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The latest from Slovenia



IN FOCUS: The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic
HERITAGE: Nona's stories live on
GASTRONOMY: A culinary experience on the first battle line

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IN FOCUS 5

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic

In memory of all victims and as a reminder to future generations

Photo: Municipality of Komen archives



HERITAGE 35

Tourist farm Lukčeva domačija

Nona's stories live on

Photo: Dušan Zidar/Mostphotos



GASTRONOMY 42

A culinary experience on the first battle line

The aromas may catch the attention of the enemy's sniper

Photo: Dušan Zidar/Mostphotos

**SINFO – SLOVENIAN INFORMATION**

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In the photo: Kolovrat Outdoor Museum

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Photo: Bruno Toč

Tanja Glogovčan, editor

Amidst the places of eternal memories

In this issue of Sinfo magazine, on the 100th anniversary of the World War I, we take a look at the war from the Slovenian point of view. The war affected Slovenians both individually and as a nation. The stories are many but we will consider just a few. Let this be an incentive for your own research.

We visited the Nova Gorica and Kobarid Museum and talked to a number of experts, who brought to our attention different aspects of the war and its consequences for the post-war period. Later on, we also present excerpts from chronicles and letters, private collections and personal recollections; and even consider the culinary aspect of World War I – in terms of economical meal preparation and gourmet delights.

Slovenia is very conscious of the importance of this anniversary and has established a national committee which will in the next four years, in cooperation with cultural, educational and scientific organizations and other local associations and committees, ensure appropriate and coordinated remembrance events and activities. These upcoming events and other activities are listed on the web page dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of World War I. To help Slovenians, as well as all those visitors, who are visiting or perhaps intend to visit our beautiful country, understand this period of Slovenian history, we have also prepared information on the activities of numerous tourist agencies, the Public Agency SPIRIT Slovenia and the Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation.

One aspect of World War I, its refugee problem, is sadly, no longer only because of war but due to other factors, still with us today. Natural disasters, such as the recent floods in our close proximity were a testament to this. Although we had intended to include the Bled Film Festival in our next issue, in response to the current topic – respect for nature, and especially respect for water – we have also included it in this one. By respecting our fellowman we can avoid war and by respecting the nature we can avoid natural disasters.



Photo: UKOM archives

Slovenians and the First World War

It was in these spring days, exactly a hundred years ago, that a young student was preparing for a fatal act, which in a decisive and irreversible way marked his life as well as Europe and indeed the whole world. This was the 19-year-old Serbian student Gavrilo Princip, who on 28 June 1914 assassinated Franz Ferdinand, Austrian heir to the throne, and thereby triggered the First World War.

The Great War, as it is properly called by historians, devastated and changed Europe, its countries, political systems and people. It also had terrible implications for the Slovenians, who lived within the borders of the then Austro-Hungarian Empire. Demographers estimate that the Slovenian population of 1.3 million people at that time lost between 40,000 and 50,000 human lives in WWI. Yet another blow came after the war: the Paris Peace Conference assigned to Italy the coastal part of the Slovenian ethnic territory, and together with it a population of 300,000 Slovenians. In this way our nation was divided among Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria and Hungary.

Until the beginning of the war, the Slovenians within the Habsburg Empire lived in modest, peaceful and traditionally agricultural conditions, mainly unaffected by industrialisation, which was rapidly changing social conditions. The last war in which the Habsburgs were involved in any serious way was in 1866, and therefore the Emperor's god-fearing subjects were not really ready for fighting, let alone for the all-out combat triggered by Princip's shots, while the real reason for war lay in the accumulated political and economic disparities that politicians had failed to resolve through dialogue. Thus the First World War also revealed the impotence and inability of the politicians of that time.

At the behest of Emperor Franz Joseph, Slovenian soldiers were fighting on the Eastern, Balkan and Italian fronts. Among these battlefields, the Isonzo Front must be especially pointed out as the largest mountain battle in the entire history of mankind. The Isonzo Front extended over the area from Mt. Rombon in the Upper Soča (Isonzo) Valley to the Gulf of Trieste, with a total length of 90 kms. In the clashes between the Italian and Austro-Hungarian armies, 300,000 soldiers died in the rough mountain conditions, often at an altitude of over 2,000 metres. Should you ever visit these wonderful places and climb any of the mountain peaks in the area, you may still find the remains of fortifications, trenches and various military equipment,

even weapons. The Isonzo Front was also described in the famous novel "A Farewell to Arms" by Ernest Hemingway, who joined the European battlefields in May 1918 and was wounded shortly thereafter. His records are probably not based on personal experience, but rather on conversations with the wounded soldiers from the Isonzo Front, who recovered in a military lazaret in Milan together with the adventurous writer. However, Hemingway's artistic words created an eternal memorial to the beauty and the tragedy of the places along the River Soča.

A similar mission, i.e. preserving memory and raising awareness of the tragedy and absurdity of war, is pursued by Kobarid Museum and the Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation. During the Isonzo Front, Kobarid was one of the key strategic points, battle No. 12, also known as the "Miracle at Kobarid", being of particular importance. In October 1917, Austrian and German soldiers in a fierce offensive chased more numerous and well-fortified Italian soldiers all the way to the River Piave, deep into their hinterland, thus inflicting on them a painful defeat from which they never recovered. Kobarid Museum is among the best museums dedicated to WWI; it boasts several prestigious awards, among them the Council of Europe Museum Prize. Every year it is visited by an impressive number of visitors, who enliven their experience of the Soča Valley with the Walk of Peace. This is an open-air museum that connects parts of the front line, trenches, forts, caves, memorials, ossuaries and military cemeteries.

In recent years, the Walk has linked places from the Upper Soča Valley through the Karst to Devin, i.e. from the Alps to the Adriatic, and with its picturesque 230 km route has become a first-class tourist attraction that appropriately combines history and recreation.

Kobarid Museum and the Walk of Peace will play an important role in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of WWI, as many events will be organised on this occasion in Slovenia. One of the top commemoration events will take place on the anniversary of the final battle of the Isonzo Front in 2017, when the tragedy will be commemorated with a concert of peace in Kobarid, where military orchestras of all the countries participating in the battles a hundred years ago will perform under the baton of the famous conductor Riccardo Muti. But it is still some time before that event – so why not visit Slovenia and beautiful places in the Soča Valley earlier?

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic In memory of all victims and as a reminder to future generations

There are indelible reminders of World War I in each corner of the Upper Soča valley, Brda, Goriška, the Vipava valley and Karst regions. Each cavern, fortress, trench, church, pathway, mulatiera, hill, mountain, ossuary, cemetery or museum can tell a story to those who can listen, observe, understand and respect. Today, this heritage forms the basis for the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic, which is organised under the auspices of the “Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation” based in Kobarid.

Photo: Srežjan Žvulovic/BOBO



The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic connects regions, people, institutions and a rich cultural and natural heritage along the former territory of the Isonzo Front (1915–1917), stretching from Rombon to Devin, from the source of the Soča river to its estuary. The Isonzo Front battles were a series of 12 battles between the armies of Italy and the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and the scene of one of the cruellest conflicts to have ever taken

place in a mountainous area in human history. Particularly the 11th and the 12th battle were the largest military conflicts to have ever occurred in Slovenia.

PEACE AND CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

The walk along the European historic heritage is dedicated to the memory of all those, who suffered during World War I, and serves as a reminder that wars should never happen

again. Most importantly, it promotes the values of peace, mutual respect and cross-border cooperation, as well as the development of the Primorska region (Slovenia) and the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region (Italy).

In geographical sense, the Walk of Peace stretches from the Alps to the Adriatic region and is organised as part of the cross-border project Pot miru/ Via di pace (The Walk of Peace). This is set to connect the Walk of Peace in the

During the Isonzo Front battles, the front line was eventually established in the direct vicinity of the Kluže fortress. Situated under the steep cliffs of the Rombon mountain, the fortress was safe from direct shootings of the Italian army. Today, the Kluže fortress is home to a permanent museum collection and also hosts temporary exhibitions.



Photo: Jurij Palik/STA

The Europe Square, facing the Nova Gorica train station, half of which lies in Slovenia and the other half in Italy, is a symbol of the coexistence of the two Gorica cities, and a symbol of European integration without borders. The Walk of Peace will be opened in the Europe Square / Transalpina between Nova Gorica and Gorizia, on 21 March 2015, by the Presidents of Slovenia and Italy.

The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic connects regions, people, institutions and a rich cultural and natural heritage along the former territory of the Soča Front, stretching from Rombon to Devin, from the source of the Soča river to its estuary.

Upper Soča valley, the museums of Kobarid and Tolmin, Kanalski Kolovrat, Korado, Sabotin, Vodice, Škabrijel, Sveta Gora, Museum of Nova Gorica, the Trg Evrope square/Transalpina, Cerje, the Walk of Peace of the Karst region, Grmada/Ermada, the regional museum of Gorica/Musei Provinciali di Gorizia, the historic pathway of Brestovec/Percorso storico del Brestovec, Debela Griža/Monte San Michele, Doberdob/Doberdo, the Italian ossiaries in Oslavje/Oslavia and Sredipolje/Redipuglia and the Tržič Theme Park/Parco Tematico Grande Guerra di Monfalcone.

THE WALK OF PEACE ALSO CONNECTS NATURAL BEAUTIES

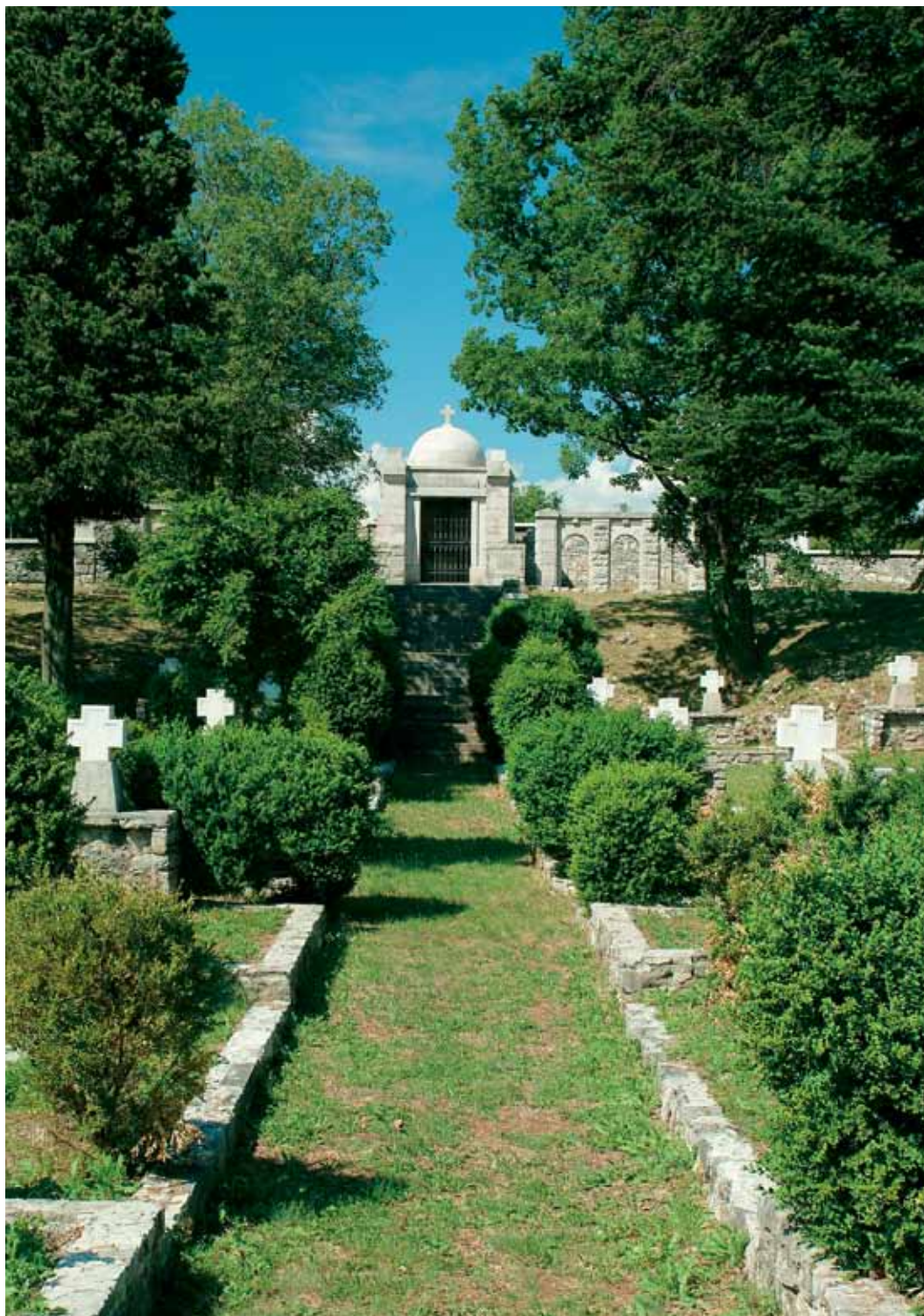
It winds along the Soča river and, apart from preserving the

heritage of the Battles of the Soča Front, it also brings together the natural beauties of the Alpine, Pre-Alpine and Karst areas, as well as vivid mountains, cultural monuments, military cemeteries and ossuaries, private collections, tourist information centres and numerous other tourist offers where visitors can relax, taste good home-made food or enjoy a chat with the local people. On top of it, visitors can enjoy the peace, calmness and the panorama offered by this unique cross-border region. All these destinations are reachable on foot or with a bicycle and, of course, many of them may well be visited by car or bus. Well-trained Slovenian and foreign tourist guides can recount abundant stories from the past and modern eras and provide recollections of the

characters of ordinary soldiers and other famous persons who shaped the period of the Soča Front.

FULFILLING A MISSION

Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation is engaged in studying and researching, in renovating and exhibiting the cultural heritage of World War I, in publishing and collecting professional and promotional publications, and in developing history tourism. In fulfilling its mission, the Foundation is assisted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia through the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.



Most importantly, it promotes the values of peace, mutual respect and cross-border cooperation, as well as the development of the Primorska region (Slovenia) and the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region (Italy).

Soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian army of several nationalities who died in the many battles of the Isonzo Front in the years 1915–1917 are buried at the military cemetery in Gorjansko near Komen. The cemetery has retained its original layout, which is sympathetic to the natural characteristics of the Karst landscape. With more than 10,000 soldiers here interred, this is the largest Austro-Hungarian army cemetery of the Isonzo Front.

The most important ideas which the foundation plans to carry out in the following years are the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic, establishing a list of the fallen Italian and Austro-Hungarian soldiers in the Gorica and Karst regions (one such list for the Upper Soča valley already exists), establish-

ing a list of the fallen Slovenian soldiers in World War I, expanding the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic to include the Carinthia and Tyrol regions of Austria, completing the Walk of Peace Information Centre, expanding the cross-border outdoor museum in Kolovrat, and promoting the European

commitment to peace. Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation is an important member of the National Committee for the Commemoration of World War I Anniversaries, founded by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and headed by the Ministry of Defence (www.100letprve.si/en/).



