

Alberto Burbello

WORDS FROM MT. GRAPPA

**Military Epigraphs
from the Brenta to the Piave
1915-1919**

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**Military Epigraphs
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This book
aims to be useful to scholars
and enthusiasts of the territory,
some of whom may be able to point out any new finds,
since the census will go on even after publication.

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Alberto Burbello was born in Marostica (VI) in 1972 and lives in Vittorio Veneto where he works freelance in the sector of safeguarding trees in an urban environment.

He graduated in Forestry and Environmental Science at Padua University in 2003 with a thesis on “Positive exploitation of the territory through the signs of man. Hypothesis for recovery of a historic pathway and some rural buildings in the Grappa massif.”

Evidently a passion that was already “born inside” when, still young, he was living in Cassola and continued “spontaneously” throughout his military service

– with the 7th Regiment, “Alpine troops of course!”

A lover of the history of events linked to the first world war in the Vicenza-Treviso foothills, he has held numerous courses both on this subject and on his own profession. A few examples: In 2005 he taught a training course for tourist guides in the Grappa massif, organised by the Feltrina Mountain Community. In 2006 he gave evening lectures on war epigraphy for the municipality of Seren del Grappa (BL).

In the same year, for the municipality of Cismon del Grappa (VI), he dealt with the defence lines of the Brenta Canal in the Great War and, for the municipality of Valstagna, gave an informative lecture about fighting on the Brenta Canal in 1918.

In 2006, at the “A. Parolini” Professional Agricultural Institute in Pove del Grappa (VI), he outlined the history of fighting on the Grappa massif.

Together with Prof Fabrizio Bassani, in 2008, he lectured on war events on the Brenta Canal and on war epigraphy in a cycle of evening talks entitled “The People of Bassano and the Mountains”, organised by the Bassano del Grappa section of the C.A.I. and the Gruppo Amici della Montagna “Gino Sartori”. Again with Prof Fabrizio Bassani he wrote articles on the Great War for the local monthly “La Brenta” (2007).

... and up to here, the cool presentation of a young scholar who, as far as forestry goes, has everything “inside”: from a passion for his land to a passion for the mountains, to “epigraph sickness”, to the joy of taking part in a life he can still command, dividing it equally among work, study of the Great War, excursions on “His Grappa”, love for the mountains... and for his partner.

Now he has published this research, the result of hundreds of outings on the territory over eight years, as well as direct and indirect contact with military archives in Rome, Vienna and Budapest with the purpose, as he repeats more than once, of “saving what we still possess with regard to a historic epic of considerable value and importance”. But the message doesn’t end here: he would like to make the Grappa municipalities understand – not to mention the provinces of Treviso, Vicenza and Belluno – that behind “these human things” lie great possibilities for the future of life in those mountains which are losing their population today.



Although more than ninety years have gone by since the end of the First World War, our territory still has a wealth of direct testimony of those events.

Often they are hidden traces, silent, almost invisible and, unfortunately, unknown to most people.

But they are important signs of our history that nourish the collective memory.

It is therefore our moral duty to try and understand and preserve them.

This is why, when I got the chance to appreciate Alberto Burbello's long and painstaking work of recognition, census-taking and research, I immediately committed myself to making it known so that everyone might have the chance to read it.

In fact I feel that it is an important contribution towards awareness, positive exploitation and safeguarding of a historical and cultural heritage that is now an integral part of our landscape but at the same time belongs to all the peoples who found themselves on opposite sides then and now stand together in the European Union.

...In the hope that knowledge of this heritage becomes an occasion for better understanding of our territory, but also for reflection on the tragedy of the war, indeed all wars, and on the need for a shared culture of peace.

On. Giancarlo Scottà
membro del gruppo ELD
presso il Parlamento Europeo



At first, when the Honourable Member Scottà asked me to do the job, I took it in a cool and rational way. I never thought I could get so caught up in a book, to actually become its “designer”. Not that this is a usual figure in publishing, but that’s really the kind of work I did... I who am a designer by trade.

I didn’t and don’t want to take anything away from the author, whose ability and passion captured me during the writing, but to render more legible a technical text, attempting to prevent people with different interests from falling asleep. It wasn’t easy... in fact I

got a few grey hairs.

