

***(ARCHIVAL) RECORDS ACQUISITION PROCEDURE
OF THE CROATIAN MEMORIAL AND
DOCUMENTATION CENTER OF THE HOMELAND WAR
AND COOPERATION WITH PUBLIC AND STATE
INSTITUTIONS AND NGO'S***

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Introduction

- The Croatian Memorial and Documentation Center of the Homeland War (HMDCDR) cooperates with other public institutions – cultural, scientific and educational as well as with associations related to the Homeland War and with individuals - holders or creators of the archival records.
- The Center collects, consolidates, organizes and protects all the documentation and information which is connected and related to the Homeland War
- organizes professional and scientific lectures and exhibitions and scientific conferences.
- Center collaborates with other archives, museums and other public institutions
- collects and records data on the humanitarian, cultural, artistic and other activities related to the Homeland War
- collects documentation and information related to the role of the Croats outside the Republic of Croatia during the Homeland War.
- Besides the Croatian State Archives, the Center is the only archives in Croatia whose activity is carried out on the territory of the entire Republic of Croatia. In accordance with that, the Center cooperates with archives, schools, museums, and other institutions throughout the entire country.

Records acquisition procedure of the Croatian Memorial Documentation Center of the Homeland War

- The Center acquires archives by transfer under an established and legally based procedure, by deposit, by purchase and by gift
- The process begins with preparing the Archives Acquisition Statement
- For the records that are acquired as a donation, the Deed of Gift is made and for the archives that are acquired by purchase, a purchase contract is made
- After the acquisition, the information on the records is entered in the Records Accession Register:
 - the date of the acquisition
 - the name and the address of the person or institution
 - the legal basis for the acquisition
 - classification and register number
 - the name of the creator
 - the content and the time frame of records
 - record group sign and possible comments

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations and associations

- The Croatian Memorial Documentation Center of the Homeland War cooperates with non-governmental organizations, especially associations of the war veterans or civil associations related to the war.
- The cooperation is reflected in:
 - - collecting the archival records, photo and video material
 - - book publishing and organizing commemorations related to the anniversaries of the events from the Homeland War.

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- The Center has an especially good cooperation with women's peace organizations.
 - **“Bastion of Love - Mothers for Peace** - a Croatian women's non-governmental organization spontaneously formed at the beginning of 1991, when the first signs of the upcoming Greater Serbian aggression appeared.
 - The members of the “Bastion of Love - Mothers for Peace” have donated 4 archival boxes of records on the activities in the period 1991 – 1995 to the Center.
 - Slavica Bilić, the first president of the organization donated 3 more archival boxes of records, one with photos and two with newspapers, magazines and newspaper clips (1991 – 1998).
 - Part of the documentation donated by Ms. Bilić was published in the book entitled „The Ring of Peace and Motherly Love”- written by Slavica Bilić and published by the Center in 2013.



- **The fonds „Bastion of Love - Mothers for Peace“ contains:**

- - letters and appeals to the foreign statesmen, embassies, to international NGO's, humanitarian organizations, etc.
- - records on the yearly assemblies of the Bastion of Love
- - correspondence with international humanitarian organizations and the documentation on the cooperation with the UN (International Commission on Missing Persons) and with the International Committee of the Red Cross
- - documentation related to the work with the victims of the war
- - press releases

„The Ring of Peace
and Motherly Love”
book cover

REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
I DOMOVINSKI RAT 1990.-1995.
MEMOARSKO GRADIVO

KNJIGA 7

SLAVICA BILIĆ
PRSTEN MIRA I MAJČINSKE LJUBAVI



HRVATSKI
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- **Croatian Phoenix** is an association of families of imprisoned and disappeared Croatian war veterans.
 - It was founded in August 1993 with the aim to organize joint activities to find and release Croatian war veterans detained and missing in the Homeland War and to monitor the exercise of their families' rights under existing regulations.
 - The fonds „**Croatian Phoenix**“ contains:
 - letters, memos, and greetings
 - conference presentations, project documentation, minutes from the meetings and work reports
 - correspondence with the international humanitarian organizations and UN's International Commission on Missing Persons reports on DNA identifications of victims and reports related to forensics.