Photo: The Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation archives

The Sabotin hill was a strategically important bridgehead for the Austro-Hungarian army on the right bank of the river. During the 6th battle of the Isonzo Front, in August 1916, the Italian army captured Sabotin, thus paving the way for the siege of Gorica. The hill is riddled with caverns and trench systems which the Austro-Hungarian and Italian armies built while fortifying their battle positions. Due its panoramic views, turbulent history, natural beauties as well as rich fauna and flora, the Sabotin is an important tourist destination in the Gorica region, definitely worth visiting.

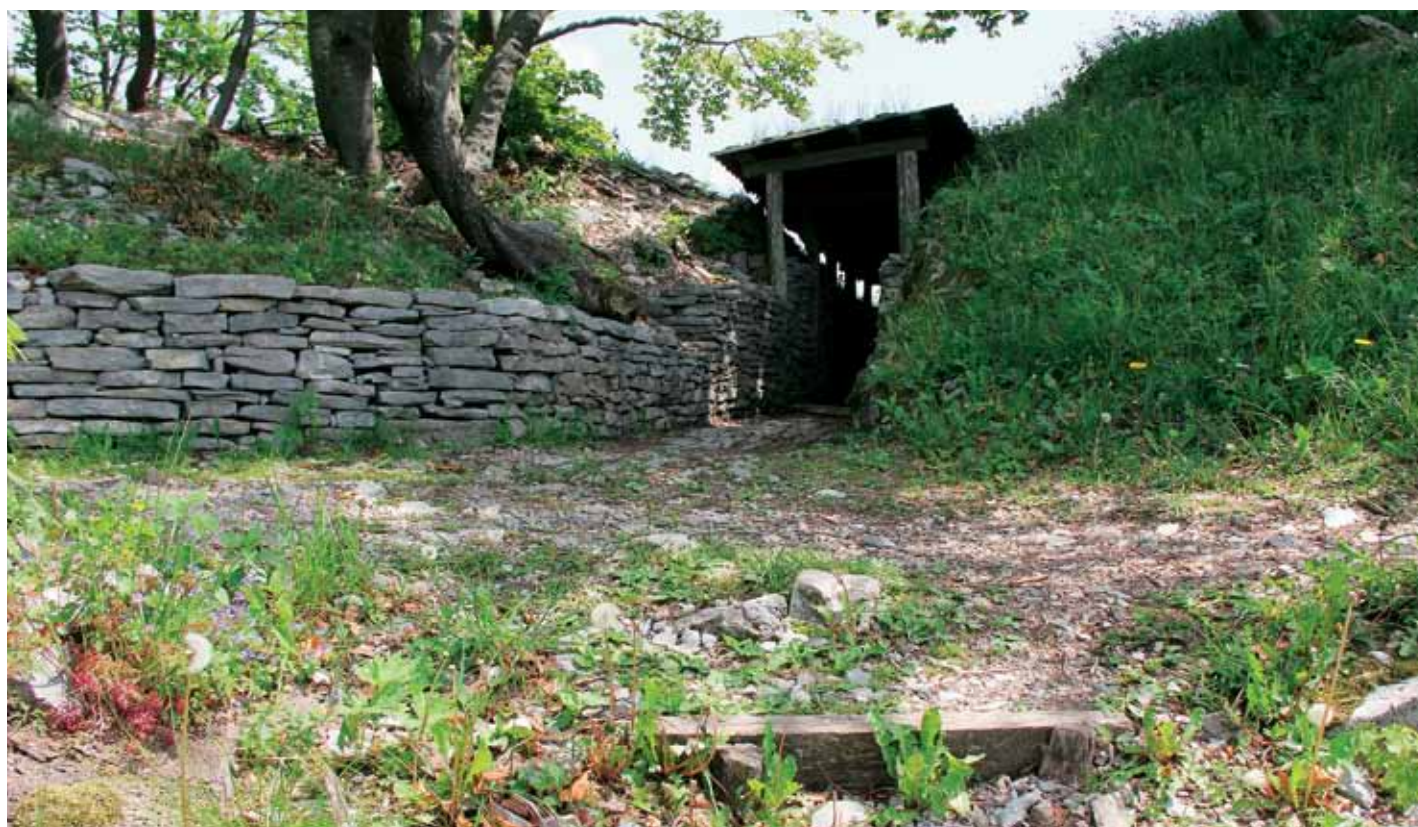


Photo: UKOM archives

Cross-border outdoor museum in Kolovrat at an altitude of 1114 metres above the sea, offers a beautiful view of the former Isonzo Front battlefields, the Friulan lowlands, the Soča valley and the Julian Alps. It was precisely in Kolovrat where the Italian army built a comprehensive system of the third defence line, called "linea d'armata" in Italian, which in the early stages of the 12th battle of the Isonzo Front was seen as an insurmountable obstacle. Still, the front line positions were conquered by German soldiers on the first day of the 12th and last battle of the Isonzo Front, namely on 24 October 1917. Nowadays, visitors can take a walk through commander and lookout posts, through gun and artillery posts and through caverns and ditch nets.

The Kobarid Museum

It presents the World War I on the Isonzo Front

In northeastern Slovenia, along the border with Italy, lie fortifications of World War I, remains of machine guns, grenades, trenches, lookout points, caves, and shelters, all silent reminders of the war which claimed a million and a half lives, of which 300,000 were Slovenian. From a thousand meters up, visitors can indulge in stunning views of a large portion of the historical trail, and the green pools of the Soča river.

Underway this year is a 4-year period of commemorating the 100th anniversary of various events from World War I. The Kobarid museum is also taking part in this commemoration, and is organizing numerous events in collaboration with other organizers, told us the museum director Jože Šerbec.

The museum's exhibits show the events during World War I from the Isonzo Front, especially the 12th battle, which is known as the "Battle of Kobarid". It was one of the biggest battles in a mountainous area in history, and along with the 11th Battle of Isonzo the biggest battle on Slovenian soil. It was also the most successful breakthrough operation in World War I and one of the first cases of a battle incorporating Blitzkrieg strategic elements.

The museum has become a well-visited tourist attraction, sharing with visitors the story about World War I. This topic is very powerful and is still relevant in today's world. The 100th anniversary invokes strong reflections on the question of whether or not international disputes are solved any differently than they were back then. "Back then Europe jumped head-first into an empty pool in hope for quick and easy solutions, which did not surface even after 4 years of slaughter. The parallels to be drawn with the current era are significant, especially the fact that war is a constant in human history. Military tactics change, of course, but the basic conflict remains the same, just instead of tanks and fighter jets, today we have interests. The relationship is



Photo: Dušan Zidar/Mospfotos

The museum's exhibits show the events during World War I from the Isonzo Front, especially the 12th battle, which is known as the "Battle of Kobarid".

The museum director Jože Šerbec

no longer work: capital, but debtor: creditor. In light of these facts, World War I has never stepped to the forefront as it has now."

The museum is designed such that it is first and foremost a museum of impressions, portraits, victims, grenades, human fate,

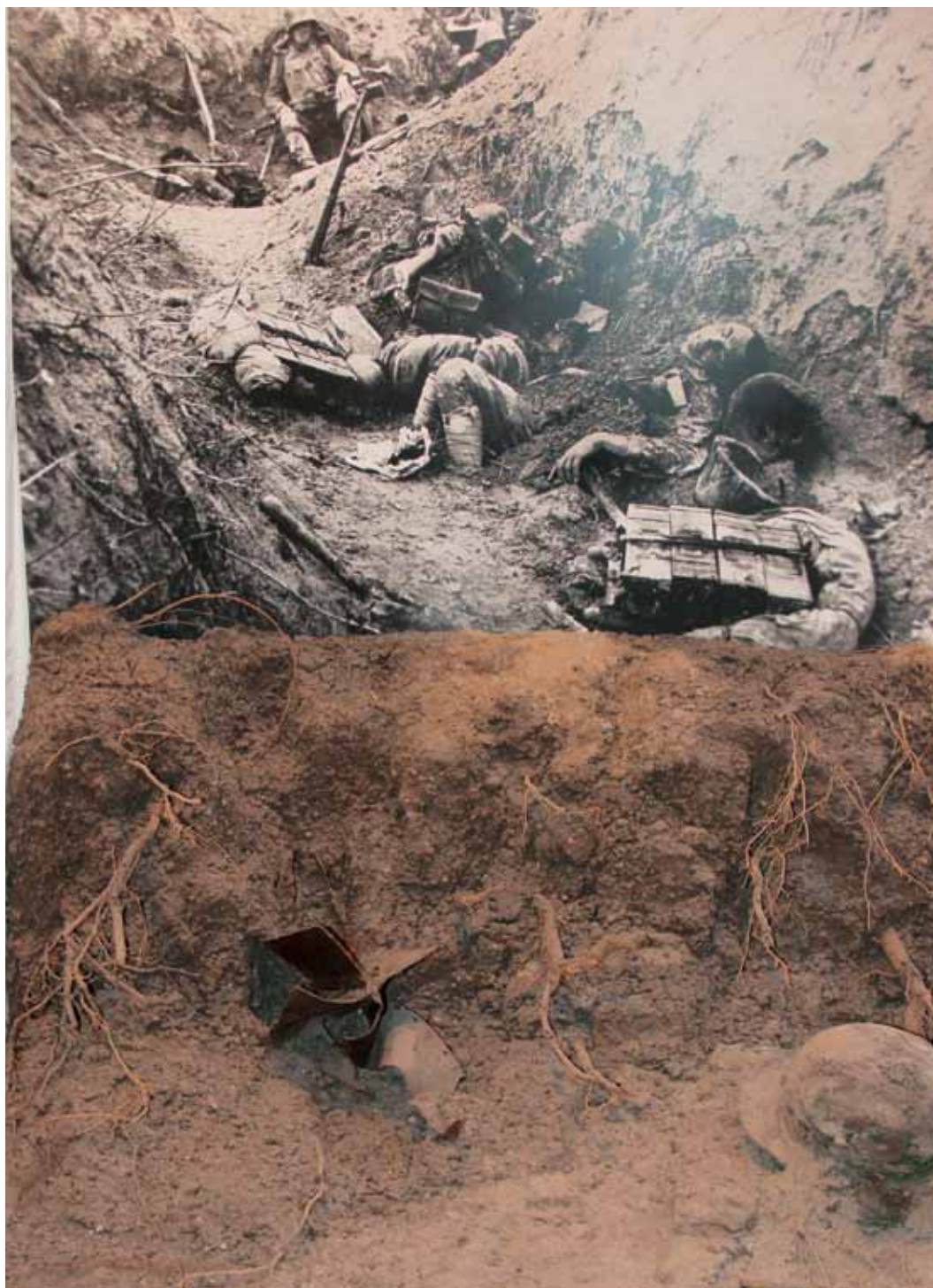


Photo: UKOM archives

Exhibition illustrates how the area behind the lines of the Isonzo Front became a genuine anthill of hundreds of thousands of soldiers and workers scattered from Mount Rombon to the shores of the Bay of Trieste. This is the story of the 29 months of fighting for positions along the Soča River.

The museum is designed such that it is first and foremost a museum of impressions, portraits, victims, grenades, human fate, military manoeuvres, and unbearable conditions.

military manoeuvres, and unbearable conditions. Through all this the visitors feel in their very marrow the horrors of war and the pressures it puts on humanity, regardless of their political inclinations or viewpoints. The permanent exhibit remains largely unchanged, but a part of the space has been dedicated to temporary exhibits, personal collections, and other new features. Visitors keep coming back to learn about the ever new con-

tent added. One of these new features is a digital display of the battle itself. Visitors will watch how units move along the model, as well as their starting points in the upper Soča valley.

The exhibits however are not just at the museum, as the whole of Kobarid and its surrounding areas are a living exhibit. The museum also features six museums in nature, highlighting the trenches and relics of artillery,

and guided tours are also organized along the former battlefields.

DOBERDOB, FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR SLOVENIAN SOLDIERS

Doberdob has become a symbol of the merciless battles during World War I, as supplies of water ran dry and measures for defence were poor, and countless soldiers from several nations

Photo: UKOM archives



The 100th anniversary invokes strong reflections on the question of whether or not international disputes are solved any differently than they were back then.

Left: The White Room tells of the suffering of the soldiers in the cruel environment of the karst mountains during winters with 6 (and sometimes more) metres of snow.
Below: The clothes

bled to death. In the first Italian offensives in the Soča valley, it was in the Karst itself where Italian pressure was greatest, as soldiers moved to occupy Trieste and Gorica, and penetrate into the heart of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. In some of the most exposed positions on Šmihel, Martinščina, and Podgora, Slovenian soldiers died along with other nations in the monarchy. In general, the mobilization of soldiers and the mobilization of civilians in World War I had a fateful impact on the lives of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and its citizens. Soldiers of the 3rd Corps, which included soldiers from Slovenian mobilization areas, went mostly to eastern battlefields, in Galicia, where they experienced a tragic encounter with war, as the Galician plains ran with blood as they exacted their immense death toll. Even today there are many unmarked graves of Slovenian soldiers in Galicia.

The museum also features a brief history of Kobarid from prehistory through the present era, and it won an award from the Council of Europe in 1993 for its contribution to European cultural heritage. In 2013, the Kobarid museum hosted 46,000

visitors. Šerbec explained that the museum saw more visitors the year before, which is certainly an effect of the economic crisis and the weaker purchasing power of citizens in Slovenia and Italy, as the most visitors come from Slovenia and the closer regions of Italy, as well as from German-speaking countries. The outdoor museums in the Soča valley, i.e. two in each of the three municipalities, are also well-visited. Their upkeep is the responsibility of the Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation. Visits depend in large part on accessibility, as the museum in Kolovrat is by far the most visited, being accessible both to private cars and buses. The breakthrough in Kobarid was one of the most important events in the course and final outcome of World War I. The Kobarid museum will certainly collaborate in various international projects, such as the mosaic exhibits in Berlin and in southern Austria. "These are exhibits which represent various institutions, and this year they will represent us," said the director of the Kobarid museum. They will also be active in international symposia, among which Šerbec emphasised France and Hungary.



Photo: Tina Kosec/STA



Photo: Tina Kosec/STA

Installation of WWI military history of the Soča region at Kobarid Museum

Drago Sedmak

The revolutionary Great War

European historians call World War I the Great War. This name stems from the understanding that the Great War fundamentally changed every facet of life, art, culture, economy, and functioned as a spiritual schism with the past. Its effect has even been, in the opinion of some, comparable to that of the French Revolution.

Photo: Dušan Zidar/Mostphotos



Drago Sedmak is a professor of history and sociology, and the museum counsellor at the Museum of Nova Gorica, and an expert on the period of World War I. He has written several books on the subject, including *Soška fronta 1915 – 1917* (The Isonzo Front 1915 – 1917), *Kronika vasi pod Grmado v letih 1915–1918/ La cronaca dei paesi ai piedi dell’Ermada negli anni 1915/1918* (Chronicles of the Villages under Grmada from 1915–1918), *Življenje v Kobaridu med prvo svetovno vojno* (Life in Kobarid during World War I), *Ob vznožju branikov: Solkan in Solkanci med prvo svetovno vojno* (In the Foothills of the Bastions: Solkan and its inhabitants in World War I), and *Slovenci in prva svetovna vojna 1914–1918* (Slovenians and World War I 1914–1918), as well as other books and scholarly articles.

