

# The Role of Catholic Pharmacists in Responding to the Croatian Homeland War

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**HKLD**  
HRVATSKO KATOLIČKO LJEČNIČKO DRUŠTVO

➤ Healthcare system in war

➤ Medicines

➤ Pharmacies and pharmacists

➤ Serving in all parts of Croatia throughout the war

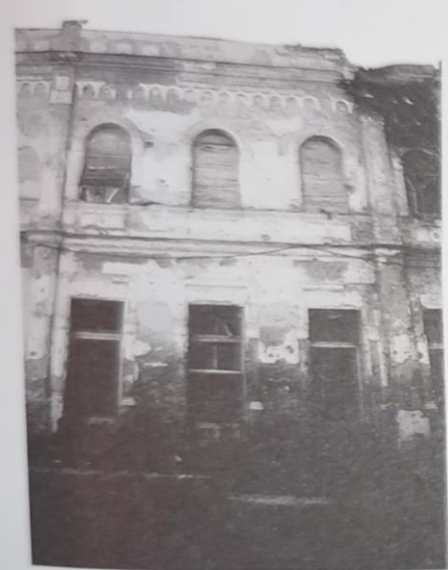
➤ Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

➤ Both as medical workers and soldiers in combat

➤ Quiet, self-effacing and self-sacrificing background workers and warriors



## Damaged pharmacies after bomb attacks



Sjeverozapadno pročelje (lijevo) i prednja strana Ljekarne, listopad 1997.  
(iz arhive Ministarstva kulture RH, autor fotografije: Vid Barac).

Hospital pharmacy

Vukovar Central Pharmacy

Oldest Vukovar pharmacy  
and oldest pharmacy of the  
Eastern Slavonia



Laboratorij Bolničke ljekarne (lijevo) i ulazni hodnik prema ljekarni (desno)  
(autorica fotografija: Ljubica Slišković).

