

## BAKAR TOWN GUARD



The Bakar Town Guard is an organization which works in the Bakar area since 2008, and currently has 30 members. It represents the revived piece of rich Bakar history. Uniform worn by Jakov Tadejević, the duke of Bakar guard in 1848, on his own portrait was used as a model for sewing the "Bakar Town Guard" uniform.

The "Bakar Town Guard" coat of arms is in fact the town's historical coat of arms on which the patrons St Margaret (Sv. Margareta) and St Andrew (Sv. Andrija) are shown. It was settled by the Statute of free and royal town of Bakar, and adopted at the general meeting on November 3rd in 1896.

The Bakar Town Guard represents the town itself on guest performances all over the Republic of Croatia and other foreign countries. In cooperation with with the town of Bakar and the Touristic Board of Bakar, the organization is also engaged in central manifestation of Margaret's Summer (Margaretino leto) – the naval battle in Bakar, and with its presence, it enriches other celebrations in Bakar.



# Naval BATTLE



## NAVAL BATTLE IN BAKAR

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

- 08:00** Conquest of Risnjak in the organization of mountaineers club PD "Bakar"
- 17:00** Margaret's fair
- 20:00** Photo exhibition of Miljenko Šegulja "Bakar in ice"
- 21:00** Laying of wreath on Croatian War of Independence Memorial
- 21:15** Parade of Croatian Army historical troops and other participants
- 22:00** Ceremonial lineup of Croatian Army historical troops on Fishermen strand (Žal ribara)
- 23:00** Naval battle and fireworks
- 23:30** Concert on Fishermen strand (Žal ribara)
- 24:00** Boat ride



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## Bakar



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Within Margaret's summer in Bakar (Margaretino leto), the spectacular "Naval battle" will be held regarding the Day of the Town celebration (Saturday closest to July 13th). It is about reconstruction of historical naval attack, when for the last time the Venetians unsuccessfully tried to win Bakar back in the year of 1616.

The Bakar Tourist Board and the Town of Bakar have implemented the idea for reconstructing the naval attack, resulting in this unique manifestation of revived history in modern times.

Old sailing ships (Klementa, Sakuhai and Stari Ive) equipped with pyrotechnic resources and members of Croatian Army historical units from all parts of the country are all participating in the battle as de-



fenders of the town. Originality of real naval battle experience is guaranteed, along with the shots from the sailing boats, rifles, firelocks and guns from the shore, fiery torches, water bombs and smoke effects. The whole event ends with a magnificent firework, concert performance of a popular artist and a party late into the night.

Visit us and experience the spirit of the past in historical town of Bakar...

## HISTORICAL STORIES ABOUT VENETIAN FLEET ATTACKS ON THE TOWN OF BAKAR

At the end of the 15th century Venice took full control of the island of Krk after banishing the last duke of Krk Ivan Frankopan. On the other side of the strait, Ivan's relative – powerful duke Bernardin Frankopan – was governing the coastal and Bakar. Due to the Turkish invasion, Croatian refugees, who were called Uskoci, had progressively settled in Bakar hinterland and the town itself. Pressed with increasingly frequent Venetian naval blockades from islands of Kvarner, and Turkish conquest in continental hinterland, the town of Bakar was receiving immigrants (Uskoci), who in despair attacked the Turks on the mainland and Venetian occupancy at sea.

In 1508 the Venetian fleet, which was at the time the Mediterranean superpower, unsuccessfully attacked the small town of Bakar and aimed its fury at the neighbouring city of Rijeka.

In 1514 new unsuccessful attack occurred; the Uskok crew permanently settled the Bakar Castle (Bakarski Kaštel). After longer period of peace, the Venetians attacked Bakar from the sea in 1557. In 1559, the powerful Zrinski family began ruling the town of Bakar and continued helping the Uskoci. In 1581, the Venetians attacked Bakar again because of the earlier attacks of Uskoci from Bakar on their ships in the Adriatic.

Yet in 1592 the Venetians were defeating Bakar from the sea, destroying the Sršćica fortress situated at the bay entrance, while the surviving Uskoci – defenders of Bakar who did not die in the battle, were hanged.



In 1599 the Venetian fleet persecuted the ships of Uskoci that hid in the Bakar bay, while the town itself was saved with the help of army from Rijeka. The warfare culminated in the beginning of the 17th century after another attack in 1611. In 1615, the Venetians took nine galleass' and hundreds vessels and occupied Bakar, firing around 1500 cannon and gunshot bullets. However, the artillerymen from the Bakar Castle (Bakarski Kaštel) were lucky enough to hit the admiral flagship after which the attackers withdrew. The Venetians did not forget their defeat – on August the 8th in 1616 they came back with as many as 20 galleass', while part of their army landed on shore and attacked the town from behind. The brave crew from the Castle (Kaštel) along with their captain Ivan Budački defended Bakar despite the hail of cannonballs.

The battle was resolved when around 300 men came from Rijeka, who crossed over St. Cosmas, reached Kalvarija above Bakar and attacked the Venetians who had previously landed on shore. Afterwards, they managed to successfully hit the Venetian flagship. The young commander was killed and the invincible Venetian fleet once and for all took its leave of the Croatian coast. In the following year 1617, the peace agreement was signed by both Venice and Austria, ending this long-term war, in which the biggest victims were our Uskoci on one side, and mobilized rowers and soldiers on Venetian galleass', mostly the residents of our Adriatic islands.