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- The Center has also developed significant cooperation with the **Society of Nurses and Medical Technicians from the Homeland War of the Croatian Nurses Association**
 - The founding of the Society was confirmed in October 2016 during the symposium “Let us not forget the 90’s” organized by the nurses from Lipik, Croatian War Veterans Hospital and Vukovar General Hospital
 - At these symposia nurses and medical technicians present their testimonies on their participation and their work in the Homeland War
 - In November 2018, the Croatian Memorial Centre purchased 89 testimonies written by more than 100 authors for the Center’s Collection of the Memoir Records from the Society
 - These testimonies were edited and published in the book **“Nurses and Medical Technicians in the Homeland War, Testimonies”**. The book was published in March 2019 by the Croatian Memorial Documentation Centre of the Homeland War and Croatian Nurses Association.

„Nurses and Medical
Technicians in the
Homeland War,
Testimonies“
book cover

MEDICINSKE SESTRE I TEHNIČARI U DOMOVINSKOM RATU

- svjedočanstva -



Snimio: Tom Hložek

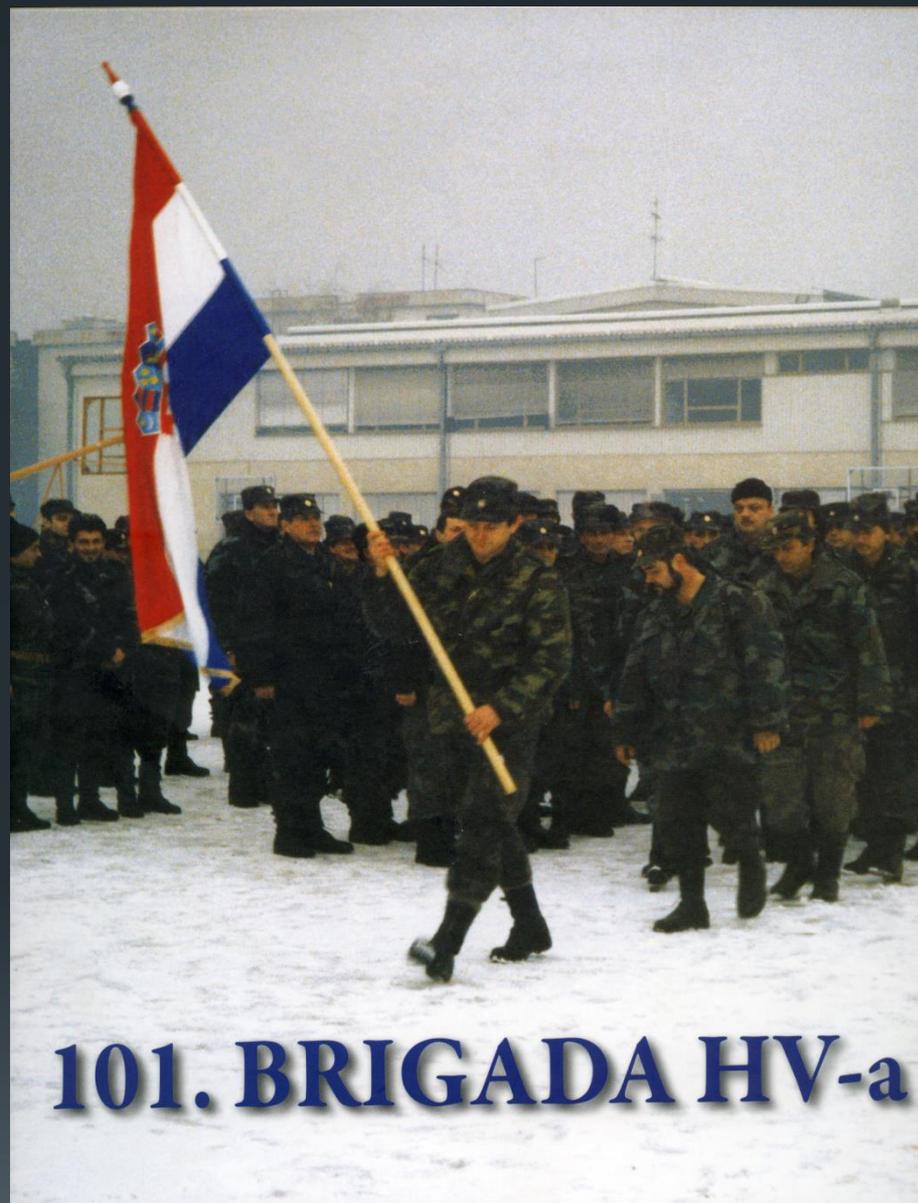


HRVATSKI
MEMORIJALNO
DOKUMENTACIJSKI CENTAR
DOMOVINSKOG RATA



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- Besides the civilian associations related to the Homeland War, the Center cooperates with numerous associations of Homeland War veterans.
 - The head of the Center or/and the Center employees often attend the anniversaries related to the events from the Homeland War as well as anniversaries of the military units
 - **Association of the Croatian War Veterans of the Homeland War of the 101 ZNG/HV Brigade, Zagreb – Susedgrad** donated 2 archival boxes of records to the Center
 - In 2012, the Center and the Association published the book entitled “**101 Brigade of the Croatian Armed Forces**“
 - A prominent example of cooperation with the NGO’s is the one with the **Croatian Red Cross**. In 2016, the Center and Croatian Red Cross had co-published the book “**Saving Life, Care of Civilians after the Operation “Storm”**”
 - The book is bilingual, written in English and Croatian and besides the authors' texts, there are also documents from the Croatian and international institutions published in both languages

„101 Brigade of the
Croatian Armed
Forces”
book cover



LANG • ČULO • DOMAZET

