

## A short history and the current situation

Autor Administrator

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**Vrebac** is a small village near the town of Gospic, Croatia.

Vrebac and its hamlets, **Pavlovac**, **Zavode** and **Selište** are located in the historical area called **Lika**. The average elevation of the settlements is about 600 meters.

The oldest people who have inhabited Vrebac and Lika were the **Iapydes**. One of their settlements was Stražbenica, a hill above Vrebac. The Roman name for Vrebac was **Ancus**

. Vrebac was named during the rule of the

**Ottoman Empire**

, after

**Bey**

**Alaga Vrebo**

. In 1689, Vrebac was conquered by the Austrians, and became a part of the

**Habsburg Monarchy**

. It was settled by the

**Serbs**

. Vrebac was incorporated into the

**Military Frontier**

, and many men fought across Europe.

In WWI, **122** volunteers from Vrebac fought on the Serbian side. During WWII, the village was attacked and burned several times; **279** people were killed during the war (135 partisans and 144 civilian victims). During the Croatian war operation the Storm in 1995, all the citizens from the village were banished.

After the return of a small number of citizens, the renovation of the village began. This year, after 76 years, the **Serbian National Reading Room and Library in Vrebac** was restored (the Society was founded in 1929).

Vladimir Ivančević

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