Svetozar Borojević wrote his name in Slovenian history books as the supreme commander of the Isonzo Front battles. He was also the first non-German Field-Marshal in the Austro-Hungarian armed forces.



Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives

What made World War I unique was that it was waged during the industrial revolution. It is not just that technological advances paved way for developments in arms, but society itself was in the process of turning to mass industrialization. World War I was thus also a modern total war, where civilians are involved in addition to general mobilization of troops. A system arose in European countries of rotating soldiers between the front lines and the staging grounds, turning the war into an everyday industrial process, which brought together the capabilities of the economy, traffic, and food supply.

In what theatres were Slovenian soldiers active?

Slovenians can be said without a doubt to have fought on practically all fronts. They were found inter alia in Belgium, Holland, Turkey, Thessaloniki, Dobruja, in Austro-Hungarian and German navies, and elsewhere, as well. Countless Slovenians never made it back, but were buried somewhere far from home. We also cannot forget about the Slovenian soldiers who died in POW camps in various countries, including the far corners of Tsarist Russia.

What was the worst battle on Slovenian territory?

In my opinion and in the opinion of many others this was surely

the 11th Isonzo Front battle – the bloodiest battle on Slovenian soil. In the 27 days of the 11th Isonzo Front battle, 40,000 Italians met their fate and around 108,000 were injured. The Austro-Hungarian army suffered casualties of 10,000 dead, 45,000 injured, 20,000 sick, and 30,000 missing soldiers. The amount of artillery used in this battle was extraordinary. In terms of the number of organized units, the number of cannons, the amount of artillery fired, and sadly the number of casualties, the 11th Isonzo Front battle rivals the great positional battles of World War I in the western theatre. The interesting thing is, that at the end of the battle, both sides were convinced of their own victory. The 11th Isonzo Front battle came to a close on 15 September 1917, but the battles on the Soča Front were over only at the end of the next, the 12th battle. The last Italian units withdrew to the other side of the Soča on 28 October 1917. For the Italians the defeat was extremely painful, and had a horrible effect on morale.

How did Slovenian soldiers fare on the battlefields?

Galicia and the Carpathian mountains defined the horrors of war for our ancestors. The phrase often heard relating to events from World War I is “we never imagined such a war”. It was a shock

to the very pillars of civilisation. Soldiers arrived in the centre of the fire, as at the beginning there were not even tunnels or trenches. The winter was bitter, and they were completely under-dressed for it. In Slovenia, for instance in Karst, soldiers suffered from a severe lack of water. It is hard to fathom that level of violence and crudeness today.

The war was certainly different for infantrymen than for their commanding officers?

That is true in part, but the men in the trenches were joined by non-commissioned officers and officers of a certain rank. We can see from the lists of casualties, that bullets did not seek victims of a certain rank. It is, however, true that the army was mostly made up of soldiers of no rank.

What kind of officers were Field-Marshal Svetozar Borojević and the Italian General Luigi Cadorna?

Borojević was extremely effective, leading to his nickname “The Lion of Soča”, for his brave fighting on the Isonzo Front. His subordinates had respect for him, even though he was a hard man, as he was an extremely fair officer. After a successful battle he even thanked citizens and Slovenian soldiers on the battlefield. Count Cadorna created a rigid and hierarchical style

Borojević was extremely effective, leading to his nickname “The Lion of Soča”, for his brave fighting on the Isonzo Front.

of leadership, leaving his subordinates little room for initiative, which proved unsuccessful on the battlefield. He dealt out extremely harsh punishments to those soldiers whom he assessed as being guilty of failure or of deserting their ranks. It is true, however, that attacks aimed at conquering land required an incomparably greater blood toll than defensive tactics.

Is it known how many Slovenians died in the Great War?

The most probable figure is between 35 and 40,000 Slovenian soldiers, although this is likely not to be the exact figure, as the records are poor. A study would have to be made, which no matter how precise would still not be absolute. Would that precision ease a troubled conscience or teach us something? We would also need to inquire into civilian casualties of artillery as well as of cholera and Spanish flu, which were consequences of the conditions of war. Maybe the solution would be to put in the front lines everyone who makes decisions to go to war and who carve out all sorts of profit from it: financial, career, and political!

Something of interest is that between the two World Wars, inhabitants in the Soča valley sought out, gathered, and dismantled unexploded ordnance, selling the iron and other castings for scrap, thereby improving the economic situation. Sadly, many fell victim to their own efforts. This is no longer necessary, but nonetheless sometimes collectors suffer an unfortunate accident.

Where was the rear in the battles of the Isonzo Front?

The rear was first Goriška to the west of the Soča, then Karst, today's Primorska, and then Gorenjska and the rest of the regions of Slovenia. Here were the supply chains, the military hospitals, and a whole range of other facilities necessary for waging war and housing soldiers. This was all but a part of the mighty Austro-Hungarian war machine. It was similar on the Italian side, as well. A consequence of the battles of the Isonzo Front was the large amount of refugees – civilians fled into the

heart of Austro-Hungary, as well as into Italy. The first wave of refugees began in 1915, and this only increased in strength in 1916 and 1917. The return wave of refugees (returning from camps or shelters if they had fled) lasted until 1920. This, too, was similar on the Italian side. It is true, that memories of the inhabitants of these areas suggest that refugees in Italy enjoyed better living conditions than in Austro-Hungary. The war took a heavier toll on the Austro-Hungarian monarchy than on the Italian Kingdom. Readers might be interested to know that, after war broke out in August of 1914, refugees came to Slovenia from eastern and north-eastern battlefields, including Muslims and civilian refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as from Galicia.

Who was the biggest hero of the War?

Every soldier. A great number of Slovenian families lost a father, brother, or son to the war. This commands respect. They were all

heroes. I can say that, including in the opinion of greater military experts than I, that it is common knowledge, that the valour, courage, and sacrifice of Slovenian boys and men shined brightly on the battlefields in the honours which decorated the uniforms of their officers. Perhaps these honours were not that bright, but they were truly hard-earned on the battlefield. Slovenian history books naturally single out a few names. Albin Mlakar absolutely deserves mention, lieutenant of the Austrian engineering unit which he led in May 1916 to capture the Italian fortress of Casa Ratti, and in September 1916, he blew up the Italian positions on Monte Cimone in Arsiero. In October of 1917 he destroyed the fortress on Vršič in the Krn mountains. He was the most decorated Slovenian officer in the Austro-Hungarian armada. When presented in his full regalia (which included the Signum Laudis, the Red Iron Crown, the Order of Leopold, the Gold Medal for Bravery), Emperor Karl I shunned him and

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Photo: National Museum of Contemporary History archives

The war meant women had to take on a number of traditionally male roles. Their ability to do this led to a change in attitudes. Many married women were forced into the workplace by the death of their husbands. Other women were drafted into industries that had been depleted by military conscription (in the photo: woman working for Isonzo Front).



Kids in refugee camp.

Photo: National Museum of Contemporary History archives

If Slovenia were to emphasise the diversity of the nations who fought by using actual names, we would surely attract even more attention and visits. Definitely that type of “tourism”, which stems from the inhumaneness of events from 100 years ago, would bring us more tourists, who want to see where war was waged by their ancestors, and where their remnants lie.

refused to shake his hand when learning that Mlakar was a nationally conscious Slovenian. Such it was: for the Habsburgs, Slovenians were merely cannon fodder.

What monuments are the prettiest testament?

If you have in mind the architecture of World War I, the church in Javorca is certainly the finest, then the German cemetery/ossuary in Tolmin. A number of other cemeteries are also beautifully maintained. What is missing, like they have in the west, is a named index of those buried. Even Jews fought in Slovenia, and Slovenians fought in far-away theatres. If Slovenia were to emphasise the diversity of the nations who fought by using actual names, we would surely attract even more attention and visits. Definitely that type of “tourism”, which stems from the inhumaneness of events from 100 years ago, would bring us more tourists, who want to see where war was waged by their ancestors, and where their remnants lie. I am convinced of this by the numerous requests we receive from other countries for information on where relatives were buried.

Again, we may not forget about those casualties of war prisoners, who died due to impossible living conditions and events, e.g. avalanches in Vršič and Trenta, an artillery explosion in Ajdovščina, victims of epidemics. In Slovenia there were prisoners of war from

Italy (at Ljubljana’s castle), Serbia, Romania, Russia (lest we forget about the numerous nations in that empire), and possibly from elsewhere as well.

What role did women have in World War I, and where were they most active?

A number of books have been written about this phenomenon. I am not exactly an expert, but even in Slovenia women replaced their male colleagues in professions which both had performed before the war. It is known that in other countries they drove the trolleys, and before worked in the tobacco industry, taking on other, more demanding tasks during the war, etc. According to articles in Slovenian newspapers, it is evident that they worked to heal and care for the sick and wounded soldiers living in Slovenian hospitals and even fighting in various theatres: collecting food, baking treats, knitting wool clothing, collecting tobacco products, etc. Schools, including students and teachers, were also a part of the efforts in knitting, sewing, and collecting money for the Red Cross.

And the financial impact of the Great War?

It is appropriate to talk about this. This includes war loans, which were never repaid, collecting gold items, collecting clothing for soldiers, all types of food, monetary gifts and other types of gifts and collections which Slovenians

gathered and donated in Red Cross campaigns for soldiers, victims, orphans, families of fallen soldiers – all regardless of nationality. We also collected money by selling postcards with different themes and destinations, war signs, souvenirs and much more. This was the last minted money, which meant something and had value. It was replaced by worthless paper money. People sacrificed and lost a lot. There were also war profiteers from among our people who were singled out and prosecuted by the Austro-Hungarian legal system. The question is only to what degree of success.

The museum probably has a lot of plans in the spirit of the 100th anniversary?

The Museum of Nova Gorica has several topical exhibits planned for the period of 2014–2018. I myself am retiring next year, and I therefore truly hope that I will be replaced by younger blood, who will breathe some fresh new air and innovative vision into the museum’s operations. Getting back to plans for this and next year, I would like to invite all Sinfo readers to come check out at least one exhibit in the next 4 years. The first one will be ready this September, and the next one will be in May of next year, and so on until November 2018. They will all portray a different aspect of the Great War, from its people, towns and cities, and the time period in general.

Tourist opportunities upon the anniversary of World War I

Unique approaches in promotion

The anniversary of World War I is one of the principle stories in Slovenian tourism this year. The public agency SPIRIT Slovenia is focusing its promotion on the Walk of Peace, which winds its way through the Soča river valley, linking the ruins and remnants of the Isonzo Front from the river's source to its mouth.

Photo: Tjaša Janovljak/Mostphotos





River Nadiža, Napoleon bridge.

The beauties of nature, a mouth-watering array of culinary treats, and well-managed trails frame the stories from the past, which tourists can find in museums, private collections, and conversations with locals.

The beauties of nature, a mouth-watering array of culinary treats, and well-managed trails frame the stories from the past, which tourists can find in museums, private collections, and conversations with locals.

An increased interest of journalists and agencies in 2013 has suggested that the anniversaries of the World War I will help to increment the number of tourists between 2014 and 2018. In collaboration with local partners we have established a network of hotels, agencies, associations, restaurants, and museums along the Walk of Peace.

The Walk of Peace starts in the upper Soča valley and winds its way through Goriška to Karst

and Brda, also connecting Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia in Italy. As a result, we maintain excellent collaboration with the Agenzia Turismo Friuli Venezia Giulia in developing this excellent product. This year our activities have focused on promotion, which have included presenting the Walk of Peace and its service providers at more than 10 international fairs, drafting newsletters and advertisements, and putting together study tours in collaboration with local organizations for journalists who have been excited to write about the historical remnants and captivating beauty of the surroundings. The anniversary of the assassination in Sarajevo is upon us, and the representatives of the SPIRIT Slovenia public agency

will take Italian journalists on a bike ride through the streets of Milan, which are named after places and events from World War I, using a new approach to generate interest in visiting Slovenia.

The anniversary of World War I is a unique affair which similarly requires unique approaches in promotion and which, with its cross-border themes, has a lot of potential. Tourists are interested in the mix of Slovenian and Italian culture, the north wind of the Alps, and the warm air of the Mediterranean. Some of the visitors to the Walk of Peace would like to place their shoes in the footsteps of their ancestors, as over 20 nations waged war in the Isonzo Front battles. Other



visitors, such as school groups, would like to uncover their common European heritage. For some these stories from the past are not their main reason for visiting, but they represent additional experiences which they can discover while exercising, either by hiking or bike riding.

Media reactions and the interest of the public in such a tourist event have been substantial, and as a result we hope that the positive effect will also be seen in this year's visits to Slovenia and the other destinations. The initial feedback has been quite positive. This potential highlights the big opportunity of this anniversary for Slovenian tourism as well, and we are aware that we have a lot of work ahead of us.

The networking activities of the service providers, packages, and website www.slovenia.info/socadotell were developed in the context of the project T-lab, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and supported with national funds under the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Italy 2007-2013.

River Soča.

At www.slovenia.info/socadotell we added some helpful hints about researching our heritage from World War I. See the presentation from Društvo 1313 about the lives of soldiers in the Kluže fortress, visit the Kobarid museum, and check out the info point of the Walk of Peace, or set off with experienced tour guides to visit the open air museums along the Walk of Peace. Embrace the emotions of the Church of the Holy Spirit in a remote mountain meadow, built by Austro-Hungarian soldiers of varying nations and faiths. Don't miss the bored out Sabotin hill, which provides visitors with a stunning view. Set out on foot, on bike, in your car, or even with the museum's train. Let the region's gourmet chefs and sophisticated vintners pamper your taste buds.