SAVING LIFE SPASIMO ŽIVOT

Care of Civilians After the Operation "Storm"
Zbrinjavanje civila nakon operacije "Oluja"



EVERYBODY IS NEEDED • NEMA SUVIŠNIH LJUDI

HRVATSKI
MEMORIJALNO –
DOKUMENTACIJSKI CENTAR
DOMUŠKOG BAZA



“Saving Life, Care of
Civilians after the
Operation “Storm”
book cover

Cooperation with state institutions

- Center has developed a firm cooperation with the **Ministry of Croatian Veterans**. The Center is included in most of the Ministry's Law enforcement working groups and are also members of various Ministry's professional committees.
- The Center is a partner institution on the Ministry's project supported by the EU "Digitalization of Archival Records from the Homeland War" and carried out by Public Institution Memorial Centre of Homeland War Vukovar.
- With the **Military Museum of the Ministry of Defense** of the Republic of Croatia the Center had co-published multilingual (Croatian, English and German) book "Croatian War Poster 1991–1995". The Military Museum possesses a rich collection of posters produced during the Homeland War, which have been presented to the public on several occasions. Most of these posters are stored on digital media in the Center.
- The Center has achieved the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in the framework of projects of cultural promotion, public diplomacy and international recognition of the Republic of Croatia.

Cooperation with archives, libraries and museums

- In accordance with its Statute, Croatian Memorial and Documentation Centre cooperates with other cultural, scientific and related institutions and organizations in order to improve its activities and scientific work
- The cooperation with other archives in Croatia, primarily with the **Croatian State Archives**, but also with other smaller archives, resulted in exhibitions on the Croatian War of Independence and in joint publications of documents, which include mainly documents from the Centre's archival materials relating to activities of YNA and Serbian paramilitary units during the existence of the Serbian parastate in Croatia
- The Centre has organised several exhibitions in cooperation with the Croatian archives. For example, during 2016, in cooperation with the **State Archives in Međimurje**, the Centre prepared an exhibition of war photographs and posters focusing on democratic changes and the creation of the Republic of Croatia,

