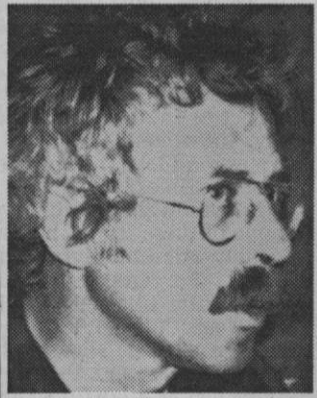




Serbian commandos led by the mysterious Captain Dragan set up a machine-gun near the Croatian town of Dvor na Uni, scene of some of the worst fighting

# Yugoslav leaders fly out as 100 die in worst fighting

29/7/91  
EVENING STANDARD



Shot dead: Journalist Egon Scotland

THE Yugoslav leadership heads for Brussels this morning, leaving behind a torn and harrowed country where, in the worst fighting so far in the current crisis, at least 100 people died at the weekend in vicious ethnic battles.

The departing leadership, off for more talks with EC leaders, will not be seriously missed by the rest of the country.

There are many who think that they should stay abroad. They have long ceased to lead, or to govern.

The army appears to be acting completely independently and few now doubt that their role is to try to expand Serbia's control over a large part of Croatia's territory. Serbian

## from Sue Masterman in Nicosia

guerrillas appeared to have gained the upper hand after a weekend bloodbath around the Croatian town of Glina, 30 miles south of Zagreb.

At least 45 people were killed in two days of battles involving Serbs, Yugoslav army tanks and units of the Croatian police and national guard. Some estimates put the death toll as high as 100.

Corpses were strewn in fields and courtyards, along roads and in the burned-out shells of farmhouses and buildings around the central Croatian town "I am a professional

soldier but I have never seen anything like this," a Yugoslav army colonel said in Glina as he surveyed the devastation.

Battles began on Friday and raged through most of Saturday in the fields and forests around Glina. The army, ostensibly a buffer between the Roman Catholic Croats and Orthodox Christian Serbs, sent in tanks to erase Croatian strongholds.

At least 89 people have been confirmed killed in a week of fighting between Croats and members of the 600,000-strong Serbian minority in Croatia's population of 4,500,000.

Among the dead was German journalist Egon Scotland, killed in the Croatian village of Jubinak. A

Serbian unit which stormed Glina was led by a silver-haired guerrilla leader known as Captain Dragan, who heads a force of about 300 well-trained and highly-mobile commandos from the Serbian enclave of Krajina in southern Croatia.

Television showed an elated Dragan, clad in camouflage combat fatigues and beret, cracking his leather riding crop against a captured Croatian armoured vehicle in Glina.

Journalists saw him, machine-gun in hand, surveying shattered houses, streets and vehicles which had been hit by bullets or bombs.

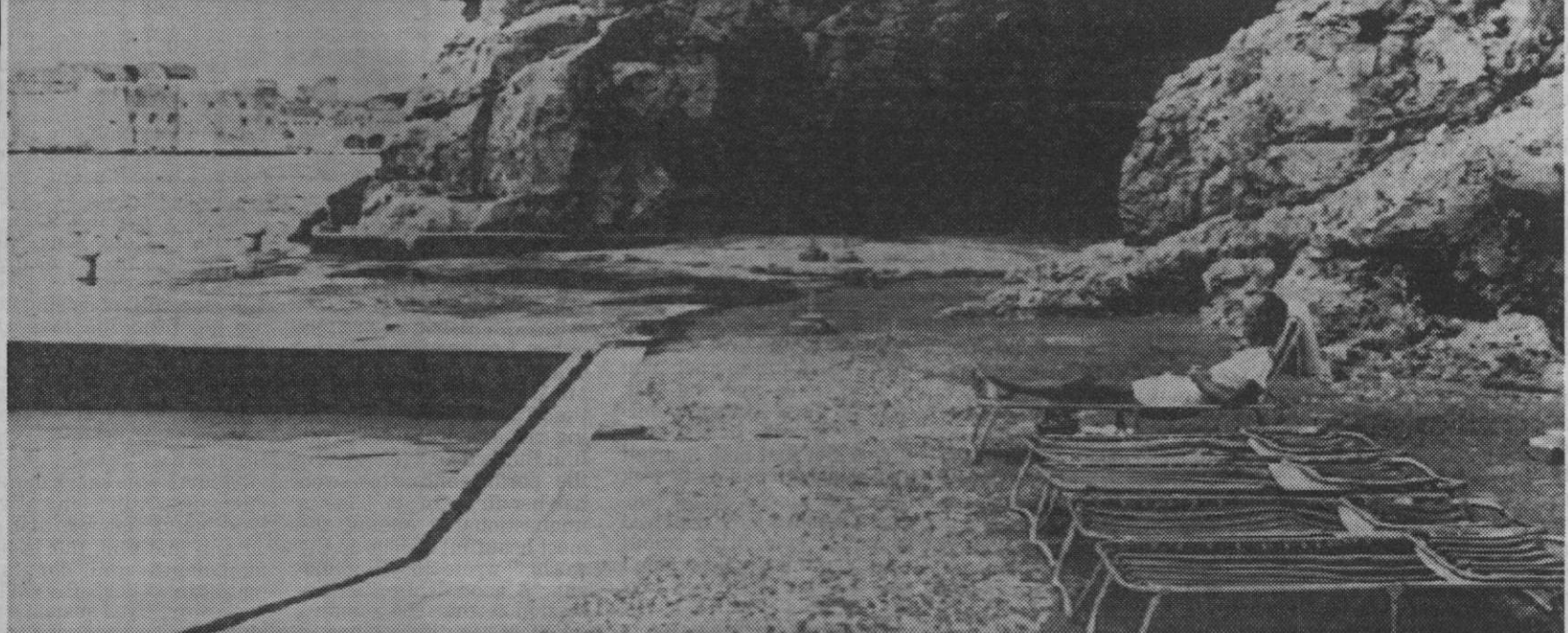
Croatian television had footage of nine mutilated policemen, some with severed limbs and one who was scalped. It said they were butchered by Serbs in the village of Struga.

Tanjug news agency, which operates from Belgrade, and whose pro-Serbian tendentious line is becoming more obvious as the bitterness of the fighting increases, is publishing regular statements by the Yugoslav army justifying its massive bombardment of Croatian-inhabited towns and villages in the region during the weekend.

The excuse is always the same: "We were fired on first."

This does not explain why they saw fit to send in jet fighters with missiles, only a month after a similar attack on Ljubljana airport.

The inept Yugoslav presidency keeps demanding a ceasefire, with little effect.



The fighting has scared tourists away from Yugoslavia this year. The beach at Dubrovnik on the Adriatic, usually packed, is almost deserted