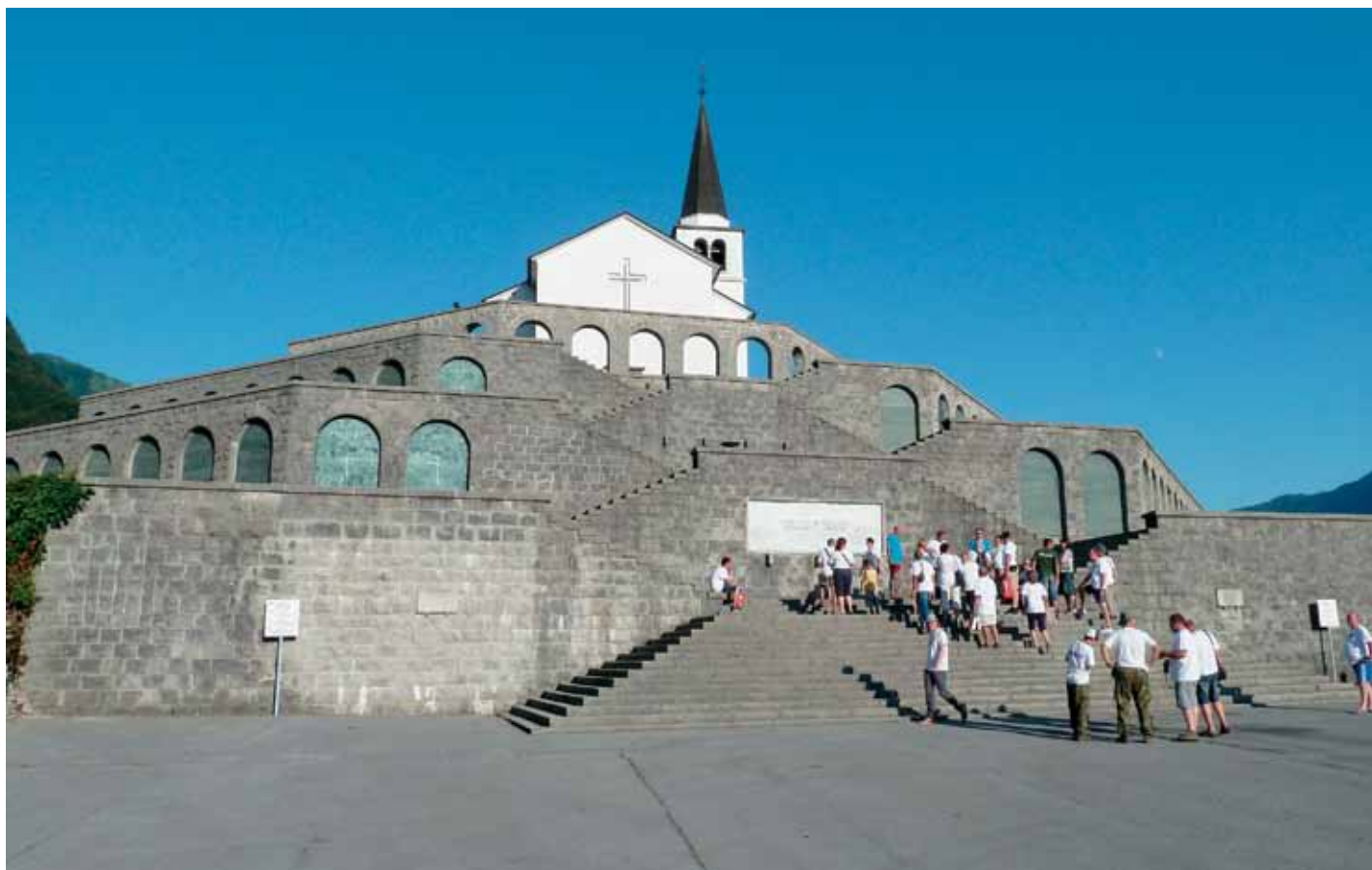


Photo: The Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation archives

The Charnel House was built on Gradič Hill around the Church of St. Anton. Mortal remains of 7,014 known and unknown Italian soldiers who had been killed in the First World War were carried to the Charnel House from nearby army cemeteries.



Photo: Nea Culpa and SPIRIT Slovenia, Public Agency archives

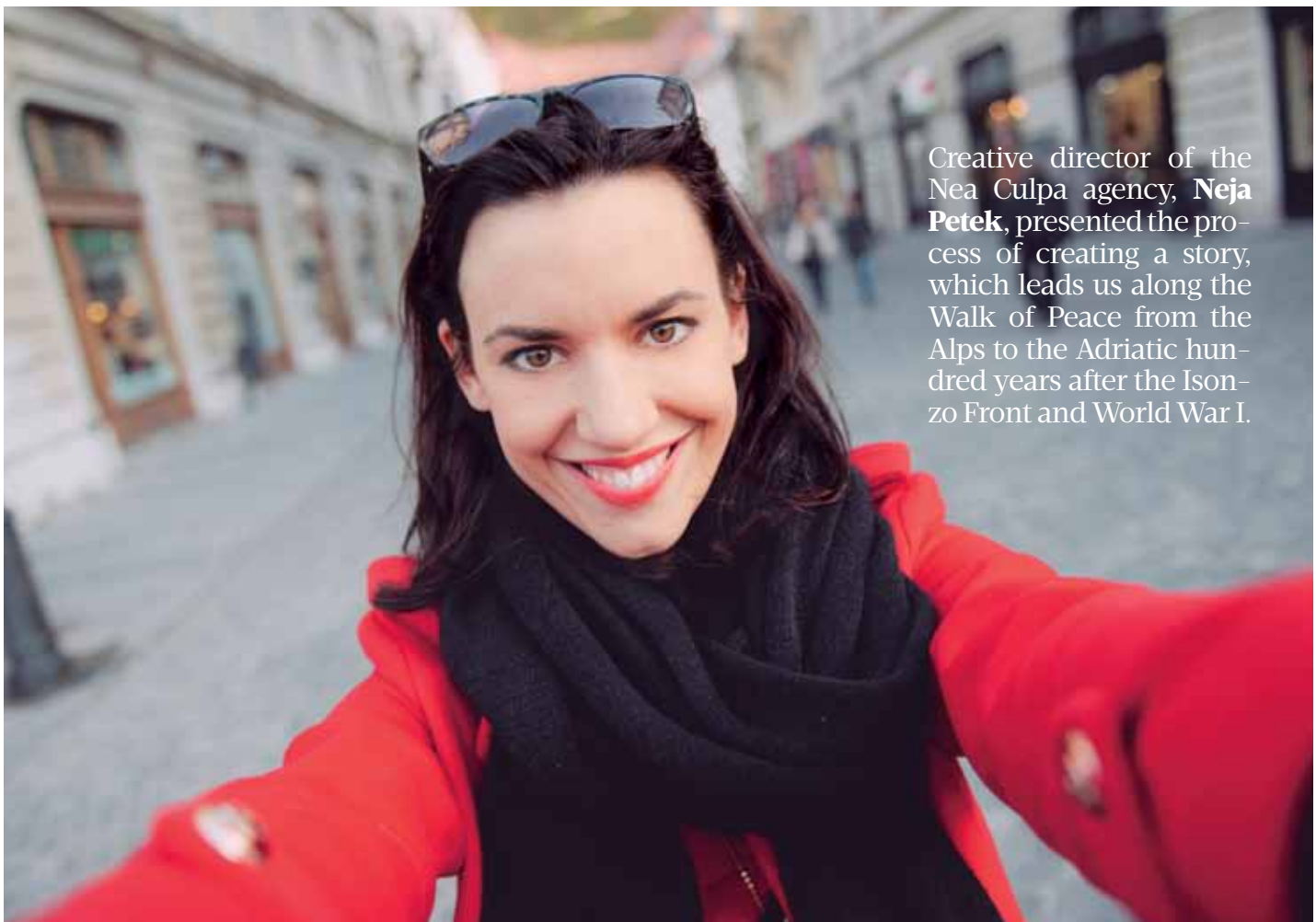
The Memorial Church of the Holy Spirit in Javorca is dedicated to fallen Austro-Hungarian defenders of the Tolmin battlefield on the Isonzo. As the finest monument to the First World War in the territory of Slovenia, in 2007 the church was classed as a historical monument bearing the European Cultural Heritage sign.

Neja Petek, Creative Director of the Nea Culpa agency

Creating stories

The brochure entitled “Soča, do tell” presents and connects the region, tourism providers and locals, related to the former front along the Soča river (Isonzo Front), in picture and words. This area is now connected in “the Walk of Peace”, stretching from the Alps to the Adriatic. The brochure is an important evidence of successful cross-border integration of tourism players.

Photo: Mankica Kranjec



Creative director of the Nea Culpa agency, **Neja Petek**, presented the process of creating a story, which leads us along the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic hundred years after the Isonzo Front and World War I.



Agencija za marketing v turizmu

Nea Culpa is a tourism marketing agency. This boutique agency, offering integrated services, has been connecting tourism enthusiasts, as well as young communication and marketing professionals, who enrich tourism with their creativity and new ideas, since 2010. It develops and designs tourism brands, upgrades tourism products to stories, advertises tourism providers and destinations, and is involved in direct marketing in tourism.

How did you start cooperating in the T-lab project with the SPIRIT Slovenia agency?

Since the very beginning we wanted to cooperate in creating Slovenian and transnational tourism stories. Developing communication in the area of tourism at the national and European level is an exciting and rewarding challenge. I Feel Slovenia is a brand, in which we believe. For two years we participate as consultants in the project T-lab. We were excited to cooperate with the SPIRIT Slovenia public agency, which is lead partner in the T-lab project. It connects regions and people, promotes innovation in tourism in the cross-border Slovenian and Italian region, and strengthens the visibility of its tourism. We are also marketing consultants to the Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation. During our visit to its visitor centre and to the foundation and during the preparation of the marketing plan on the basis of the analysis, we gained good insight into tourism in the region, which was helpful in designing the brochure "Soča, do tell". In September 2013, we became involved in editorial work and started writing and photographing tourism programmes in the framework of SPIRIT Slovenia, which were developed on the T-lab initiative to start connecting.

First challenges were workshops to develop and promote tourism products related to World War I, were they not?

That is right. T-lab established a large network for developing and marketing of common tourism products. It connected the Soča Region, the Gorica Hills, the Brda Hills, the Slovenian and Italian Karst, the Idrija and Cerklje Hills, the Province of Trieste, the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the Nadiža Valley etc. At these workshops, SPIRIT Slovenia and partners made a good breakthrough in promoting providers and destinations and helping them create common tourism programmes. In the forefront are World War I and the 100th anniversary of battles on the Isonzo Front. The first total war, as some historians call it, is very important, since it shaped the map of Europe and Slovenia. The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic stretches along the Soča River and follows the stories it tells. People in

this region have always been very connected. The region connects three worlds and cultures: the Slavic, Germanic and Romance. Today, tourism providers and the representatives of public institutions, who are in charge of the World War I heritage, are proud of their roots. Many still remember how their grandfathers used to speak all three languages: Slovenian, Italian and German.

The brochure "Soča, do tell" is a result of your work as well as your successful cooperation with other tourism players. What were the guidelines for its design?

We focused our work around five innovative tourism programmes, which were developed during T-lab workshops and were the force behind our editorial work. They do not only present war heritage, but offer many experiences in the region with cultural, natural and gastronomic treasures. In this spectacular nature, visitors can participate in world-renowned sports activities on (and along) the Soča River and experience culinary delights that they will not soon forget. In terms of editorial work, the brochure was divided in two parts after several meetings and brainstorming sessions with the T-lab project manager at SPIRIT Slovenia Petra Goneli. The first part is entitled Boundless Weekends. It is a modern tour guide book for individual guests or groups, which can plan their own two or three day programme in accordance with their motivation, wishes and nature. They can look for help in the Visitors Centre of the Walk of Peace as well as in other tourist information centres or specialised travel agencies. The second part focuses on organised multi-day trips: With Gusto along the Walk of Peace and Along the Walk of Peace on a Bicycle. The "Soča, do tell" brochure targets both a narrow and primary target group of visitors, who are interested in World War I heritage, and visitors, who are seeking relaxation, contact with nature and hospitable locals.

A century ago this region was devastated by war, however there is no dark war tourism felt in the programme. Visitors can experience boundlessness, freedom and peace.

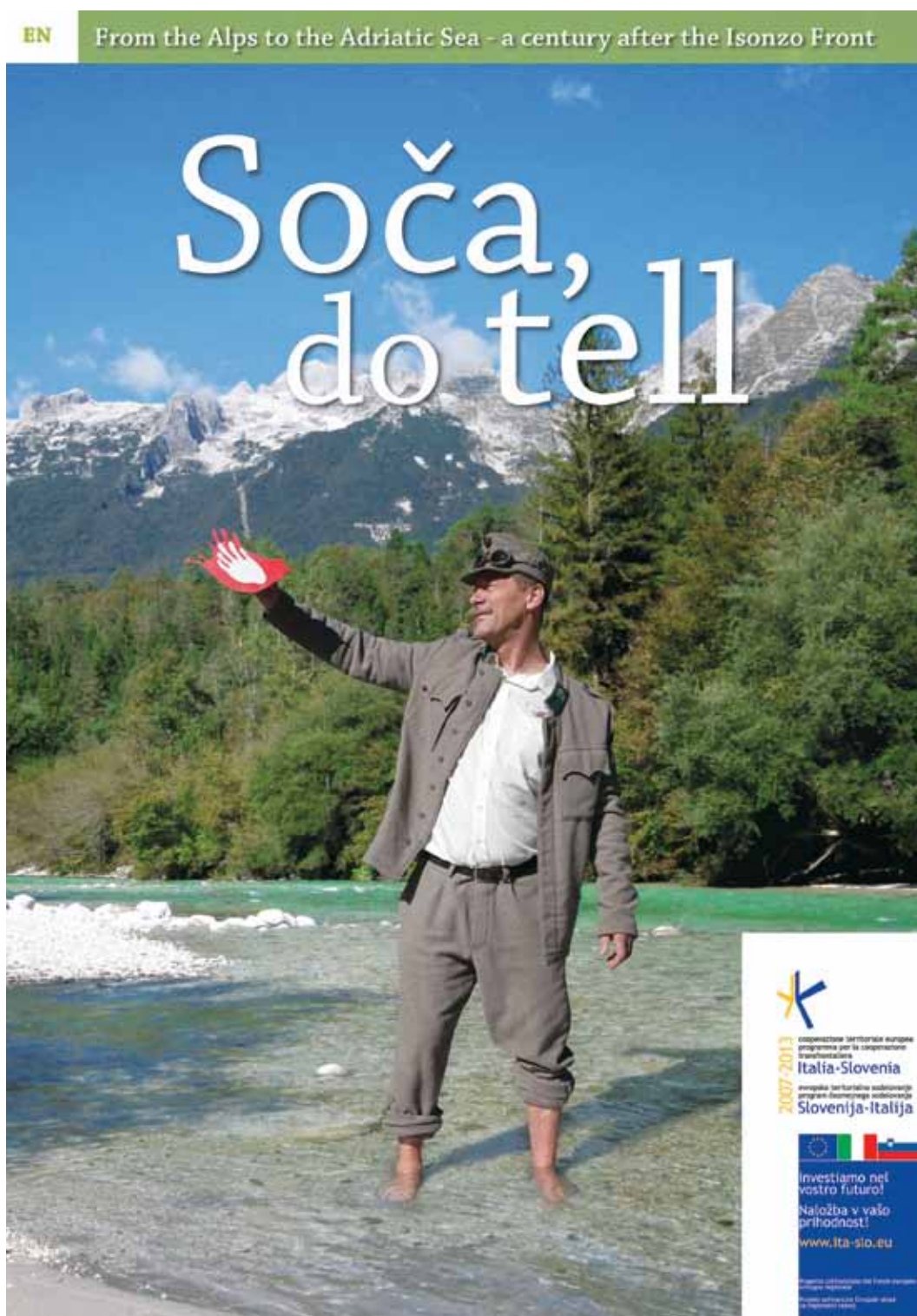
Co-creators of the destination –

the Local Tourism Organisation Sotočje, the Kobarid museum and the Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation – decided not to pursue dark tourism but to emphasise the notion of peace. In line with the theory of dark tourism we could talk about the former conflict zone, but today, in practice, there is no need for this in the area of the former Isonzo Front. After all, visitors seek reconciliation with the past and the present. Today, it is possible to enjoy peace along the Soča River. During our detailed study of events and letters from the past, we were impressed by the love and attachment of locals to their home environment and villages, which were completely destroyed during the war. All they wanted was to return home, live in peace and rebuild their environment. For this reason, it makes sense to reject the identity and products of dark tourism. This is also connects the overall offer. The message of peace is a focal point of all experiences. Generations, which live in the region today, have respect for war heritage and their ancestors, but they wish to offer visitors freedom and peace. And yes, boundlessness can be noticed in every glance and view. The Soča River changes visitors, as many charismatic farmers in the Soča Region say. They all have special attitude towards nature and their animals, they name each animal and recognize them, even if the herds are large.

