



175 years of the Serbian Military Medical Corps (July 30, 1839 – July 30, 2014)

175 godina srpskog vojnog saniteta (30.7.1839 – 30.7.2014)

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This issue of the *Vojnosanitetski Pregled* coincides with marking the Day of Medical Services of the Army of Serbia – the great jubilee of 175 years of the establishment of legally organized military medical services in the Army of Serbia. Namely, on July 30 (July 18 according to the old Julian Calendar) 1839 in the reborn Principality of Serbia the Decree was issued on the appointment of the members of the General Military Staff (*Glavni vojeni štab*) among which was the staff Medical Doctor, the Head of the Military Medical Corps, as being the first time for this service to get the position of a separate unit within the military organization. That act was preceded by a few significant events, significant not only for the Army of Serbia, but also for the whole then Serbia.

On February 25, 1839 the new Serbian Constitution (sent from Constantinople, supported by Russian and Austrian governments, regulating the status of the state and law and inner organization of the autonomous Principality of Serbia) was read in the Tašmajdan Park. It resolved the inner clash between the autocratic Prince Miloš and the Serbian national representatives that used to shake the young state over the years. According to article 19 of that Constitution the Minister (*popječitelj*) of Internal Affairs “decides anything regarding the army” and “manages with any military medical affairs in the state”.

Let us point out that both army and military medical corps existed even before this Constitution: that year in Serbia there were 8 physicians, 1 pharmacist, 1 MSc in Surgery, 3 medical practitioners, and 1 private pharmacist in Belgrade where there also were 1 physician and 1 MSc in Surgery in the service of Turkish pasha. Out of this number in the service of the Guard (*“gvardija”*) of Prince Miloš there were 3 physicians (Lindenmeier, Beloni and Majnert, 1 MSc in Surgery – Slavuj, and 2 medical practitioners – Novaković and Kaparis).

According to these constitutional solutions and after passing the Law on “organizing central governing of the Principality of Serbia” (Government), in compliance with the Council of Serbian People on May 29 – June 10, 1839 Prince Miloš issued a Decree on “organizing a garrison army” to regulate inner af-

Izlazak ovog broja „Vojnosanitetskog pregleda” poklapa se sa obeležavanjem Dana sanitetske službe Vojske Srbije koja ove godine slavi veliki jubilej – 175 godina od uspostavljanja zakonom uređene sanitetske službe Srpske vojske. Naime, 30. jula (po starom julijanskom kalendaru 18. jula) 1839. godine, u obnovljenoj Kneževini Srbiji, donet je Ukaz o postavljanju članova Glavnog vojenog štaba, među njima i štab doktora, tj. načelnika vojnog saniteta, čime ova služba po prvi put zvanično dobija status posebne celine unutar vojne organizacije. Tom činu prethodilo je nekoliko važnih događaja, bitnih ne samo za srpsku vojsku, već za čitavu tadašnju Srpsku državu.

Dana 25. februara 1838. godine na beogradskom Tašmajdanu pročitana je novi srpski Ustav, poslat iz Carigrada i podržan od ruske i austrijske vlade, kojim je regulisan državnopravni status i unutrašnje uređenje autonomne Kneževine Srbije. Njime je rešen unutrašnji sukob između samovlasnog knjaza Miloša i srpskih narodnih predstavnika koji je nekoliko poslednjih godina potresao mladu državu. Prema čl. 19 toga Ustava popječitelj unutreni djela (minister unutrašnjih poslova) „raspoređuje sve što se tiče vojske“ i „upravlja svim sanitetskim poslovima u državi“.

Treba naglasiti da su i vojska i sanitet postojali i pre ovog Ustava; te godine u Srbiji je već bilo u državnoj službi osam lekara, jedan apotekar, jedan magistar hirurgije, tri lekara-empirika, kao i jedan privatni apotekar u Beogradu, gde su se u službi turskog paše, takode, nalazili jedan lekar i jedan magistar hirurgije. Od ovog sastava, u službi kod Miloševe garde („gvardija“) bila su tri lekara [Lindenmajer, Beloni i Majnert, jedan magistar hirurgije (Slavuj) i dva empirika (Novaković i Kaparis)].

