

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION
OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY
OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS INFORMATION:

Name: ORIC MEVLUDIN
Last First

Nickname/Alias: MEVLO

Age: DOB: 1 February 1970 Gender: Male

Ethnic Origin: Bosnian Religion: Muslim

Occupation: Current: BiH Army Former: Unemployed

Language(s) Spoken: Bosnian

Language(s) Written: Bosnian (If different from spoken)

Date(s) of Interview(s): 10, 11 & 12 August 1995

Interviewer: Susan M. Castro

Interpreter: Adisa Karamuratovic

Language(s) Used in Interview: Bosnian

Names of all other persons present during interview(s): _____

Signed/Initialed: ORIC MEVLUDIN O.M
Adisa Karamuratovic A.K.
Susan M Castro sc

WITNESS STATEMENT

The attack on Srebrenica started around the 4th of July 1995 and lasted about seven or eight. I was a commander of ten member infantry unit in the 283rd Brigade, 2nd Corps BiH Army, at the time of the attack and fall of Srebrenica to the Bosnian Serb Army.

On 11 July, I was at the front line when my unit received information that Srebrenica had fallen because we could not defend against the heavy shelling. I left the front line and went home to check on my family. I met my neighbors along the way and they told me my family had already left for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) base at Potocari.

All the military aged men, including the local BiH commanders from Srebrenica, gathered in the village of Susnjari. We talk about what we were going to do since we might be killed if we left with the convoys of women and children. I heard RAMIZ BECIROVIC, the BiH Commander in Srebrenica, give the order for us to form a column and walk toward Tuzla. BECIROVIC ordered the armed BiH soldiers to head the column and follow at the end to provide some protection. Soldiers of the 284th Brigade, who were from the Bratunac region would also head the column since they knew the way through the forest. I was somewhere near the end of the column and was not armed. BECIROVIC allowed those men with personal hunting weapons to carry them no matter what position in the column they were in. I did not hear BECIROVIC give the men with the hunting weapons any specific orders.

On 12 July, at 0530 or 0600 hours, we broke up into our brigades, formed the column, and the first men started to leave. I do not remember when it was my turn to start walking but I had been waiting about two hours. I estimate that there were about 15,000 men in the column. Before the fall of Srebrenica, there were about 14,000 BiH soldiers in the Srebrenica region. An additional 1000 older men and boys, around 14 and 15 years old, joined us because they feared getting killed if they went with the women and children.

We went into the forest and walked in a column of one because we were afraid of land mines. We followed no particular road or path. I have marked an approximate "path", in green, on a map of the region. Neither myself nor those around me carried a map and we all followed the person in front of us.

Approximately 30 minutes after I started walking, about two and one half hours after the column started walking, I saw six dead bodies along the left side of our "path" near Jaglici. This area was under the control of the Bosnian Serb Army and was just past the village of Jaglici as you head toward Kamenica. Jaglici is located on a hill and the area where I saw the bodies is down the first valley after you pass the village. To the left of where the bodies were located is a meadow that went up a hill. About 300-400 meters from the "path", to the right, in the meadow, I saw the Serb trenches. I had a clear few of the trenches. There were no heavy bushes or trees in the area.

It appeared as though a shell had hit five men and one boy, about 14 or 15 years old boy. The five men appeared to be in their 20's or 30's. I recognize one of the men as being from the 284th BiH Brigade but do not know his name. Another man wore a camouflage uniform and

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before I heard a burst of gun fire. I heard no commands to fire. I could not tell how many people were shooting. My cousin was shot immediately and started to scream. His body hit my shoulder so I let go of his hand and fell face down to the ground. HARIZ fell over my legs. HARIZ started to moan for about 30 seconds and then there was silence. While he was moaning I could feel his body shaking. Then there was silence and his body stopped shaking. During this time, I heard more than one person walking away and then I heard what sounded like automatic rifle magazines being reloaded. I am familiar with the clicking sound made by the reloading of an automatic rifle magazine from my army experience.