The brochure kindly addresses readers, invites them to experience the Soča River and mountains, meet the locals, hear their stories and become a part of the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic.

Modern tourists are not interested in data and do not want to tick-box museums and attractions. They need to connect with the environment and its stories and they need intensive, convincing and authentic experiences, which mark and impress them. Museum exhibitions on heritage or any other exhibitions (there are many open-air museums along the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic) are not popular any more, if they do not address modern visitors. This is why the Kobarid museum holds an exhibition on World War I and at the same time disseminates a popular message of peace with

This boutique agency, offering integrated services, has been connecting tourism enthusiasts, as well as young communication and marketing professionals, who enrich tourism with their creativity and new ideas, since 2010.



The cover of the “Soča, do tell” brochure features Miloš Domevšek, World War I object collector.

respect and compassion towards present war zones. Along the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic, tourist guides take visitors to defence caverns and networks of trenches. In addition, they show them local cuisine and medicinal plants. Members of societies that present daily routine of soldiers also talk about their feelings towards their grandfathers. As you enter the tourist farm “Lukčeva domačija” you become aware that

Miss Jožica is not only a curator, but actually lives there as well. In addition to visiting the network of underground passages on the Sabotin Hill, visitors must try home-made Istrian stew (“jota”). It is important that visitors truly experience the destination through locals. Modern tourists are not passive observers, but active participants, who expect constant contact and communication. These days, stories are the most important aspect

of tourism. Stories have been part of humanity since the discovery of fire. They challenge, and if they are good, attract attention and trigger a response. Today, every visitor is a partner in conversation, who wishes to enter a story.

While designing the “Soča, do tell” brochure and photographing stories, it was extremely important to our Nea Culpa team to be in constant contact with people that help

The first total war, as some historians call it, is very important, since it shaped the map of Europe and Slovenia. The Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic stretches along the Soča River and follows the stories it tells.



Photo: Nea Culpa and SPIRIT Slovenia, Public Agency

A stylized bird with intertwined hands is a symbol of the Walk of Peace. In the photo: Director of the Kobarid Museum Jože Šerbec and Nejc Šerbec while arranging a bathing area along Nadiža, one of the warmest alpine rivers.

to promote tourism in the cross-border Slovenian and Italian region. We wanted to build from the roots, to really get to know people and places and to truly listen to them. We could not write this story from the centre of Ljubljana (she smiles). SPIRIT Slovenia was aware of this when it gathered promoters of tourism in one place with T-lab workshops. If we want to create a good story, related to tourism, which is real and honest, it needs the right basis.

The cover of the brochure features a photo of a man in an army suit, who is smiling and is calmly standing in the Soča River. Can you tell us more about the cover?

The man on the cover is Miloš Domevšček, who is a collector of World War I memorabilia. Private collectors are very important and worth visiting along the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic. Miloš is one of those who want to keep their grandfathers in beautiful memory. He spends days in the hills and seeks various objects, related to World War I. His collection boasts more than 115 original World War I beer bottles. He likes to tell how it feels to reach underground in expectation of finding a bottle

in the loam soil. And about how it is to touch them, when some of them are still full... His eyes light up, when he is explaining about objects, he found (she smiles). He also starred in some films wearing the army suit from the cover. The image and gestures of Miloš Domevšček reflect the past in the present. The Soča River is this reflection and mirror. It is different for everyone, it is different every time. Even if we enter it twice in the same place, it is not the same. The decision to focus the story on the Soča River and emphasise it on the cover was of course made, because the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic stretches from the Soča River spring in the Alps to its mouth in the Adriatic in the Gulf of Trieste. The brochure was entitled "Soča, do tell", since in reality the Soča River makes us stop and reflect. It is a storyteller. It tells stories to everyone in different ways.

A bird symbol guides us through the brochure.

A stylized bird with intertwined hands is a symbol of the Walk of Peace. For this reason, it was included in various sizes and colours as the main motive of the story, told by photographs. Along the Soča

River, in valleys and mountains it is possible to enjoy freedom, gain new momentum and wings. This is a Slovenian region with a view over both the Alps and the Adriatic. In this dramatic and free nature the fiercest battles were fought of any that ever took place in the high mountain range. Today, as the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic is preserving the World War I heritage, we hope that visitors will feel this freedom. The brochure includes pictures and quotes of the Slavic, Romance and Germanic poets. Verses were chosen with regard to the theme of birds, freedom, peace and war, etc. Also life itself is war as well as peace, not only history.

What are further plans of the Nea Culpa agency with regard to the project?

When the brochure was published, our cooperation on the project ended. However, we hope that we will cooperate with the tourist destination the Walk of Peace from the Alps to the Adriatic again in the future, since its villages, heritage and message to the world have crawled under our skins.

The message of peace is a focal point of all experiences. Generations, which live in the region today, have respect for war heritage and their ancestors, but they wish to offer visitors freedom and peace.

LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO

Technology parks in Slovenia can find opportunities in the local entrepreneurial potential

Industrial and technology parks offer new possibilities for economic development in the ever-changing economic and social environment. On the one hand, they provide new opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and regional dialogue; on the other, they create jobs and foster innovation, creativity and cooperation. We talked with UNIDO Director General about technology parks, sustainable development and the role of Slovenia in industrialization.

Photo: Nebojša Tejić/STA



Mr LI Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations for the promotion of industrial development aimed at poverty eradication, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. In promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO offers technical cooperation, standard setting and advisory services, as well as the creation of partnerships and networks. This is reflected in the organization of various events, including the regional conference in Slovenia, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In April this year, Slovenia hosted the second Regional Conference on a New Generation of Industrial and Technology Parks. The two-day conference attracted international experts, government representatives and other professionals who discussed the role parks have in fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Europe and Central Asia. As part of his official visit to Slovenia, Mr LI Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), participated in the opening of the Regional Conference.

The Slovenian economy is witnessing the emergence of many new start-ups that use innovative business practices. What are the most important elements of state incentives for an appropriate start-up friendly business environment?

By improving both hard and soft business infrastructure countries enhance the general business climate, which in turn strengthens competitiveness and productivity, and also encourages investment, research, development, innovation, the use of ICT, and job creation. An effective business infrastructure requires multi-layered management that results in synergies between various sectors and parts of society.

Support infrastructure and adequate funds are two common issues faced by start-ups. Science, industrial and technology parks support start-ups, new enterprise incubation, and the development of knowledge-based businesses, and offer an appropriate environment for interaction with the centres of knowledge creation. They serve as bridges between academia and industry, and act as innovation hubs, promoting interactive learning and the commercialization of research outputs; they can also exploit local entrepreneurial potential.

What best practices can Slovenia and Slovenian technology parks contribute to the development of the business environment?

Many countries have already benefitted and are still benefit-

ting from Slovenia's accumulated transitional experience, expertise and know-how, and its progressive economic success, making it an important development assistance partner.

The leading partner with UNIDO in the organization of the Regional Conference on a New Generation of Industrial and Technology Parks was the Ljubljana Technology Park, which has been designing and co creating initiatives in support of entrepreneurial activity in Slovenia. The experience of setting up a business environment for Slovenian start-ups and companies at the early stages of their development is of great value for the entire region.

I have also been particularly impressed by the initiative Start:up Slovenia, an umbrella body for organizations forming the entrepreneurial support ecosystem, which has a significant impact on economic growth and the generation of new jobs.

What are the key conclusions of the second Regional Conference on a New Generation of Industrial and Technology Parks for the countries and businesses companies in the region?

The Conference contributed to a better understanding of the role of industrial and technology parks in economic diversification and job creation in the current global setting of worsening environmental degradation, high unemployment (especially youth), and rising social and economic exclusion. It served as a significant platform for the exchange of knowledge and advice on parks.

The presentations, discussions and outcomes of this event were highly relevant for the series of UNIDO global forums on strategies and policies to boost inclusive and sustainable industrial development, based on innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity, which I have initiated for 2014 and 2015. The forums are designed to foster the exchange of substantive knowledge on strategies, ideas, best practices and success stories in industrial development, as well

as broker partnerships between different stakeholders.

What is the current state of the development of the business environment in the region?

The economic transformations in the region over the past 20 years have been remarkable. Several countries, notably Slovenia, have developed dynamic and successful economies, and become regional leaders in many industrial sectors.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that business environments and economic structures across the countries in the region are highly divergent. There is frequently a lack of access to information, advanced technological know-how, and financial resources. Many countries also face higher transaction costs due to inadequate infrastructure and weak enabling institutions.

What is the role of technology parks in promoting inclusive and sustainable local economic and industrial development?

The fundamental basis for pursuing inclusive and sustainable industrial and economic development is the creation of a business infrastructure that attracts investment, rewards entrepreneurship, and ensures the generation, flow and commercialization of new knowledge. Science, industrial and technology parks represent an integral part of business infrastructure, economic development and development planning, and are important instruments for industrial diversification.

In supporting the creation and growth of industrial agglomerations and facilitating regional innovation clusters, parks act as catalysts for horizontal and vertical linkages and can be used as a testing ground for new reforms, policies and governance approaches to improve the business environment. This is also reflected in the rising demand for UNIDO to provide its services in creating modern business infrastructure in countries at different stages of development and adopting different development approaches.

Science, industrial and technology parks support start-ups, new enterprise incubation, and the development of knowledge-based businesses.

Memories of a soldier on the front line

Their own perspectives

One hundred years have passed since the outbreak of World War I. Those who fought, suffered and sacrificed their lives during that war are now long gone. Their recollections, however, remain preserved in parish chronicles and in personal records. These attest to many difficult as well as pleasant moments.

Even moments when soldiers were in cheery mood.

Photo: Dušan Zidar/Mosiphotos



When Slovenian soldiers marched towards the front lines in the summer of 1914, they sang songs and were accompanied by patriotic cheering from crowds of people. Most soldiers believed that the war would be short and easily won and that life would soon return to normal. Despite unhappy forebodings, most of them could not imagine how strongly the impending war would affect their lives and what disastrous consequences it would impinge upon the Danube monarchy.

ALL FOR THE EMPEROR

Franc Šoster, an ordinary Slovenian soldier, provided a short

written recollection of his unfortunate fate during World War I. He did not fail to mention the tragic consequences of the war, nor the consolatory messages that gave him comfort and reassurance that his sacrifice had a purpose: "The unfortunate war broke out in 1914 and the following year, in 1915, I myself was called to join the army. Most of my comrades perished, but I survived. Yet the war took away the most valuable thing that I had: my eyes. As a blind man, I now spend my days in an institution for blind people. Here, I am learning to read, with my fingers, the alphabet for the blind. I am also learning to write in that alphabet, as I am writing to you

now, and to weave baskets. It is a sad life, but these words give me comfort: "All for the faith, the fatherland, the Emperor and for the Emperor's gentle eyes."

However, not all soldiers shared the same opinion. The lengthy war and the ruthless brutalities not only brought despair, weariness and passionate desire for peace, they also caused great mistrust and criticism against the government. Soldier Leopold Vadjnal wrote: "I went to war once already. As a young man, I imagined that there was truth to what they were asking us to believe: that we were supposed to kill other people for the sake of the faith, the fatherland

A scene in Kobarid Museum

It is a sad life, but these words give me comfort: "All for the faith, the fatherland, the Emperor and for the Emperor's gentle eyes."

Fallen enemy soldiers were treated with galantry and respect, as well. Death often extinguished the hatred between the antagonist armies that the war had instigated.

In a cavern, 1914–1918

Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives



and the Emperor. After years of suffering, I came to realise that faith is a personal matter, that everybody loves their own fatherland and that one can live perfectly well without emperors and kings. “

LIFE WAS HAPPY FOR A WHILE

Recollections of the Isonzo Front by Jože Selan from Nova Sela shed light on war events from a humanly perspective and, though full of horrors, they also speak of dainties and revelries. For example, Selan describes the canned food that soldiers ate for lunch. On another occasion, he tells of how soldiers on the front line ate their fill of the first cherries. However, he also went through difficult times and struggled with the fear of dead bodies. As he explains: “I was shocked by the explosions and grenades. I was in a shiver all day long. During our daily meal, an Italian soldier threw grenades.” Following severe tensions, soldiers in the barracks gave way to revelries: “We ate chestnuts and drank a lot.” Selan further describes the relations with Italian civilians who had great fear of his army: “We came to a village. I can’t remember its name now. We took all the horses and pigs. Life was very happy for a while. We also got lots of hens and wine. We baked and drank all night long.” The conquering of the Italian territory brought about a change in the soldiers’ meals; as Selan tells, polenta became an increasingly common item on their menu. By late 1917, Selan’s writings ceased.

THE COMMANDERS ARE INCOMPETENT

The war also exposed the relations between ordinary soldiers and commanding officers, which were not always idyllic. The resentments were largely caused by the belief that (all) commanders were incompetent, though well fed cowards, while ordinary soldiers had to endure fighting and deprivation. Soldiers believed they were being unfairly disadvantaged in the quality of their sheltering, rankings, payment, food and furlough. They thought that “all

AH officers enjoying food, wine and fun in the hinterland of the Isonzo Front in Kras during a break in the conflict. Was this a way of forgetting about everything?

Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives



On Christmas evening AH officers, from the Observation balloon unit Vojščica, in a karst shack at the time of the Isonzo Front.

Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives



commanding cadres enjoyed exquisite conditions” that were even “better than in peacetime”.

TWO ENEMIES AND DREAMS OF FURLOUGH

Albin Peterlin came from Pre-serje and died in battle as early as 1916. He fought on various front lines but most notable was his arrival to Rombon in Slovenia, situated approximately 2000 metres above the Bovec Valley. He writes: “On the foothills lies the beautiful village of Bovec which by now had become a gloomy ruin. Our military post offered beautiful views of the valley, with the resplendent Soča river winding through it. On the south east, the steep mountain of Krn dominates the view, while on the south west, one may already glimpse the summits of the Italian mountains. The enemy was situated on the opposite hill, the Čukla.” As Peterlin depicts the burnt villages, the snowfall, the sudden attacks by the enemy and losses in his own ranks as well as those of the enemy, he also mentions the famous Slovenian poet Simon Gregorčič. As he recounts: “My mind constantly repeated the poet’s words: ... all the waters stored in the clouds of your skies, rush it all up at once, and drawn the foreigners ravenous for land, to the bottom of your foaming waves.”

Apart from fighting against the human enemy, Peterlin further describes the tragedies inflicted by natural forces. One of his accounts goes: “Around 10 AM, I received the news: half of the third squad was buried by a landslide. I immediately dressed up and went to the scene of the tragedy. The view was horrifying. 8 dead and 10 badly injured soldiers were uncovered from beneath the ruins of the barrack.” Peterlin fought on several front lines, and throughout his service, he strongly wished for furlough.

Once he was finally granted furlough, he returned to Ljubljana and wrote: “As I saw Ljubljana again, I greeted it gleefully. I was very filthy and all in rags, so I spent a day in Ljubljana to tidy



Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives

I shall return on the fighting line for the country, desperate to await the day when peace so longed for shall reign among nations and all of us will be granted unlimited furlough.