Na osnovu ovih ustavnih rešenja i posle donošenja zakona o „Ustrojeniju centralnog upravljenja Knjažestva srbskog“ (Vlada), knjaz Miloš je, uz saglasnost Sovjeta naroda srbskog, 29. maja–10. juna 1839. doneo uredbu o „Ustrojeniju garnizone vojske“ kojom se reguliše unutrašnja organizacija te, sada od turske Porte zvanično priznate, srpske unutrašnje vojske. Članom 6 predviđeno je formiranje Glavnog štaba i njegov na-

fairs by internal army, then officially recognized by Turkish Porte. Article 6 anticipated the formation of General Staff and its Head "who cannot be under the rank of colonel and who will be directly under the orders of the Minister of Internal Affairs, and to whom any lower ranks in any military issues will be responsible". Article 7 anticipated 2 departments in the General Staff, 1 "of military profession" and another 2 "to meet the requirements of the army". Article 8 stated the personnel engagement of the General Staff including "1 physician".

Regarding the fact that Prince Miloš abdicated the position of Prince in favor of his undergraduate and already seriously ill son Milan as early as on 1 – 13 June 1839, further development of these legal regulations was overtaken by the "Deputy Office of His Royal Highness" by passing a Decree on appointing the members of the General Staff on 18 – 30 July, 1839, that at the list of the appointed personnel, item 7, indicated the name of "Dr. Emerich Lindenmeier for the staff physician". That was the way that the Serbian Military Medical Corps got its first chief!

Taken by his true devotion, Dr. Lindenmeier was directly at the head of the Military Medical Corps till 1845 when he was appointed to manage the whole Serbian Medical Corps, both civil and military, and indirectly till 1859, namely till coming back of old and vengeful Prince Miloš to the throne of Serbia, who dismissed him because he served under the rule of Advocates of Constitutionalism and the competitive family Karadorđević, although Dr. Lindenmeier always used to point out that he served to people and Serbia and not to the individuals and with no interest in politics. Dr. Lindenmeier showed his true devotion in 1862 when the Turks bombed Belgrade, and Prince Mihailo invited Dr. Lindenmayer to organize the complete management of the wounded with the help of the Belgrade physician Dr. Jovan Mašin, thus remaining totally loyal to his new homeland till his death in 1883!

On the basis of these documents, presented to the Military Health Department, Ministry of Defense, July 30 was accepted as the Day of the Serbian Army Medical Services.

All these 175 years the members of the Military Medical Corps were loyal to their homeland and people in peace and under war, always ready to help the wounded and ill, risking their own lives, proving that by their sacrifices and heroism in the wars of XIX and XX centuries. By that, but also by their high professionalism in any branches of medicine, pharmacy, dental medicine and veterinary, they were and remained known and recognized not only in Serbia but worldwide. Numerous peace and war medals, among which were those for heroism, were twinkled on their chests. In the Great War 2 physicians and 1 medical student were decorated with the Medal of Star and Sword of Karadorđe, historically the most brilliant medal for personal heroic deed.

This year's Day of the Serbian Army Medical Services, marking 175th birthday of its organized functioning, is the occasion to once more pay the deepest tribute to all its members starting from the founder to these days, from the numerous unknown heroes to the giants who carried out the glory of the Serbian Army and Military Medicine over the planet. Although they belonged to a so-called small nation and army, according to military medical procedures they put themselves among the

čelnik „komi ne može biti manje činom od polkovnika i koji će stajati neposredstveno pod nalogima popečitelja unutrašnji djela i kome će se svi niži činovi po svima strukama voenoga kruga odnositi“. Član 7 je predvideo dva odeljenja u glavnom štabu, jedno „po struci službe vojene“ i drugo „po struci nuždi potreba vojeni“. Član 8 navodi personalni sastav Glavnog štaba u kome se nalazi i „jedan doktor“.

Kako je već 1–13. juna 1839. knjaz Miloš odstupio sa mesta knjaza, prepustivši ga svome maloletnom i već teško bolesnom sinu Milanu, to je dalju razradu ovih zakonskih propisa na sebe preuzelo „Namesništvo knjaževskog dostojanstva“, donevši 18–30. jula 1839. godine Ukaz o postavljanju članova Glavnog vojenog štaba, u kome se na sedmom mestu spiska postavljenih lica navodi „doktor Emerih Lindenmajer za štab-doktora“. Tako je srpski vojni sanitet dobio svoga prvog starešinu.