Other detainees were moaning. From the direction of where I heard the rifle magazines being reloaded I heard a voice say, "ZULFO", go finish the job. I heard what sounded like the footsteps of one person walking close by. I assumed this was ZULFO. He would stop and fire one shot. I heard one man say, please kill me, I am wounded. I heard ZULFO say, wait a minute Turk, your time will come. A person off to my right was moaning. I heard ZULFO walking toward him and fire one shot. He must have been very close because the rifle shot was loud. I felt something splash onto my back, I assumed it was blood. Another person further off to my right was moaning. I heard ZULFO stop again and fire one shot. This man continued to moan and then I heard another shot. The man continued to moan until another shot was fired. When ZULFO came to me, he kicked my foot and continued walking. The person must also have shot my cousin again because I later saw he was hit in his left shoulder blade and the initial firing did not come from this direction. I remained motionless and did not breathe.

While "ZULFO" was firing, I heard the sound of more small trucks coming up. I heard the same similar orders, come on, line-up, hurry, hurry, followed by a burst of gunfire. I felt bullets whistling past me on the ground for those groups of men who were shot near me. "ZULFO's" name would also be called again to finish the job. I heard others say, this one is still moving, the one in the red shirt is moving ... This continued all day with no long pauses. I heard the sounds of one truck stopping near the location where I was at the another truck continuing off in the distance. In the distance I heard screaming and bursts of gunfire much like that around me. The distant sounds of gunfire and screams also continued all day. I heard what sounded like heavy vehicles moving dirt near by.

ZULFO would also call out through the day something like, hey old man, why don't you get up and I will bandage your wound. I heard no one respond. He repeated this so many times that it gave me the impression he was trying to trick any survivors. I heard voices laughing and talking all day. They would say things like, "Balija's mother", we are safe only when the "Balija's" are dead. There were other occasions when I heard a voices say, he is escaping. I heard a burst of gunfire and then someone say, he is dead, finished, drag him down to the valley... On one occasion, the voices said he escaped and would need to pass the railroad tracks so we better wait there. They were cursing on this occasion.

I heard them yelling, ZULFO, repeat a single shot again into the first group, you are not doing your job right. I thought I would be killed at this time.

My head was "spinning" and I either fell asleep or lost consciousness. It may have been about 2100 hours at this time.

