

## Partisans' Support: Milka Bosnic

By Andjela Bolta

This is the story about Milka Bosnica, a Serbian girl who actively supported Partisan fighters in WWII. In former Yugoslavia, she was proclaimed a national hero of Yugoslavia in 1974.

Milka was born in 1928 in Vrtoce, a village near the city of Drvar, as one of seven children. When WWII started in Yugoslavia, she was only 13; nevertheless, she happened to join the Partisans.

The story told about her goes like this:

She collected food, nursed wounded partisan soldiers, and she was also a messenger for the Partisans. She was well known as a very clever messenger who hid her messages for the Partisans in her braids. It happened during the Nazi military attack on Drvar in May, 25<sup>th</sup> 1944: Right before the attack, the Partisans made a tank formation in Drvar. The battle started. In one of the

tanks there were wounded soldiers inside and Nazi soldiers threw a blanket on the tank's windshield so that the driver wasn't able to see anything and the tank was about to crash. At that moment, Nazi soldiers escorted a line of civilians they had captured in Drvar. Milka also was in that line. When she saw the blanket on the tank's windshield she jumped out of the line of prisoners and took the blanket of the tank. The driver of the tank was able to see again and he went back on the road and continued the fight. The Nazi soldiers grabbed Milka and stabbed her with their bayonets. She was only 16 when she was killed.<sup>1</sup>



**Milka Bosnica** (photo: Слика је скенирана из књиге "Народни хероји Југославије", "Младост" Београд 1975. година)

<sup>1</sup> Photo source: <http://www.dnevno.rs/ekalendar/slavne-lepotice/56372/zaboravljena-herojna-drugog-svetskog-rata-devojcica-koja-je-zivotom-platila-otpor-nemcima> (10.8.2015.)