

### **Eastern Zangazur during the years of occupation**

Unable to completely capture Zangazur in 1918-1920, the Armenians, taking advantage of the collapse of the USSR and the struggle for power in Baku, began to realize their intentions and on May 8, 1992 occupied the city of Shusha. The next target of the Armenians was the district of Lachin. The purpose of the armed forces of Armenia was to strengthen the occupied Azerbaijani lands and open a corridor for the unification of the mountainous part of Karabakh with the Republic of Armenia.

On May 18, the Armenians occupied the city of Lachin, which is located outside of Nagorno-Karabakh. Lachin became the victim of yet another betrayal in the struggle for power. The district of Lachin, located between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, with an area of 1,835 square kilometers, has completely come under the control of the armed forces of Armenia. The occupation of Lachin showed that the war had spread beyond the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh and that Armenia intends to commit a broader military aggression. To Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia were delivered a large amount of weapons, ammunition and armed forces along this route, which the Armenians called the "humanitarian corridor".

As a result of the occupation, 14,745 residential buildings, 353 industrial and agricultural facilities, 218 cultural and educational institutions, 160 educational institutions, 131 healthcare facilities and 460 retail facilities in the city of Lachin, the Gaigi settlement and 125 villages were lost, for a total of 7.1 billion US dollars (at 1994 prices).

In the battles for Lachin, 264 people were killed, 65 were taken hostage and 225 were disabled. The population of the district, numbering 65,507 people, were resettled in 59 cities and the regions of the country.

The district of Gubadli, with an area of 802 sq. km, which has a 120-kilometer border with Armenia from the west and a 45-kilometer border with Nagorno-Karabakh, since 1988 it has been repeatedly attacked by Armenian armed formations that committed terrorist acts against the civilian population. After the occupation of Lachin, Kelbajar, Aghdam, Fizuli, Jebrail regions, the district of Gubadli, which actually became semi-siege, was occupied by the armed forces of Armenia on August 30-31, 1993.

Because of the Armenian aggression, in the district of Gubadli 238 people were killed. By the Armenian occupiers were plundered and destroyed private and state property of the district worth \$ 1.4 billion (at 1994 prices).

As a result of the occupation, 7288 houses, 58 industrial and agricultural facilities, 190 cultural institutions, 88 educational institutions, 70 health care institutions, 125 trade facilities, 96 public catering establishments, 25 consumer services, 21 communications enterprises were destroyed in 94 cities and the villages of the district of Gubadli.

After the occupation of the district of Gubadli by Armenia, Azerbaijan appealed to the UN Security Council. On October 14, 1993, the UN Security Council re-discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and adopted Resolution 874. The resolution expresses concern about the tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the resumption of hostilities on the front line, the death of many people and the occupation of Azerbaijani territories, supports the efforts of the CSCE to resolve conflict and confirms the territorial integrity of states. The resolution demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the occupation troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. However, this ruling remained unfulfilled for about 27 years.

In October 1993, Armenia's disregard for the documents adopted by the international organizations became even more obvious. On October 29, 1993, was occupied the district of Zangilan by the armed forces of Armenia. On November 11, 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 884. The resolution condemned the occupation of Zangilan and the village of Horadiz, the attack on the civilian population and the bombing of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from the district of Zangilan and the village of Horadiz and other previously occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, this decision was not implemented for 27 years.

In the district of Zangilan, covering an area of 707 square kilometers, 135 people died from the Armenian aggression. Before the occupation, the district was surrounded by the Armenian troops and tens of thousands of people were under threat of death. Thanks to the talks between President Heydar Aliyev and the Iranian leadership, residents of the besieged the district of Zangilan fled across the Araz River. The expelled Zangilans subsequently found refuge in various cities and the regions of Azerbaijan.

Thus, Eastern Zangazur, that is, its part located within the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan - Lachin, Gubadly and Zangilan districts were under the occupation for 28 years. Because of the inaction of the OSCE Minsk Group, which performed the function of resolving the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, 127 villages and towns in Lachin, 94 in Gubadli and 84 in Zangilan occupied by the Armenian armed forces. An area of 3,347 square kilometers, covering 305 Azerbaijani settlements in these districts, came under the control of the Armenian armed forces and more than 150,000 people became internally displaced persons.

Before the occupation by the Armenian troops in October 1993, the population of Zangilan was 32.6 thousand people (as of 01.01.1989). Before the occupation, there were 128 cultural institutions, 123 educational institutions, and vocational schools. Also, 64 health care institutions, the Gotursu health zone, 80 communication enterprises, 21 cinema installations, 2 ethnographic museums, 142 trade objects, 49 public catering establishments, 2 wineries, a cannery, a weaving workshop, brick factory, bakery, gravel factory, 2 asphalt concrete plants, 8 railway stations, poultry farm, livestock complex, 3400 hectares of vineyards. Because of the occupation, the district of Zangilan suffered damage for \$ 3.4 billion (at 1994 prices).

Because of the occupation of Eastern Zangazur by the Armenian troops in general, was caused damage property in the districts of Lachin, Gubadli and Zangilan, in the amount for \$ 13 billion (at 1994 prices).

By the decree of the so-called "Parliament of the Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) Republic" dated December 2, 1993, the Kashatag region was created in the territory covering the districts of Lachin, Gubadli and Zangilan, located within the borders of the Azerbaijani part of Zangazur, and Lachin was renamed "Berdzor", Gubadli - to "Sanasar", Zangilan - to "Kovsakan".

In the occupied territories of Eastern Zangazur, the Armenians committed acts of vandalism against the material and cultural monuments of Azerbaijan, destroyed historical and architectural monuments, plundered underground and ground resources.

**The objects that destroyed by Armenian military aggression in Eastern Zangazur**

Number №	Name of objects	Quantity and size	Gubadli	Zangilan	Lachin	Total
1	City and countryside	Units	94	84	127	306
2	Residential buildings	Units	7288	11000	14745	33033
3	Industrial and agricultural facilities	Units	58	374	353	785
4	Educational institutions	Units	88	123	160	371
5	Medical institutions	Units	70	64	131	265
6	Cultural institutions	Units	190	145	218	553
7	Communication objects	Units	32	42	307	381

In the fall of 2020, because of the 44-day Second Karabakh War, was liberated Eastern Zangazur from the occupation and reconstruction and construction work began in these areas.