Oric' Mevludin
Area in case

FUDBALSKO IGRALIŠTE
Football

SPOME
Monument

ŠKOLA V.K.
School
V.K. Karadzic

lighted area

POLICE
Police Station

PRIVATNE KUĆE
Private Houses



Private Houses

Business
BANKA
BANKA
BANKA
BANKA
BANKA

Kuća
Kuća
Kuća
Kuća
Kuća

Retracted
Shower
Street
light

ROBNI
MAGACINI

ROBNA
KUĆA
Department
Store

Main Street
GLAVNA CESTA KROZ BRATUNAC

← Konjevic Polje

AUTOBUSKA STANICA
Main
Bus Station

STANBEVA
ZGRADA
Apartment
Building

Apartment
Building

SRE

00336995

FOHTAHA

Hotel

Subor

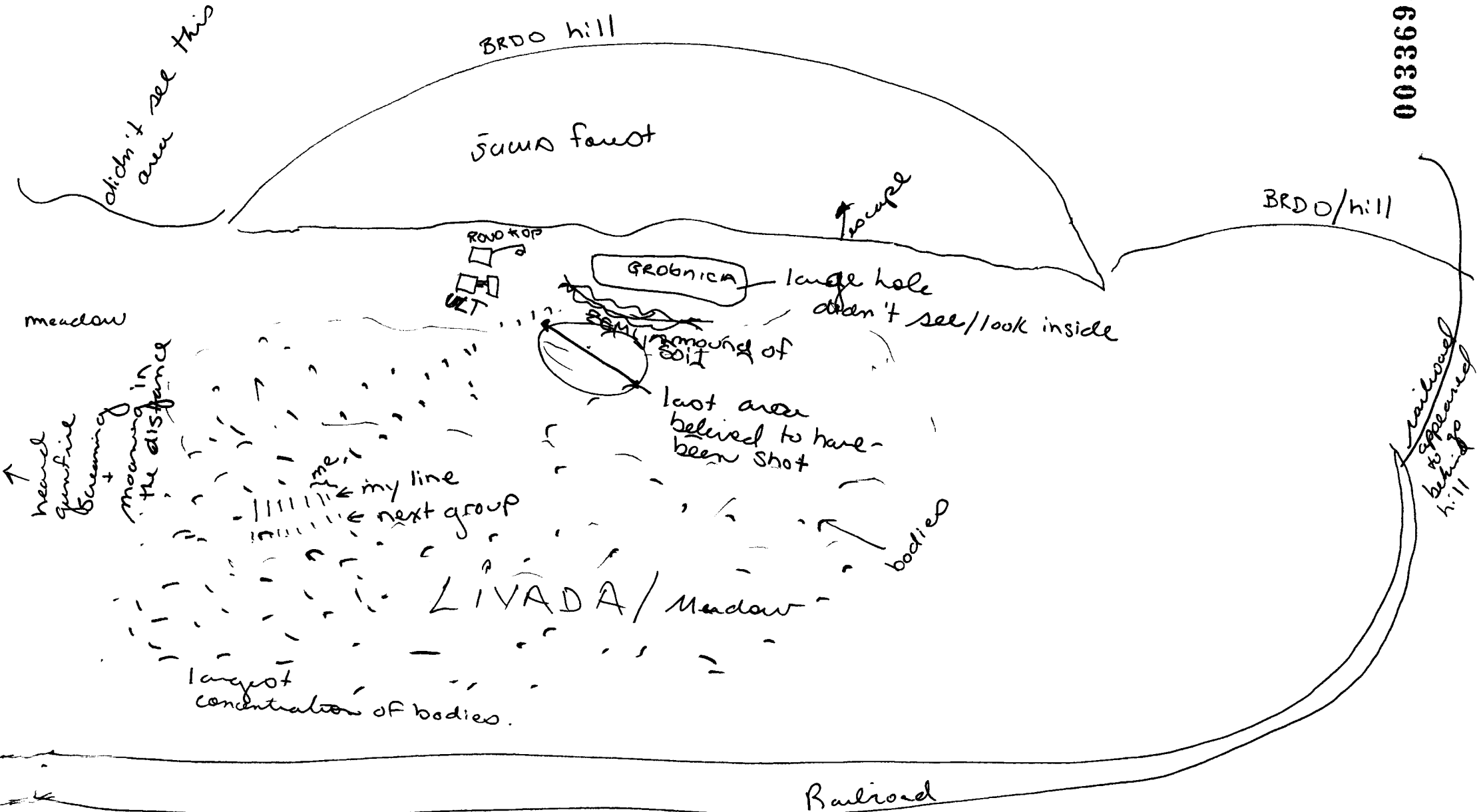
Bratunac
Serbia

Oric Mevludin
Susam east

moon light
raining but cleared.

3D00-0080

00336998



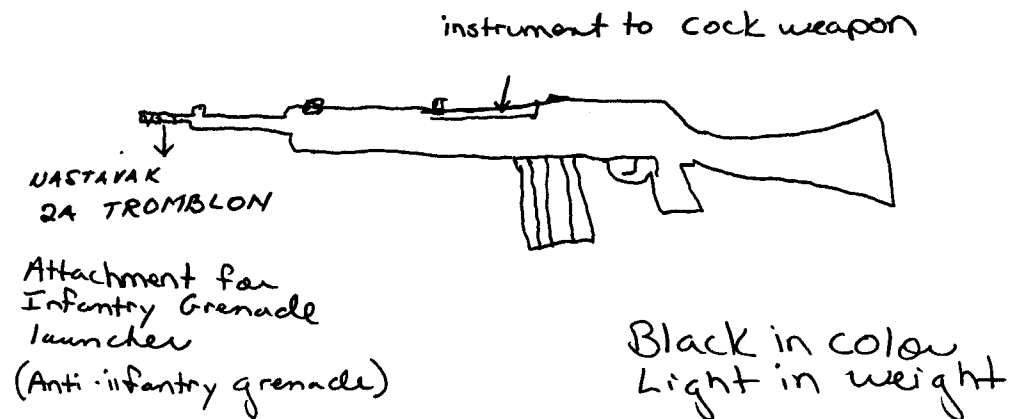
ŽELEZNIČKA PRUGA ŽVORNİK - TUZLA
only RR known in the area

ORIC MEVLUDIN
Suspect

Dutch Rifle

3D00-0081

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- 7.9mm Ammunition Type:
- Head of bullet is painted light blue with very tip is yellow
 - Did not see ammunition on 14 Jul 95