

Dozens feared dead in Croatian fighting

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BELGRADE — Corpses lay scattered in woods and fields in Croatia yesterday after a day of bloody clashes between Serbs and Croats. Dozens were feared dead.

Witnesses said the bodies of dead and wounded people also lay in courtyards and beside roads in villages around the central Croatian town of Glina after fierce fighting since Friday morning between Serbian guerrillas and Croatian defence forces. The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said the federal army had collected 14 dead Croatian national guardsmen from the roadsides. It reported that at least four Serbs were also killed and 20 wounded before the army drove Croatian forces out of Glina.

Croatian police said six more of their men died in the nearby town of Struga. Hospital doctors said many people, including civilians, were wounded. A German journalist was killed in the area on Friday. Croatian forces also fought a three-hour battle with the army on a bridge over the

From Timothy Heritage
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Danube river, which separates Croatia from Serbia. A majority of the federal army's officers are Serbs.

Croatian officials said two federal aircraft fired on a Croatian national guard post in the village of Opatovac in eastern Croatia, injuring four guardsmen. "It's sheer hell. There are dead bodies everywhere," a local photographer said by telephone from Dvor Na Uni, scene of some of the worst fighting in a cluster of towns and villages about 30 miles south of Zagreb.

About 70 people have been killed in the past week in Yugoslavia's worst conflicts since 1945. The current violence began when Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia, the most Westernised and wealthy of Yugoslavia's six republics, declared independence on June 25 after voting in non-Communist governments.