Soldiers in position in the forest.



Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives

Receiving rations. Group portrait of soldiers at the field kitchen in 1918. Source: Dr Franc Sušnik, Central Library of Carinthia.



Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives

At the Dentist.



Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives

In the Surgery room.

I am watching the Italian man...The moon is shining upon his youthful face. No, he is not going to kill me and neither am I going to kill him.

myself and buy some necessities. On 4 August, at 8:30 PM, I finally arrived happily to my home in Preserje. My mother, my brothers and my sisters, surprised by my return, welcomed me delightedly. Now I am home, visiting relatives and acquaintances, and enjoying my furlough.” However, even during furlough, Peterlin was mindful that the war was not yet over. As he wrote: “On 21 August I shall return on the fighting line for the country, desperate to await the day when peace so longed for shall reign among nations and all of us will be granted unlimited furlough.”

DESERTION

During the gruesome war, many soldiers wished for unlimited furlough. As war was becoming absurd, soldiers took opportunities to desert. A soldier by the name Novinec wrote: “In 12 days my wound healed well. Then, a commission came to the

hospital, selecting soldiers to be sent back to their units in battle positions. I decided firmly that I would never pick up a rifle again, or wear it on my back. One afternoon, following medical inspections where several other soldiers and I were selected to be returned to the front line, I took advantage of the guard’s inattention. I climbed the wall surrounding the hospital and ran as swiftly as I could, as far away from the hospital as possible, hoping that my absence would not be noted.”

As Novinec’s later records show, his desertion was successful. After spending some time hiding at home, he was lucky to obtain, despite some suspicions, the job of an auxiliary worker in a local military hospital.

People called such deserters “the green cadre”. Another soldier, named Andrej Zlobec, provided more recollections on that matter. In the summer of 1918 he deserted from the Cukrarna building in Ljubljana, where convalescent soldiers to be returned to the battlefield were stationed. He joined a group of deserters in the Trnovski gozd forest. The reasons for his desertion were tiredness and revolt against the Austro-Hungarian state for national reasons: “I am 19. I have seen enough of front line combats, injuries, hunger and coldness. I shall desert! If I am ever to fight again, I want to know why!”

FELLOW SUFFERERS

During incessant fightings, Slovenian soldiers also recognised the heroism of the enemies. Soldier Karel Jagodič compassionately, despite the impassive orders from the commanding officers, recounts one such event when he witnessed how an Italian soldier struggled to rescue a wounded fellow combatant from the rifles of bewildered Austro-Hungarian soldiers. “Our men were baffled by the bravery.” Fallen enemy soldiers were treated with gallantry and respect, as well. Death often extinguished the hatred between the antagonist armies that the war had instigated.

There were also cases of fraternising on the front lines. Andrej Zlobec provides a unique recollection of how, despite initial hesitation and mistrust, he managed to establish contact with his Italian colleague and fellow guard: “I am watching the Italian man...The moon is shining upon his youthful face. No, he is not going to kill me and neither am I going to kill him. The barrels of our rifles are pointed upwards. I do not understand at all why I should kill this man. I see no reason to hate the boy who is standing there just a few metres away from me and is offering me bread again. He wants to exchange the other half of his loaf for cigarettes. We are joined by our youth and the desire to live. If only I could speak his language better, I would ask him whether he knows why the two of us should hate each other and why we should, according to all the rules, kill each other. I would ask him whether he knows why we should both die.” When it was time to change the guards, both Zlobec and the Italian soldier, instead of showing animosity, waived goodbye to each other as old acquaintances. They proved that even soldiers could let go of all prejudices, stereotypes and mutual repugnance which had such a profound impact on Slovenian-Italian relations.

THEIR RECOLLECTIONS

Every war has a major creative potential. It creates and leaves behind countless testimonies of cold-bloodedness, cruelty, bloodthirstiness, sadness, fate, death, helplessness, triviality, but also of pleasures. It is because of this potential that World War I also played a role in promoting literacy. Literate and illiterate soldiers received pencils in order to write down and provide an account of their own perspectives. It was an unfortunate privilege that they were given the chance to write on the front lines. They would definitely have preferred to leave their traces elsewhere. But it was a fate which they accepted.

Source: *Zapiski vojaka Albina Peterlina; Miha Sluga, Ko Triglav nikdar ne omahne, Slovencu vdanost ne usahne.*

The newspaper, Kobarid Museum.

Photo: UKOM archives



Marjan Strojan

Without bloc division and beyond censorship

Do we live in war or peace? Has World War I really come to an end, or are we still living in both world wars or in their aftermath? These questions were discussed by around 90 authors from around 40 countries or PEN centres from around the world at the recent 4-day 46th Bled meeting, which focused on war and peace.

Photo: Tamino Petelinšek/STA



Marjan Strojan is a poet, author, translator, and journalist. He is also the President of the Slovene PEN centre.



The run-up to the massacre was a well-managed campaign of hate-mongering, whose purpose was to turn nations against each other. Authors, journalists, and reporters can help the world renounce the language of hatred.

This year's meeting focused on themes arising from the 100th anniversary of World War I. The Bled meetings began during the Cold War with the purpose of giving authors a chance to meet and hold discussions with one another during the political circumstances of the day, free of bloc divisions and beyond censorship. Today, the Bled meetings still continue to offer an opportunity for a dialogue among the literati from various parts of regions in conflict.

You are warning that the world is once again engaging in the rhetoric from the cold war.

This year is a year of commemoration. It is a year marked by the anniversary of one of the biggest and most pointless cases of slaughter which mankind ever committed, the anniversary of the

first of the two Great Wars, which radically altered the course of the 20th century, the world today, and all of human history. The run-up to the massacre was a well-managed campaign of hate-mongering, whose purpose was to turn nations against each other. Authors, journalists, and reporters can help the world renounce the language of hatred. The language of hatred is easy to use, though insipid and unintelligent, while it is very difficult, though wise and clever, to speak factually and with understanding. This is the language of everyday communication among people, even if they do not know each other. Hate-mongering in politics is a sign that people are trying to return the world to a place that is but a distant memory in our minds. Europe must not be divided again. Moreover, return

is impossible, though attempts at reintroducing division always end up claiming their victims.

This year you have devoted special attention to the situation in Ukraine.

The conflicts which have flared up in the region of the former Soviet Union are extremely dangerous, as there is a lot of external interference which led to civil war in the first place. Military tactics themselves have changed, too, as war is no longer waged between men in uniform from each side. This is an extremely specific situation, and we are afraid it will spill over. There are less and less traditional international conflicts, while there are ever more hotspots, where major powers duke it out indirectly. We authors therefore encourage conflicting parties to resort to



diplomacy, not to fight, and we are encouraging the United Nations to take a more proactive role in resolving these situations.

You also held 2 round tables, first focusing on the effect World War I had on the literati, from the first attempts at propaganda to the later critical views. Then you focused on questioning the cultural and political consequences of World War I.

World War I was the soil in which all further events were cultivated, including the rise of fascism and social revolutions. The first round table was entitled "A Farewell to Arms? – World War I in literature" and led by me. The second round table entitled "Do We Live in War or Peace? – Cultural and Political Consequences of the Great War" was organized by Writers for Peace of PEN International and led by Tone Peršak. Their round table revolved around thoughts on new strategies, which the Writers for Peace could use in the future to de-escalate conflict zones, as the world has changed immensely since its founding.

The meeting was rounded off by a literary evening dedicated to this year's guest of honour, French

author Pierre Lemaitre, winner of the prestigious Prix Goncourt in 2013 for his work Au revoir là-haut (Goodbye, Up There).

In the words of Pierre Lemaitre, World War I had repercussions which are still felt today. As he illustrated, there are connections between the status in Europe immediately after the war and today.

The young people who returned from the front lines were excluded from society. A similar fate has been dealt to today's unemployed; the crisis is a war. The crisis was supposed to be over, but the unemployed, who did everything they were told before the crisis, find it impossible to integrate back into society.

In his words, there is a terrifying connection between Europe right after the war and Europe today – we live in crisis, fear, seclusion, and this sets a ripe stage for fascism and nationalism. As Lemaitre adds, the current European model is broken.

The founding fathers of the European Union believed that it was necessary to build upon an economic community, but I think it should be built upon culture, said the author. According to Lemaitre,

we failed to do so, so we will pay a heavy toll.

The novel deals with the period after the end of World War I. He was interested in the long-lasting pain which arose at the end of the war, and the time when it was necessary to learn to live with former enemies.

PEN was founded in the postbellum world, ravaged by the avarice of nations and their militaries, as a bastion of the united kingdom of humanity, which would, regardless of national borders, exist in the liberated territory of literature.

PEN was founded in 1926, and its Peace Committee in 1984, to provide support to authors whose creative process often takes place in dangerous conditions. At that time, the threat of nuclear weapons, constant sabre rattling, and a serious crisis of the mind were the status quo, without offering people the possibility from escaping from their own political and spiritual circle. The people were incapable of seeing, and authors tried one way or another to show them the light.

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The founding fathers of the European Union believed that it was necessary to build upon an economic community, but I think it should be built upon culture.

Bled Film Festival

Moving images for a better world

In May, Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina were struck by severe flooding, which tragically altered the fates of thousands of families. This catastrophe affected all of us, including the organizers of the Bled Film Festival.



Photo: UKOM archives

Pictured along with BFF PR representative Jagoda Đorđević are world free-diving champion Kristijan Curavić, Slovenian actor Boris Cavazza, President of the BFF Commission Rade Šerbedžija, BFF Director Branko Đurić, and Selector of the BFF Competitive Program Noah Charney.

Screenings will be accompanied by interesting complementary events, interviews with the film-makers, round-tables relating to protecting water resources, and of course some evening entertainment.

The truth is that water makes life possible, but can also take it away. Accordingly, the organizers of the Bled Film Festival (BFF), to be held this year between 17 and 21 June, have chosen a leitmotif which will truly be a welcome topic given the events in our neighbouring countries: water.

The actor Rade Šerbedžija, a man who has travelled the world on his Slovenian passport, making several appearances in Hollywood films, has taken this opportunity to emphasise that he and his colleagues, who have invested their know-how, energy, and enthusiasm into BFF, do not want BFF to be just another in the long list of festivals. On the contrary, their goal is for BFF to become one of the pioneering festivals focus-

ing on ecology, highlighting the problems of the modern world, especially the problems related to water. Šerbedžija himself emphasised the recent catastrophic floods.

DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM

Eight films put the spotlight on water from different perspectives. Water can be a saviour for those with limited access to it; at the same time it can be a destructive force, ruining human lives and vanquishing hope. Water should belong to everyone, but some want to own more than others, given their greed, vanity, and arrogance.

The films focusing on these top-

ics are: *Vanishing Point*, by Stephen A. Smith, *Watermark*, by Canadian Jennifer Baichwal, the Swiss-Indian film *My name is Salt* by Farida Pacha, *Are You Listening* by Kamar Ahmad Simon from Bangladesh, *Bottled Life* from the Swiss filmmaker Urs Schnell, *Last Call at the Oasis* from Jessica Yu, *Knights of the Lagoon* by Walter Bencini, and *Raw Herring* from Dutch filmmaker Leonard Retel Helmrich.

Screenings will be accompanied by interesting complementary events, interviews with the film-makers, round-tables relating to protecting water resources, and of course some evening entertainment. We will have more information on BFF in the next issue of *Sinfo*. See you at Bled!

Tourist farm Lukčeva domačija

Nona's stories live on

In the village called Kambreško nad Kanalom, situated in the far west of Slovenia close to the Italian border and with some 40 inhabitants, lies the tourist farm Lukčeva domačija.



The house is a living museum, as it is lived in by Jožica, who found her life purpose in collecting and preserving objects. The exhibits bear witness to the life of the local population, both in peacetime and in wartime.



During the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the house was a shop, after the World War II it was a Partisan canteen, later it hosted a consulting room for children, later a tavern, and after the 1976 earthquake it became a shop again.

When asked which one is her favourite, she replies that it is a letter in an Italian military flask from the World War I – unfortunately in too bad a condition to be readable.

The village consists of 19 houses that are only occasionally occupied, because their owners live in larger settlements in the valley. Most of them are older than 40 years. The demographic picture, they say, is frightening. There are no young people to move into the empty houses and start a life there. A shining exception in the middle of the deserted villages of Srednje, Avško, Pušno, Brdo, Peršeti, Bevčarji, Humarji, Močila and Rog is a tourist farm called Lukčeva domačija, named after one of the previous owners. The beautifully restored karst-style one-storey house with an attic dates over 200 years back. It was home to quite a few families. After World War I, it was owned by Radivoj Pavšič, a teacher at Kambreško primary school. Today the house is partly owned by the municipality and partly pri-

vately owned. But what makes it special is that it hosts a private ethnological collection and a collection of war memorabilia.

Collector and trustee Jožica Strgar transformed the house into a museum, now considered a pearl in the heart of the village. The house is a living museum, as it is lived in by Jožica, who found her life purpose in collecting and preserving objects. The exhibits bear witness to the life of the local population, both in peacetime and in wartime. Jožica began collecting antiques after the earthquake in 1976; this was the time when people began buying factory-made furniture and throwing the old things away. They were tired of being poor and wanted to become modern. But she thought just the opposite and preferred the antiques. She collected them

from landfills, then carefully re-stored them and has maintained them to this day. She keeps old documents, letters, a wooden wall multiplication table, school supplies, old dishes, clothes, an old photo archive and a library. In addition to the ethnological collection, there is also a collection of military objects from World War I. During the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the house was a shop, after the World War II it was a Partisan canteen, later it hosted a consulting room for children, later a tavern, and after the 1976 earthquake it became a shop again. The house used to be the social centre of the village. The heart of the house is a high stone Mediterranean-type fireplace with an original hearth bench and other hearth accessories. The kitchen has been protected as local ethnological heritage since



1999. There, Jožica is happy to prepare local specialities, such as sauerkraut with polenta, which is offered to travellers passing by.

Over time, she decided that she will continue to maintain the house and display the exhibition. Jožica, who has lived in the village all her life, knew the owners of the objects on display – this is why each of them is particularly valuable to her as it each tells its own story. When asked which one is her favourite, she replies that it is a letter in an Italian military flask from the World War I – unfortunately in too bad a condition to be readable. It was discovered after 90 years, and Jožica often wonders what could have been written in it. “I was very sad to find that it is illegible. I don’t remember ever being as sad as when we found the letter,

which was never sent and never read.” One might still wonder to who the soldier wrote the letter from the front. There is also a soap saucer of unknown origin, the owner of which probably ended up among unidentified persons, together with many other fallen soldiers. “For 30 years, I went from house to house, collecting documents,” she says breezily. Above the table at the entrance door, in a room that used to be a shop and later a tavern, hangs a picture of Communist Yugoslavia’s leader Tito. “He is the only man in the house who constantly looks at me,” says Jožica smiling.

