

Attack sows confusion, shock and bloodshed

OTOCEC – The rocket attack on the column of Yugoslav armoured cars took only 20 minutes. But the ambush in the Krakovski Forest near this Slovenian town yesterday left a lasting nightmare for the federal army recruits caught amid the fire and tearing metal, writes *Dusan Stojanovic of AP*.

The 12 armoured cars, equipped with anti-aircraft guns, were stopped around dawn by a barricade of vehicles across the road. They were retreating to Karlovac in Croatia despite Slovene demands that federal troops surrender their weapons before moving back to their barracks.

“We were just getting back to our barracks when they suddenly attacked us,” said Sasa Pantic, commander of the unit.

Militiamen of the Slovene Territorial Defence Force fired German-made Armbrust anti-tank missiles into the column, sowing confusion, shock and bloodshed. Eight soldiers were killed, Slovenian television reported, and at least three wounded. One of the armoured cars was destroyed. The charred body of its driver was still at the wheel.

“My friend died in my arms,” said Bahrudin Kaletovic, his uniform stained with blood. One victim was put inside one of the trucks, his face crushed beyond recognition.