# Pharmacies during wartime

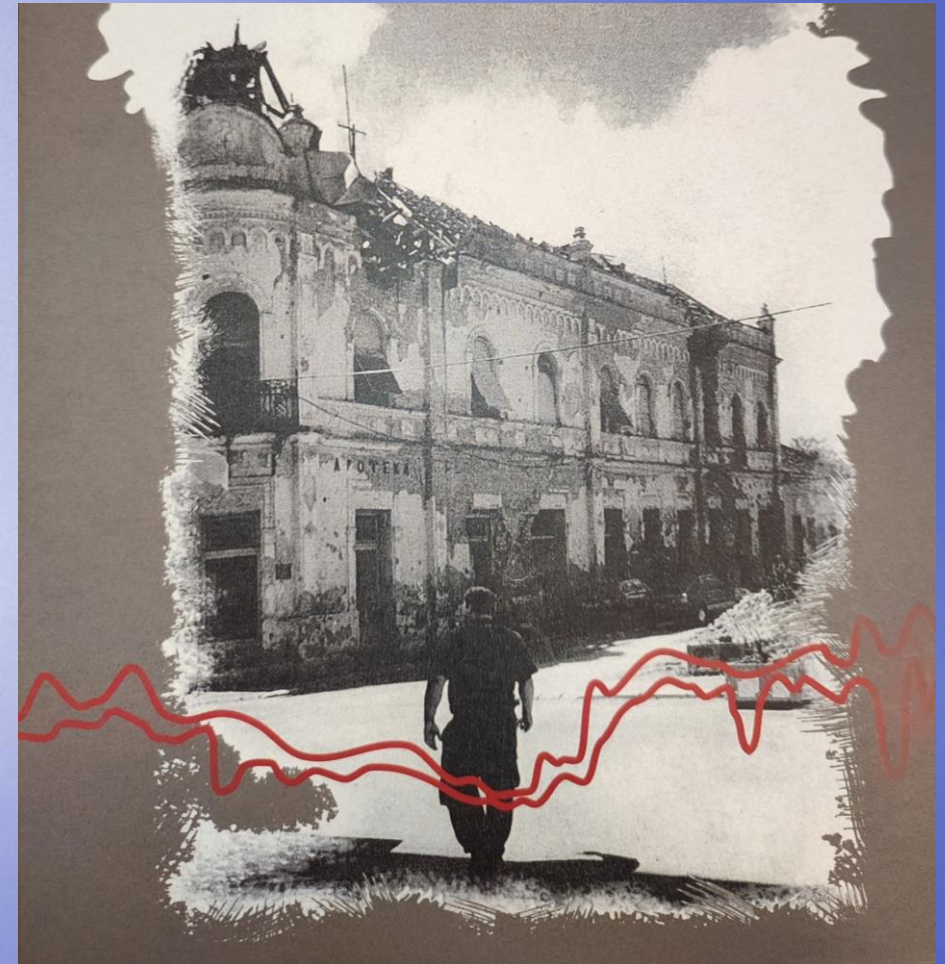


- Located in basements, bomb shelters without computer support
- In spite of horrible conditions, pharmacists still remained professional and respected all principles of pharmacy and medicine
- All information and knowledge was shared and they worked together as a team in harmony although they were randomly gathered together without knowing each other



Redovi ispred ljekarne sezali su na ulicu  
(iz osobne arhive Renate Broz Malić).

Rows in front of Pharmacies



# Drug donations from Europe



- Often expired drugs
- Difficulty with recognizing drugs by brand name without generic name
  - Help with Rote Liste, Vidal, Martindale and others
- Fake drugs
- Ethical problems?
  
- Required fast recognizing, sorting, organising and distributing all over Croatia
- „Croatian Health Insurance Fond” provided technical support with computers for organization and filing

# Pharmacy Caritas in Zagreb



- Founded by enthusiastic pharmacists with help from Caritas, Croatian Pharmaceutical Society and government
- Pharmacy that gave away medications to people in need
- Still exists today and still gives free medication to people in need
- Part of Pharmacy Diakonia





- „Pharmacy has its meaning and value to the extent that it serves the betterment of human health and life”

- **prof.dr. Valentin Pozaić** (1993, Pharmaceutical Herald of Croatian Pharmaceutical Society)



- founder and the first ecclesiastical assistant of the Croatian Catholic Medical Society
- former ecclesiastical assistant of the FEAMC (1996–2016)

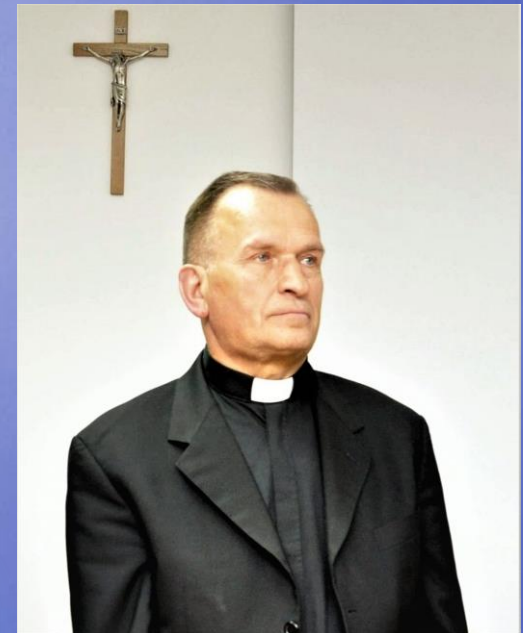






- „If a pharmacist acts in the spirit of The Gospel, for his life's work he will find inspiration in Jesus's words: Heal the sick (Mt 10,8); and for hardships of his work in: I was sick and you looked after me (Mt 25,36) or I was sick and you gave me medicine.”

- **prof.dr. Valentin Pozaić** (1993, Pharmaceutical Herald of Croatian Pharmaceutical Society)



**Crveni fićo - Red Zastava 750 (Yugoslavian version of Fiat 750)  
Symbol of citizen resistance in Osijek, Slavonia**



Source: Arhiva HRT



Source: Pixsell

# Tomica Lesić Doc



- Our colleague pharmacist
- Worked in Vukovar hospital
- Helped soldiers, wounded, locals, provided medications and his medical knowledge
- Killed on 20.11.1991. in Ovčara massacre
- First identified victim of Ovčara massacre
  - By dental records, sports injuries and his house key





In memory of our fellow medical workers  
who lost their life for our Homeland



Thank you for your attention!