What about her childhood memories? Her ancestors are from the Veneto region; she vividly and fondly remembers her Nona (grandmother in the Littoral dialect), who meant more to Jožica

than her own mother. Thanks to Nona, Jožica still writes in the Venetian dialect. Her Nona was a special woman, Jožica remembers. She walked up to 40 km (25 miles) in one day running various errands, and, without ever being ill, died at a respectable age. She was a treasure trove of stories, which she told on their walks. Jožica preferred being alone with Nona, which is why she accompanied her on her walks, which were sometimes even 17 km (10 miles) long, because this was the time she had Nona only to herself. Jožica was deeply touched by Nona’s stories about people, places and customs, which left an indelible mark on her life. Through her collection, she now shares them with anybody interested in the remnants of the recent past.

Lots of memories

Her Nona was a special woman, Jožica remembers. She was a treasure trove of stories, which she told on their walks.



In addition to the ethnological collection, there is also a collection of military objects from World War I.



Black kitchen

Frugal Cookbook

For bad and good times

While there are many good cookbooks, the collection of recipes found in *The Frugal Cookbook* by Marija Remec is one of a kind. The book was published during World War I, when people had to cope with extreme poverty and hunger. Difficult conditions forced them to start making better use of every resource available.

Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives



Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives



Due to high military expenses as well as traffic and trade barriers, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy imposed restrictive measures as early as in 1914. The Monarchy regulated provisions for its military forces and civil population, banned export of produce and food products, introduced maximum prices of the basic food items (flour, meat, fat), and introduced control over them. It was also forbidden to feed livestock with grain and flour, and to slaughter cattle or pigs. In January 1915, the Ministry of the Interior issued an explicit warning, reminding all citizens it is their duty to use all their foodstuffs sparingly, to change their nutrition habits, and to consume their food in moderation. The Ministry cautioned the population against wastefulness and surplus, and warned against excessive feasts. It recommended smaller meat rations, meat supplements, and meatless days. That year, ration card system for bread and flour was introduced, and in 1916 further expanded to include fats and potatoes. Grain crops and stocks from previous years were regularly confiscated.

FRUGAL AND RESOURCEFUL HOUSEWIFE

Frugality became the most important characteristic of a good cook. Housewives had to be resourceful and skilled to prepare sufficiently nutritious and tasty dishes with the modest means available to them. However, they could find help in the cookbooks with recipes for thrifty cooking that were being published by numerous publishing houses on the both sides of the front. One of them was *Varčna kuharica* ("The Frugal Cookbook") by Marija Remec, which was published in 1915 and contains 520 recipes. The recipes are simple, written with frugality and limited resources—grown either at home or gathered in the nature—in mind, and, most importantly, they come in handy in everyday cooking. Diverse combinations of ingredients guarantee balanced and quite tasty food. Though the recipes are a testament to the culinary image of the first years of the war, many are still relevant today.

In 1916 and 1917, food supply became even more limited. Vil-

lages along the front in the Soča region were evacuated. The population in the near hinterland suffered the greatest shortages; due to mobilisation, there were no men to till the fields, while meagre crops were being destroyed by the residing armed forces with their supply depots, workshops, kitchens providing food for the men on the field, and horses. The civilian population was more affected by the dearth than the army. There was a particularly dire shortage of fats. The newspapers of that time frequently carried instructions for the general population on how to produce oil from oak masts or pumpkin seeds.

When the battles in the Soča and Karst regions wended down, the conditions improved slightly. Housewives started combining various ingredients and created many new dishes. In this way, in Trieste, they chanced upon groats, which they had previously been unfamiliar with. They prepared groats in various ways: soft, thick, mixed with maize, with potato, with sauces, prepared like risotto with or without meat, with added to-

Bakers of the Austro - Hungarian military forces rolling dough for pastries in Kras.

Frugality became the most important characteristic of a good cook. Housewives had to be resourceful and skilled to prepare sufficiently nutritious and tasty dishes with the modest means available to them.

During the war, most of the attention was given to soldiers on the field.

mato dressing, mushrooms or other sauces, or kneaded into bread. They were also eaten with milk, sweetened with sugar or prunes. And they could also be ground into flour and used to make *prežganka*, a soup made by roasting and browning flour. Pasta, too, was prepared in many inventive ways. It could be cooked in a soup, prepared as main dish, or served with bacon, goulash, butter or Parmesan. To cut consumption of pasta, housewives often mixed it with potatoes (to make the so-called *grenadier march*), with beans, or peas, and larded it with roux, which resulted in a thick *minestrone*. Flour porridges, an unpopular dish in the times before the war, became hugely popular. To increase volume, potatoes, beans, peas or groats were commonly mixed in. Oates also be

came a common ingredient and were used like barley groats for dishes such as oat risotto. Dried herbs, mushrooms or fruit was often mixed into dishes, while in baking wheat flour was commonly substituted for maize, buckwheat or groats flour.

ARMY FOOD

During the war, most of the attention was given to soldiers on the field. Because battles were being fought in the mountains, food supply was the most difficult problem. Austro-Hungarian troops were supplied food, weapons and other equipment by train. Warm meals for soldiers in trenches and cavern shelters were prepared in field kitchens just behind the front line. Food supply was infrequent and irregular, and during of

fensives often insufficient. Food was carried at night on the backs of mules in crates containing cauldrons. A mule could transport 80 to 100 kg every eight hours. The contents of an Italian cauldron sufficed for 25 to 30 rations, distributed to soldiers waiting in line with their mess tins. The cauldrons were insulated and could keep the food at up to 60°C for 24 hours, which meant that food was finished cooking during transport.

Italian soldiers lived in better conditions than Austrian. Their diet is well known today. Their rations could add up to 4085 calories, and came in three types. Different types of rations were provided for soldiers at the front line and those in the hinterland. Rations for those in the hinterland were adapted for each province and were less nutritious. Calorie content was also adjusted to each season. At the beginning of the war, soldiers were provided with 750 g of bread, 375 g of meat, 200 g of pasta, along with chocolate, coffee, cheese, while as the war progressed the rations were adapted to the then available, much smaller supplies. Soldiers stationed in the mountains received a bonus: bacon, pancetta, and condensed milk, while alcoholic drinks were intended for troops in trenches. Also provided were packets with dried food to be eaten during the day, which contained 400 g of toast and 220 g of canned meat. From 1916 onwards, the calorie content of rations fell to 3000 calories due to food shortage. After US entered the war, however, the conditions improved slightly, so the rations could contain up to 3580 calories. Highly caloric food was provided to French and English troops. Soldiers on the battlefield had their main meal at about 11 p.m., had a coffee in the morning, while during the day they were occasionally provided with a chunk of cheese and drinks.

In regards to supply, Austro-Hungarian military regulations took in consideration soldiers' nationality and religion. Ra-

AH officers, members of the balloon reconnaissance unit, having lunch in *Vojščica na Krasu*.

Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives



A mother from Kras with children at the time of the Isonzo Front. Lord save us from plague, hunger and the horrors of war. Were they praying to the heavens or to those less holy?

Photo: Museum of Nova Gorica archives



tions were prepared for eleven different ethnic groups. They were divided into three different types: full, normal, and reserve. The first type was intended for units that suffered no shortage and were stationed in a safe and static positions. These rations included two 46 g cans of coffee for breakfast and lunch, 400 g of meat, 140 g of vegetables, 700 g of bread or 400 g of toast, and various condiments: 30 g of salt, ½ g of pepper or paprika, 20 g of fat or bacon, 1 g of dry soup spices, 5 g of garlic and onions, and 0.2 l of vinegar. Luxury items included 36 g of cigarettes, and 0.5 l of wine. Normal rations were somewhat smaller, and meant for troops on the battlefield, during battles, or on the move. They

contained up to 40 g of vegetables, only half as many cigarettes as the full rations, and no onions or vinegar. The reserve ration was considered to be the iron ration. It contained two 46 g cans of coffee, a tin of beef or pork, weighing between 200 and 400 g and sometimes also containing sauce, there were also 200 g of toast in various packages and of various types, 18 g of tobacco, and 30 g of salt in a special box. Towards the end of the war, and particularly after the withdrawal to the river Piave, Austrian troops suffered great shortages. They had to live in gruelling conditions. Some sources from January 1918 mention that rations shrunk from already measly 200 g of bread to under 165 g, and to

just 28 g of meat a day. Soldiers also struggled to deal with tobacco shortages.

In numerous museums, one can nowadays see tin boxes, which contained 220 g of meat, and sometimes anchovies or candied fruit. The boxes bore patriotic slogans, such as “Savoia!” or “Exhquisite hors d’oeuvre – Trieste and Trento”.

While the breakthrough of Austro-Hungarian forces at Kobariid brought peace to the Soča region, the dearth persisted. The population slowly began restoring home economy and working in the fields, waiting eagerly for the first crop.

In regards to supply, Austro-Hungarian military regulations took in consideration soldiers’ nationality and religion. Rations were prepared for eleven different ethnic groups.

TWO RECIPES THAT EXEMPLIFY THE FRUGAL AND POOR COOKING DURING THE WORLD WAR I

Photo: Cveto Sonec



Maize/War Cake

Mix 180 g of sugar and 7 egg yolks in a bowl for half an hour. Add grated lemon zest, 60 g of chopped or ground almonds or hazelnuts, 30 g of brown bread crumbs soaked in rum, and 90 g of maize flour. Stir slightly and pour into a cake mould. Bake for half an hour in an oven at medium heat. Remove the cake from oven and let it cool down. Then cut in two layers, spread one layer with jam, and cover it with the other. Sprinkle with ground sugar and serve.

Photo: Cveto Sonec



Toasted Slices of Bread with Chopped Beef and S.O.S. Sauce (US soldiers’ recipe from World War I)

Melt two tablespoons of butter on medium heat, add two cups of flour and stir to prevent burning the pot. Slowly pour in two cups of milk, making sure not to let lumps to form. Add 400 g of chopped beef to the thick white sauce, and cook for five minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and serve on toasted slices of bread.

Source: Sabotin Peace Park: Cook Book: Selected recipes for traditional dishes of the nationalities taking part in the battles of the Isonzo Front (collected, edited and introduced by Slavica Plahuta, MSc.)

A culinary experience on the first battle line

The aromas may catch the attention of the enemy's sniper

Although cooks rarely receive attention in history books, cooking left an indelible mark on World War I. The Ošterija Žogica restaurant recognised this aspect of history as its business opportunity and now offers its guests so-called “meals from the front line”.



Some years ago, four young people- Ethel, Nataša, Sandi and Saša- decided to pursue a career in catering. All four are sommeliers with their full hearts and souls. Their children learnt to appreciate their parents' jobs. Today, 22 people work in the Ošterija Žogica restaurant.

The Ošterija Žogica restaurant is situated in Solkan, not far from the Solkan bridge, the world's largest stone bridge.

The Ošterija Žogica restaurant is situated in Solkan, not far from the Solkan bridge, the world's largest stone bridge. In its front-yard, guests can enjoy the emerald blue colour of the Soča river and green walkways. The place is beautiful, cosy and has an air of mystery to it. A century ago, soldiers trod these paths, where shootings, bomb explosions and screams were heard. Nowadays, only the culinary offer in the Ošterija Žogica restaurant still reminds of the Great War. At first, the Ošterija Žogica restaurant specialised in offering pasta dishes and pizzas. Recently, however, it has increasingly

included offers dedicated to the 100th anniversary of World War I.

A MENU FROM THE FRONT LINE

Of course, the restaurant does not offer dishes which ordinary soldiers ate. Every restaurant seeks to appeal to its guests, whereas the food provided to soldiers during World War I was very simple. It was a frugal cuisine. Soldiers had to satisfy with what was available at the time. On the other hand, the nobility and military officers enjoyed an entirely different cuisine. They barely felt the frugality that characterised

living on the front line. Nataša Šuligoj, the owner of the Ošterija Žogica restaurant, explains that as the war broke out, military officers continued to enjoy a very exquisite cuisine. To them, the war was a rather high-society event in the sense of “let's pop on the battlefield for a while”. In what ways then did the soldiers' food differ from the food of their commanders? Šuligoj explains: “In the morning, soldiers would drink white coffee and tea and eat some polenta. Bread was a delicacy for ordinary soldiers. Lunch included a soup, a peace of meat and some barley or cabbage. On the other hand, there



was always plenty of food, wine and rum for the commanding officers. In the morning, they would have tea and eat sardines and bread with butter. For lunch, they would enjoy a soup, a large slice of meat with various vegetables, some compote, and a peace of cake or cigarettes. For dinner, they would again savour meat dishes which they would wash down with wine, cognac or rum". Šuligoj goes on to explain that soldiers of at least 17 nationalities fought in battlefields around Solkan. The cookery on the front line reflected the ethnic diversity. Officers and noblemen relished various dainties such as caviar and truffles.

According to Šuligoj, there were two menus on the front line: one was a propaganda menu apprising the enemy that the army was well fed and hence dangerous; the other one was a military menu with food being prepared undercover, clandestinely and in accordance with the possibilities. The difference between the two was vast. The propaganda menu included the following food: jam,

bacon, cheese, vegetables, chocolate, tea, rum and other treats. In reality, however, soldiers had to eat stale bread, complete with sawdust or similar and made of dried turnips.

The food was often rationed by calories: an ordinary soldier received a daily ration of 3000 calories, whereas in Kobarid, the rations would sometimes amount to 3600 calories. Still, many soldiers on the front line could for the first time taste food that was not available at home; for example, oranges. As the war was nearing its end, a soldier's daily ration hardly reached 2000 calories.

THE SOLDIER'S SOUP

On opening the menu, the first page includes an introduction by Toni Gomišček, the former director of the Vinoteka Brda company and a journalist specialising in the topics of wine and food. Gomišček wrote: "Napoleon knew well: "It's the food that makes the soldier." A hungry army may be capable of draw-

ing courage out of despair, but a hungry soldier is nevertheless a bad soldier. During World War I, it became obvious that the scales of luck will eventually tip in favour of those who fed their fighting spirits with good food. "Further in the introduction to the menu, one may read the following: "The pasta got overcooked, the fat cooled down and the rice became a solid block. The main seasonings were hunger and a bit of imagination. "

According to Gomišček, it was imagination that gave rise to typical soldiers' recipes, flavoured with gallows humour. One such example is the recipe for a dish called the Soldier's Soup. Here is how the recipe goes: "*Once you have managed, in whatever possible way, to get 100 g of flour, some potatoes and three spoonfuls of olive oil, try to find a peaceful, bomb-proof place. Put the flour in a kettle or helmet, light a fire and mix the flour until its colour resembles that of a burnt tank. Add the oil and mix again, until the blend is as thick as a trench during thunderstorm. Add some water or wait for the rains to pour down and*

The appetiser: Solder's can

The menu is only the beginning. We plan to expand our offer and turn part of our restaurant into a bunker, a trench or something similar.



Donkey wrapped in herbs, asparagus and potatoes.

But be careful! The aromas may catch the attention of the enemy's sniper.

make a medium-creamy sap. Peel the potatoes, slice them and add them to the soup. A brave soldier must eat the peels as well! Once the potatoes have softened, the soup is ready for consumption. But be careful! The aromas may catch the attention of the enemy's sniper."

