time; such was a young Swiss adventurer, Dr Hans Vogel, who three decades later described his too romanticized and rich in imagination his observations from the First Balkan War<sup>37</sup>. Varaždin City physicist Dr Stjepan Stanković was much more objective and more precise when sharing his observations with readers of the local newspaper "Our Right". From his articles, we learned that 'besides 2 Serbian doctors in the District Hospital in Srebrenica', a man and woman (apparently Dr Selimir Djordjević and Dr Draginja Babić), a total of 11 doctors worked in Valjevo. Six of them were foreign volunteers (3 Danes, 2 Czechs and he, a Croat) along with 5 old Serbian doctors and 8 medical practitioners (4 Czechs). We also found out that the wounded, who came from all war actions led against the Turkish Vardar Army (Kumanovo, Merdare, Prilep, Bitola), were put up in the buildings of 5th Garrison (400 beds, the Director Dr S. Stanković, 1 Czech doctor and 3 Czech medical practitioners), in gymnasium and elementary school which together with a small military and district hospital, counted 1,100 beds. Dr Stanković wrote that wounded soldiers from the first battles were in better condition because they had been wounded by bullets, while from the battles that took place later, due to a long transport and poor conditions, especially after the Battle of Bitola, they came exhausted and with more additional complications. We also found out that there were 2,000 Turkish prisoners in Valjevo. There were also medical technicians among them and they were treated well<sup>38-40</sup>.

Similarly to Dr Stanković whose records referred to the First Balkan War, a young Dutchman Dr Arius van Tienhoven also wrote for the newspaper readers from his homeland about events in Valjevo during the Second Balkan War. He had already been in Serbia during the previous war, and when the war with Bulgaria began, he responded to the invitation of the Serbian Red Cross. He returned to Belgrade again with an operating sister de Groote, Dr Van Hammel, 2 "half-doctors" and 9 nurses, with the material help organized by "Balcan Committee" founded by his father and his friends. He was sent from Belgrade to Valjevo with an X-ray apparatus and arranged a hospital for one day (he did not describe in which building), and that on the first evening he admitted 230 wounded. He worked in Valjevo until September when the last patient was dismissed, and after being proclaimed a honorary citizen of Valjevo, he returned to the Netherlands<sup>41-42</sup>.

After the end of the Balkan Wars, the Military Hospital of Valjevo returned to its former state and Dr Jordan Stajić, as its Director, remained at this position until the beginning of the WWI. During this short interlude from 1913 to 1914, Major Pavle Vojteh, a Russian contracted Lieutenant, Dr

Ivan Vladisavljević, and a pharmacist Melhior Artiko worked at the Internal Department. The doctor of the garrison was the contractual Captain 2nd class, Dr Simeon Swift<sup>43</sup>.

#### *The location of the Military Hospital of Valjevo*

The question of the location of the Military Hospital of Valjevo has not been the subject of historical research so far, nor was question about the oldest purposefully built buildings for the Civilian Hospital of Valjevo which has appeared recently<sup>44</sup>. According to the memories of the old Valjevo citizens, the Military Hospital in the period between the two World Wars was located in the city centre, at the initial part of the Pop Lukina Street, which after the WWI was renamed into Dr Stajić Street, after its long-time Director. The remaining question is whether the Military Hospital was before and during the War at the same place or perhaps some other one, including the barracks in Ilidža and Krušik.

Previously, there was a scarce information which could not help with locating the place of the Hospital and this was presented in a template report sent by Dr Mijailo Cvijetić, a Valjevo district doctor, in February 1904 to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where we can read that there were two hospitals in Valjevo and that one "district, suits pretty much while the other permanent Military one, does not at all."<sup>45</sup> But there was no information about the position of this inadequate hospital. Additional information, very valuable, but again with the ambiguous description of its exact position was given by one of the military hospital directors, Dr Milan Pecić, in his article describing the above mentioned epidemic of the abdominal typhus in 1905. Dr Pecić pointed out that a small, but unsuitable hospital was located 500 meters from the barracks, "going through the main street - a centre", located in a rented tavern (mehana) nearby a market and that there was a hotel just across the tavern/hospital, and that "a patient in the hospital is dying while across the street loud music plays"<sup>32</sup>.