Doktor Lindenmajer je sa iskrenim zalaganjem bio na čelu vojnog saniteta direktno do 1845, kada je preuzeo rukovođenje celokupnim državnim sanitetom, građanskim i vojnim, a indirektno sve do 1859, do povratka ostarelog i osvetoljubivog knjaza Miloša na srpski presto, koji ga je smenio samo zato što je ostao da služi pod upravom Ustavobranitelja i konkurentske porodice Karadorđevića, iako je Lindenmajer uvek podvlačio da služi narodu i državi, a ne pojedincima i da ga ne interesuje politika. Svoju privrženost pokazao je 1862. u vreme turskog bombardovanja Beograda, kada je na poziv kneza Mihaila organizovao uz pomoć beogradskog fizikusa dr Jovana Mašina celokupnu brigu o ranjenicima, ostavši veran svojoj novoj domovini sve do svoje smrti 1883. godine.

Na osnovu ovih dokumenata koje smo predočili Sanitet-skoj upravi u Ministarstvu odbrane, usvojen je 30. juli kao Dan saniteta Vojske Republike Srbije, što je objavljeno u „Službenom vojnom listu“ br. 17 od 14. aprila 2008. godine.

Svih ovih 175 godina pripadnici vojnog saniteta bili su verno uz svoju državu i narod, u miru i u ratu, uvek spremni da pomognu povređenima i bolesnima, često rizikujući i sopstveni život, što su u ratovima XIX i XX stoleća svojim žrtvama i podvizima i dokazali. Po tome, ali i po visokoj stručnosti u svim granama medicine, farmacije, stomatologije i veterine, bili su i ostali poznati i uvažavani ne samo u zemlji, već i širom sveta. Veliki broj mirnodopskih i ratnih odlikovanja, među njima i brojna ratnička u vidu medalja i ordenja za hrabrost, krasila su njihove grudi. Samo u Velikom ratu dvojica lekara i jedan student medicine odlikovani su „Karadorđevom zvezdom sa mačevima“, tim istorijski najsajnijim srpskim ordenom za lični herojski poduhvat.

Poštujući međunarodne konvencije o brizi za neprijateljske ranjenike još od srpsko-turskih ratova 1876–1878, srpski vojni sanitet stekao je mnoge zvanične i lične zahvalnosti i pohvale. Sačuvani arhivski dokumenti srpskih sanitetskih jedinica, inostrana pisana svedočenja iz vremena ratova i pohvale Međunarodnog društva Crvenog Krsta rečito govore o tim plemenitim postupcima.

Ovogodišnji Dan sanitetske službe Vojske Srbije, kada se proslavlja 175. rođendan njenog organizovanog rada, prilika je da se još jednom oda duboko poštovanje svim njenim pripadnicima, od rodonačelnika do današnjih dana, od brojnih neznanih junaka do velikana koji su proneli slavu srpske

pioneers of world military medicine, and their heroic deeds are referred as such till today (sutures of blood vessels, direct blood transfusions under war conditions, prevention and care of night blindness to mention only some of them).

Next year, the first class of cadets of the Faculty of Medicine of Military Medical Academy, University of Defense, Belgrade will finish their 6-year studies as the first generation of new military physicians, bringing together the knowledge of modern medicine and the experience and deeds of their glorious predecessors, proud of them and responsible to continue their honorable and highly humane deeds by their own engagements in the years that are to come. The results shown till now in the studies of these future military physicians guarantee that they are on the right way to fulfill that aim.

VIVAT, FLOREAT, CRESCAT THE MILITARY MEDICAL
CORPS OF THE ARMY OF SERBIA!

vojne i celokupne njene medicine širom planete. Iako pripadnici maloga naroda i male vojske, u nekim ratnomedicinskim postupcima svrstali su se među pionire svetske vojne medicine čija se dela i danas kao takva navode (šavovi krvnih sudova, direktne transfuzije krvi u frontovskim uslovima, prevencija i lečenje noćnog slepila...).

Sledeće godine prva klasa kadeta Medicinskog fakulteta Vojnomedicinske akademije, Univerziteta odbrane u Beogradu, završava šestogodišnje studije kao prva generacija novih vojnih lekara, sjedinjujući u sebi znanje savremene medicine sa iskustvima i delima svojih slavni prethodnika, ponosna na njih i sa odgovornošću da svojim angažovanjem, u godinama koje slede, nastavi njihovo časno i duboko humano delo. Dosadašnji rezultati studija budućih vojnih lekara pokazuju da su na dobrom putu da to i ostvare.

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VOJSKE SRBIJE!