FROM TIN CANS TO HAY AND GRENADES

Once you have read this interesting introduction, the ques-

tion arises: which army dish should I order then? The choice is quite fascinating and perhaps it is best to visit the restaurant several times and gradually try all dishes. If you go for a meat menu, the waiters, clad as army officers, will serve you with a cold foal on summer grass as the appetiser. That will be followed by a meadow soup, a salad from the first fighting line, a donkey in a wrap of herbs, asparagus and potatoes, and on top of it,

a sweet grenade as dessert. In case you love horses too much to eat an entire donkey, you can also choose a fish menu. Here, the appetiser will be a soldier's can. Yes, you got that right. The appetiser will be served in a can but it will be a tasty, marinated trout. This will again be followed by a meadow soup and, as the meal has only started and you probably feel hungry like a wolf, you could well imagine the lives of ordinary soldiers who



Hay-fried trout with nuts, sorrel, potatoes and buckrams

And yet, the mingling of many different ethnic groups in the army ranks enriched those cultures.

in the final stages of World War I truly had to eat grass rather than vegetables. Of course, the soup served in the restaurant is not made of grass in the literal sense. It actually contains herbs and seasoners. The trout is very tasty, too. It will be served on a hay layer and actually tastes like hay. Again, part of the main course is the salad and for dessert, a grenade. On finishing your meal, you will be bursting with delight.

LET'S BUILD A BUNKER

As the summer season is opening, the Ošterija Žogica restaurant has ambitious plans: "The menu is only the beginning. We plan to expand our offer and turn part of our restaurant into a bunker, a trench or something similar." In fact, the restaurant has already begun realising its ideas: larger numbers of guests are now catered in what looks like a make-shift military camp.

As they say: "World War I was a tragic event. It caused many casualties. And yet, the mingling of many different ethnic groups in the army ranks enriched those cultures. Hence, it is right that we bethink ourselves of the brave men and women."

A fashionable silhouette during WW1

Easy-to-wear clothing

Fashion during the First World War (WW1) was marked by sombre colours and clean-cut patterns. The female silhouette adopted a male military appearance since during the war women had to undertake men's work, and so their clothes had to be more practical.



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Wiener Mode, 15. September 1914, the front page



Women volunteered for work in factories and in the field, so the “British warm greatcoat” became fashionable for both genders.

Das Blatt der Hausfrau, 16. April 1916

In the years 1914 and 1915 English Edwardian silhouette with long narrow skirts and laces were fashionable. French couturier Paul Poiret added extravagant oriental inspired french chic. The beginning of the First World War brings major changes.

It was then that the coat adopted its present unisex form, which is suitable for women and men alike. “During WW1, coats gained epaulets, belts and large pockets; ‘Russian’, ‘hussar’ or female ‘Red Cross’ uniform styles

were in fashion”, explains Karin Košak Arzenšek, Assist. Professor of Fashion History.

Among the materials, water-proof gabardine became popular. This densely woven wool fabric dates back to the 16th century. In the Middle Ages, the gabardine took the form of a long and very wide robe with wide sleeves and a hood. In 1914, the first “trench coat”, a military coat ordered by the British army, was made from gabardine by the English company Burber-

rys. Only in WW1 did the fabric obtain its characteristic green shade, which has been retained thereafter.

In 1915, the so-called “war crinoline”, a mid-calf-length full skirt, came into fashion; it was promoted in America although the country at that time had not yet become involved in the war. The Americans were ardent followers of Paris fashion, and thus they demonstrated their support for France in the war by also adopting their wartime fashion.



STRAUSS MAGAZINE THEATRE PROGRAM
for the Spring of 1916

What the Woman Will Wear

By CORA MOORE.

FASHION changes the silhouette as nonchalantly as she does the size of hats or the shape of sleeves. It seems but an hour ago that extreme slenderness was a virtue of virtues, yet now it matters very little whether Nature made us stout or lean; the most arch-like figure dressed in style suggests untold pounds of useless flesh. It is disheartening until you examine the fashions: they are so alluring that you are willing to sell your birthright of slenderness to wear them.

The protracted cold weather has held up some of the promised novelties but it has brought out ahead of time some of the new furs that have been especially designed for wear through the summer. Fox scarfs colored to match gowns, cross fox ones in long, medium length or short collars that hug the neck, and shoulder capes and small wraps of various shapes are what will be worn or carried along with flimsy summer frocks.

Suitable for a Variety of Occasions in this Frocks of Silk and Velvet.

Practically all the furriers have taken up the idea with enthusiasm, but A. Jaecckel & Co's. Fifth Avenue establishment has had carried out for it some suggestions of unusual distinction. For instance, one scarf about twelve inches wide, exquisitely lined, ends in a fur fringe, and some others have silk and chiffon intermingled with the fur in the most fascinating manner imaginable. If any incongruity between furs and the summer time exists in your mind, it will vanish like mist once you see what the furrier has to offer.

The early frocks are exceedingly interesting — witness the model sketched, an afternoon dress of brodered voile and double-faced silk and adaptable to various color combinations. The dressmaker who has the original model has developed it in a dark blue and old rose very effectively and substituted a pretty straw braid for the soutache of the original.

Taffeta is still in the lead for spring suits as well as gowns, but satin is a close rival. All sorts of pretty figured silks will be in order this summer, and no doubt New York streets will resemble nothing so much as a series of garden parties, for there are charming hats turned out expressly to accompany the frocks, and the costumes are not likely to be reserved for resort wear.

Surely every woman may be a picture if she will this year. Not only are there distinctive fashions for every type but there is so much latitude allowed in the way of color and line that one may suit one's self almost exactly. It only remains to know what these requirements really are. There's the rub.

As a final word, have you seen the new "Avenue" bags? They are of silk or chiffon or, if you please, they will be made to order to match your gown. They are netted, or, if to go with a tailored suit, it may be they are braid or leather-trimmed. In any case they are intended to look a feature of the costume rather than an afterthought.

When Summer: Epigrams Gown Satisfies.

Address where merchandise described in the foregoing can be obtained may be had from Frank F. Strauss & Co., 108-114 Wooster Street, New York.

OldMagazineArticles.com

Wiener Mode (15. Maj 2016) and Strauss Magazine, 1WW

In that period, only rich customers had shoes made to order, therefore shoemakers' main activity switched to repairs.

Coco Chanel introduced jersey knitwear, wide pants and Basque Berets, which were suitable for the wartime period, and achieved remarkable success.

FASHIONABLE SLOVENIA

According to Assist. Prof. Karin Košak Arzenšek, women in factories and at work tied a scarf with a knot at the top of the head and wore long protective gowns. Their shoes had to be watertight, boots or ankle boots, and were adorned with small buttons at the top of the instep. Women volunteered for work in factories and in the field, so the "British warm greatcoat" became fashionable

for both genders.

In Slovenia, in the period before the First World War, artisan confection that was made from quality materials and by its origins older than the ready-made clothes, was still made and sold by tailoring shops. In the period after the WWI, the first ready-made clothes produced in factories appeared in Slovenian shops, which were highly competitive due to their favourable prices as compared to artisan-made products.

In Slovenia, the price range of ready-made clothes differed with respect to the wealth level of buy-

ers. Even stronger was the competitiveness of ready-made shoes in comparison to artisan-made products. In that period, only rich customers had shoes made to order, therefore shoemakers' main activity switched to repairs.

While the working class wore prevalingly affordable clothing, the urban middle class wore ready-made garments only in the form of clothing accessories, such as shirts, ties, hats, stockings, handkerchiefs and underwear. Elegant men's and women's clothing was always made by renowned tailors. Custom-made clothes still maintained the highest value.

Franja Marathon – BTC City 2014

Slovenia's Cycling Holiday

There is an unwritten rule known among Ljubljana's cyclists, saying that you will make it through Franja if you have ridden at least 700 km (430 miles) when you start the marathon. Have you? Welcome to Franja Cycling Marathon.

Photo: Studio Bomba



Between 6 and 8 June Ljubljana and its surroundings yet again hosted the largest cycling event in Slovenia – the Franja Marathon. The popular cycling festival took place for the 33rd time in a row, and the contestants competed on tracks of different lengths: from 156 (97), 97 (60), 25 (16), 18.6 (12) to 1.5 (1) kilometres (miles). This year's marathon was dedicated to the deceased conceptual leader of the Marathon, Zvone Zanoškar.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

The first Franja Marathon took place on 22 July 1982. It was organised by the Rog Cycling Club (Rog was at that time a well-established bicycle manufacturer) under the leadership of Zvone Zanoškar and on the initiative of the Slovenian comedian and journalist Tone "Tof" Fornezzi. As early as in 1978, Fornezzi tried to ride the route, but because of a road construction site in the vil-

lage of Kladje pri Cerknem, he had to turn back. Then in 1979, a Rog team rode the route of the marathon, which was named that same year. When they stopped in the town of Cerkno to rest, they noticed the sign "Franja Hospital" (a former secret World War II hospital run by Slovenian Partisans). On Fornezzi's initiative, the decision was made on the spot: the Franja Marathon. In this way, the organisers paid tribute to the brave medical staff who cared for the wounded Partisans, as well as for soldiers of the allied forces, in the hidden Franja Hospital, which operated during World War II. Today, the Franja partisan hospital is a cultural monument of national importance carrying a European Heritage Label.

The first marathon had about 700 participants, who were mostly using non-competitive bikes. In the first years, the track included a 7-km-long gravel section con-

necting the villages of Kladje and Sovodenj, which caused many punctured tyres.

In 1984, when Franja Marathon took place for the 3rd time, the participants were welcomed by Dr. Franja Bojc Bidovec, the legendary doctor from the Franja Hospital, whose words on that occasion remain well-known to this day: "This won't be easy for you, but believe me, I wasn't easy for us either".

The number of participants at the marathon has increased over the years, and the competitors have ranged from cycling enthusiasts, and amateurs to professionals, as well as well-known Yugoslav sportsmen and sportswomen of the time. In 1980s, the Franja Marathon was also attended by many cyclists from Western Europe. During these years the Rog factory produced a bicycle called Maraton which was especially adapted to this kind of sports ventures.

Until 2002, the Franja Marathon both started and finished in the Tacen District, Ljubljana, in front of the Police Academy. In 2003, the event moved to the BTC City shopping centre in Ljubljana.

The first Franja Marathon took place on 22 July 1982. It was organised by the Rog Cycling Club.



Photo: Nabojša Teržič/STA

The Franja Marathon is an official candidate for membership in a series of best bike marathons in the world under the auspices of the UCI Golden Bike, an international cycling association.

The Franja Marathon organisers have been dedicating special attention to raising safety awareness for cyclists in Ljubljana.

THE MARATHON EXPANDS

2002 saw a record turnout with more than 1900 participants, and the number grows each year. The event gained new momentum in 2005, when the marathon was held as part of the Cycling Festival (Festival kolesarstva). It was complemented by the Little Franja Marathon, two mountain biking tracks, the Family-School Marathon for Everyone, and the Children's Challenge. As side events there are also lectures, a fair and pop-music concerts. Last year, when the Franja Marathon entered the Alpe Adria Tour – a chain of cycling marathons – saw an increased number of foreigners, especially Italians.

Until 2002, the Franja Marathon both started and finished in the Tacen District, Ljubljana, in front of the Police Academy. In 2003, the event moved to the BTC City shopping centre, Ljubljana.

This year, the Cycling Festival, a part of the Franja Marathon,

started on 6 June with a timed ride for Ljubljana Grand Prix. On Saturday, the Family-School Marathon and the Children's Challenge took place, while Sunday was the peak of the three-day event with the Little and the "Big" Franja Marathon. This year, the competition marked another milestone as the Marathon became an official candidate for membership in a series of best bike marathons in the world under the auspices of the UCI Golden Bike, an international cycling association.

BETTER SAFETY FOR CYCLISTS

The Franja Marathon organisers have been dedicating special attention to raising safety awareness for cyclists in Ljubljana. Together with the Municipality of Ljubljana and other partners, the organisers equipped bicycle trails with "Franja Marathon – BTC City" signs and motivational messages, which point to dangerous places for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. For this they

received a Grand Golden Award at this year's 23rd Slovenian Advertising Festival. This year, the signs will be upgraded. The organisers of the Slovenian cycling holiday and the BTC company will carry the message of Franja Marathon BTC City also to the Slovenian coast, where they will put motivational messages along the Parenzana cycle route connecting Slovenia and Croatia.

In addition, they support the "Safety on Bike" (Varnost na kolesu) project, which aims to ensure the safety of young cyclists and to enhance the cycling culture.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

As Jože Mermal, CEO of the BTC company, said: "The purpose is not important. Whether you only wish to enjoy the ride and put your abilities to a test, or if your goal is to win – everyone is welcome at the Franja Marathon – BTC City."

We never imagined such a war

The Slovenian National Museum of Contemporary History is preparing an exhibition entitled *We never imagined such a war* to honour the centenary of the World War I. The narrative of the exhibition is built on short stories of civilians and the mobilised soldiers from the World War I, which marked the final stage of the multinational Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

The exhibition focuses on the stories of its population, composed of fragments of the heritage preserved in family legacies and museum collections. The selection of the photographs and personal belongings will take the visitors across the battlefields where the Austro-Hungarian soldiers fought during the world war. The war brought many changes to everyday life of the population. The photographs of Heinrich von Obereigner, an officer of the 17th Infantry Regiment, will show the departures of the mobilised soldiers to the battlefields. The experience of Austro-Hungarian soldiers in Galicia will be described by a collection of items and photographs of the unknown photographer of first lieutenant Stanko Oražem. The stories also include Alice Shalek, the best known war correspondent from Vienna who wrote a book on the battles in the Soča Valley and promoted the emancipation of women throughout the monarchy. These are only few people who were chosen to answer the visitors' questions on how the war, which surprised the contemporaries, and their life in the monarchy during this period looked like.

The story of their lives during the war will be narrated as a flow from the military and work mobilisations to the downfall of the monarchy and the memory of the fallen soldiers who are too often forgotten. We are especially proud of the collected items ranging from the full equipment of the army chaplain to the items which will tell more about tobacco, drinking tea and water. The exhibition will also portrait the main chapters of the common past and fragments of life stories which were dramatically changed by the war.

Among the common chapters which dramatically influenced the life of the inhabitants of Austria-Hungary, the chronological reminders will present the assassination of heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand with several less-known photographs, the declarations of war, the beginning of the war at the Soča river, the death of the emperor Franz Joseph and the assassination of the prime minister, which indicated a dark premonition of the country falling apart and the reading of May Declaration in the Vienna Parliament.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue, rich pedagogical and andragogical programme as well as other activities, such as archived and documentary films on the World War I. The visitors will have the opportunity to watch a five-part documentary series, produced by the Slovenian Television and filmed in Vienna as well as in other towns of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, from Sarajevo to Krakow. This series, which was also filmed in the Museum of Military History in Vienna, used the extraordinary rich film material from the Austrian Film Archive. In cooperation with Kobarid Museum, a part of the exhibition will be relocated to Kobarid this October. The exhibited material will be of particular interest to the entire cultural, spiritual and geographical area which was once reigned by Austria-Hungary. The exhibition will take place at the National Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia from 22 June 2014 to 15 May 2015.



*we
never
imagined
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war*

exhibition

June 21, 2014 - May 15, 2015

Evenings of documentary film on
World War I and the Soča / Isonzo front
Autumn lectures on World War I
Pedagogical programmes for all age groups of visitors

National Museum of Contemporary History
Celovška c. 23, Ljubljana
www.muzej-nz.si



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