This determinant, bearing in mind the content of the urban milieu of Valjevo, could indicate that the tavern/hospital was not far away, neither from the hotel Grand, nor from the hotel Sekulić, since both the town hotels were then located on smaller town squares how the word "market" should be properly understood. Therefore, it is more likely that it goes on

about the Sekulić Hotel, since it was located about 500 meters from the barracks, while there were about 800 meters from the Grand Hotel to the barracks; it was also because Sekulić was at the beginning of the Pop Lukina Street, where later the Military Hospital of Valjevo was located, as it was already pointed out. The definitive confirmation of this assumption was a text published on 8/20 November 1909 in the Belgrade newspaper Večernje Novosti, which read as follows: "Harmful to health: The military hospital in Valjevo is in the middle of the town, opposite the biggest hotel of Drago Sekulić, where parties are frequent and where the theatre plays. They shoot in the theatre, Gypsies sing and play in the tavern, sometimes the military music, which does a harm to the peace of the patient. Hygiene does not allow this, and it's time for the hospital to be where it should be once and for all"<sup>46</sup>.

As we can see, the Military Hospital was probably in 1904, and certainly, in 1905 and 1909 located at the same place where it was after the WWI - at the beginning of the Pop Lukina Street, i.e. the Stajiceva Street, across the road from the Sekulic Hotel. And even during the WWI, there are some records from the memoirs of an Austro-Hungarian prisoner, Fr. Gabro Cvitanovic who described where he was working during 1914-1915 and said the following: "I was in the Military Hospital of Drina near the Sekulic Hotel"<sup>47</sup> (Figure 1).

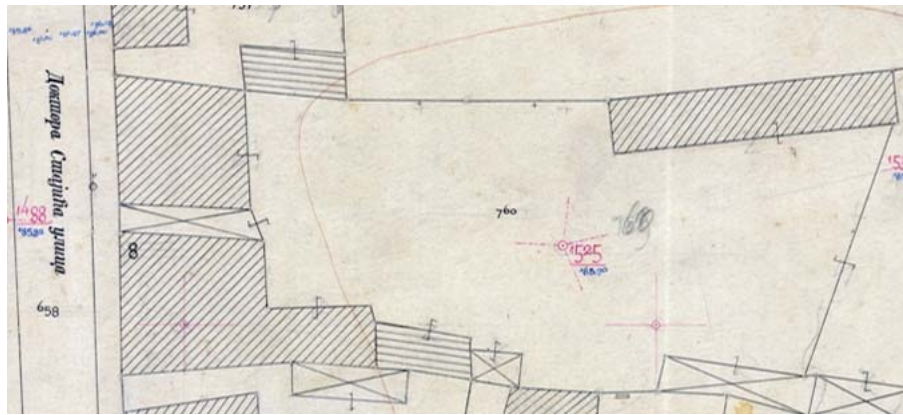
After all, from the moment the Military Hospital became permanent if not earlier, it was located in the mentioned facilities which used to be a tavern (mehana), and, according to the practice of that time, had lodging rooms as well as a yard with facilities for cattle and goods. It probably should have been an initial, provisional solution, but it turned into long-term one, which could also be seen at the example of organizing the temporary Civilian Hospital of Valjevo in 1867<sup>5, 44</sup>.

By further research, we came across a photograph took in Valjevo in 1914/15 by a Dutch surgeon Dr Arius van Tienhoven, where the yard of Military Hospital of Valjevo can be seen. It was published in the 1st Dutch edition of his book of memory of war events 1914/15<sup>48</sup>, but it was not published in the Serbian edition<sup>49</sup>. There could be seen a part of the courtyard of the Military Hospital with a longitudinal ground-based facility. It was just a part of the hospital complex, and the whole could be recognized on the geodetic plan of Valjevo from 1926, where this yard was also recognized<sup>50</sup> (Figure 2).



**Fig. 1 – a) The building where the Military Hospital was situated (Photography archive of the National Museum in Valjevo), and b) today's view of the same building after it has been completely reconstructed; on the right side, you can see the building where the Hotel Sekulić used to be (photography: V. Krivošejev).**





**Fig. 2 – A plot of land of the Military Hospital from the Cadastre plan of Valjevo in 1926 (Digitalized cadastre diameter of Valjevo from 1926. Valjevo: Immovable Property Cadastre, Valjevo).**



**Fig. 3 – a) A view on the Military Hospital from the inner yard on the photography taken by Arius van Tienhoven in 1914 (A. van Tienhoven De gruwelen van der oorlog in Servie – het dagboek van den oorlogs-chirurg. Den Haag; 1915), and b) today (photography: V. Krivošejev).**

Finally, it is necessary to emphasize that the mentioned complex in which the Military Hospital of Valjevo used to be, still exists. The street-side building belongs to the company Erozija, and it has the same dimensions; it was

fundamentally reconstructed during the 1980s, and in the depth of the yard there was a municipal plot with a car park and offices in the building that can be seen on the Van Tienhoven's photograph (Figure 3).

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