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- In September of year 2016, the Centre, in cooperation with the **State Archives in Šibenik**, opened an exhibition on war affairs in Šibenik during the year 1991
 - In December 2017, in cooperation with the **Museum of the Homeland War in Dubrovnik**, the Centre prepared and opened an exhibition of photographs with the theme of the Homeland War in Dubrovnik
 - The Centre cooperated with other archival institutions in joint organisation of the *49th conference of the Croatian archivists* in October 2016 in the Plitvice Lakes National Park. The conference was jointly organised by the Croatian Archival Society, the State Archives in Gospić and the Center

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- An example of special and important forms of cooperation is the Center's cooperation with the special collection of the Vukovar Hospital as a **Place of Remembrance**, which came into existence in 2006 and is still open to all visitors in the basement of the **Vukovar Medical Centre**.
 - The Center provided professional help with writing and translating of texts written on ceramic tiles on hospital walls between the old and the new part of the hospital.
 - At the opening of the exhibition in the **Vukovar Hospital**, the Center published a special book in which one part is dedicated to the exhibition area, providing a detailed account of events covered by this unique exhibition (Nazor, A. (2006). *Mjesto sjećanja, Vukovarska bolnica*).
 - the same year and on the same occasion, the Center published a small catalog with the text for the Ovčara Memorial House, in Croatian, English, German, French and Italian.

Cooperation with schools, universities and other scientific institutions

- Cooperation between the Center and schools in the Republic of Croatia refers primarily to expert lectures held by the Center's employees every year to primary and secondary school students on the Croatian War of Independence, as well as on sources, especially archival sources kept by the Center.
- Employees of the Center also hold similar expert and scientific lectures to university students and employees of certain universities and colleges in the Republic of Croatia.
- The cooperation is also evident in the organisation and preparation of exhibitions at the request of certain primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities.

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- During 2018, the Center prepared exhibitions at the **Sesvete Grammar School** (photographs and posters on the topic of the international recognition of Croatia from the Center's Photographs Collection), at a primary school in Đakovo, entitled “**Stolen Childhood – Memory of Children who Fell Victim to the Croatian War of Independence**”, as well as two exhibitions at the **Croatian Military Academy** on the Croatian War of Independence, also showing photographs stored at the Center’s Photographs Collection.

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- One of the key tasks and activities which the HMDCDR introduced in as early as 2007 and which has been performed continuously up to date, is publishing archival materials.
 - The Centre has thus started a book series titled ***Republic of Croatia and the Croatian War of Independence 1990–1995 – Documents***
 - It is in its publishing activity, in the part relating to the aforementioned book series, that the Center has achieved a special form of cooperation with the **Croatian Institute of History – Unit for the History of Slavonia, Syrmia and Baranya**, with which it co-published the total of 9 books from the series between 2007 and 2019, in which mostly documents of institutions of the rebel Serbs in Croatia between 1991 and 1995 were published.
 - One of the books in the series, Book no. 21, entitled "***Aggression of the JNA and Serbian Troops (Lika, 1991 - 1992)***" was prepared and published in cooperation with the **State Archives in Gospić**, in January 2019, and territorially refers to the area of Lika, that is, contains documents of the JNA and Serbian paramilitary units operating in the Lika area during the Homeland War.

Conclusion



- The Croatian Memorial Documentation Centre of the Homeland War has established cooperation with various related institutions so far for more efficient execution of its planned tasks. In accordance with its mission, the *Archives and Archival Institutions Act* and the *Act on the Croatian Memorial and Documentation Center of the Homeland War* the Center collects archival records from the period of the Homeland War and related to the Homeland War from private holders, archival and other public institutions as well as from the nongovernmental organizations and associations.
- The Center will continue to search for new forms of cooperation with state institutions as well as with private holders and civil associations and will continue the present cooperation.