Alberto’s ideas and notes were precise and definite but, as in the case of all specialists, they concerned himself and a host of equally specialised enthusiasts but only a few outsiders.

As a whole the story to be told added nothing to what we already know. Indeed it had no interest in going into details because it is not and does not aim to be a historical essay, except for dealing with the encounter in the area into which the study inquires.

There was a part, initially terrifying, with descriptions of flora, fauna, geographical formation etc. which once more risked addressing only specialists, though of a different kind. In a word, everything was set for a book to be sent... around the universities.

Read, organised and designed with a meaning, it all flows now, but at first it brought me out in a cold sweat.

This is why I called myself “designer”, because the work has been devised, designed, worked on and edited for a public not only specialised but “normal”, like many enthusiasts of the subject.

What we supply is a text/treatise to be used whenever you want to visit the area or go deeper into seeking these “historical fragments of varied humanity” through the 208 entries, the real text, which we hope will increase.

My compliments Alberto.

Giovanni Coan



From the caves of the immense Sahara to the desolate expanse of the Arctic regions, in the atriums of Pompeii brothels as on the columns of the Coliseum and along traffic-frequented streets, today as thousands of years ago humanity has trended to leave a trace, a sign, a mark or footprint of its passage. Walls and stones thus became pages in a huge volume (volumen, that which unrolls) bringing together the dreams, illusions, the flushes of pride and the delusions of those – mostly anonymous – who want and intend to challenge the centuries, challenge time which erodes and corrodes.

Those who want to be and declare themselves: men!

There are epigrams, invectives, declarations of sublime love or profound hatred, statements of belonging, challenging the rain, the snow, the hammering intensity of the sun, beneath the same sky.

And this need becomes more impelling, irresistible, the more an individual has ended up in the iron grip of history that draws him on, like a rolling stone as Bob Dylan's song puts it, caught up in events over which he has no control: war, prison, emigration.

Use of the cultured and elaborate language of the diary – a historical reconstruction to say 'I was there!' – was and remains the province of the few.

For the bit players (or were they the true protagonists?) there was only the burin for engraving and a swift, essential, dense and concentrated language; and not much time, and mostly a date, and then irony, rage, nostalgia, melancholy and a pride which in general come to the aid of a modest cultural background that is nonetheless backed up by an acute intelligence.

An "ABASO LA GUERA" (DOWN WITH WAR) in a karstic swallow-hole tells of the concentrated humour of a people obeying its fate but who, far from the ears of the "trench powers" (the officers), claim their right to a well thought out opinion of an imposing event.

We find the same thing in the inscription "EVERYONE A HERO! – EITHER THE RIVER PIAVE OR EVERYBODY BUMPED OFF" on the breached wall of a house in Fagarè.

And in thousands upon thousands of other places that lie buried under layers of earth and come to light from time to time.

As in the whorehouses of the Roman age, which the lava of Vesuvius protected for millennia, the writing "I've been with Flavia and she took me to paradise!", so far from the courtly love of the poets, still touches us today, moves us with its immediacy and freshness.

A complete epigraphic research however would have been an endless toil.

It was right and wisest to restrict the perimeter, mark boundaries and delimit historic period and places.

And going back to the time of the First World War, to further reduce this epigraphic research to the Italian front and in particular to the areas where these and other material testimonies have best survived intensive farming and industrialisation: the Asiago highlands, the Grappa massif, the area of Montello and the Middle Piave.

That is the perimeter of research chosen by the young author of this splendid text. What he deals with – and magnificently – is the epigraphy of the war, from the Brenta to the Piave. His ambition is no greater than his powers: he has already disputed and deposited a degree thesis in Forestry Science on the “Positive exploitation of Monte Grappa military structures”.

Our former fellow citizen recounts that he began in childhood to visit the places of that war which had left innumerable signs on the territory (it was the first mass conflict) and he was immediately struck by the inscriptions of the men-soldiers. It was only after in-depth study and many surveys, following exchanges of information with other researchers – meaning after many years – that he succeeded in making us the gift of this guide.

An itinerary in which, we believe, nobody will find precise topographical indications, in order to foil those “robbers of history” who ruin our heritage and must be guarded against. A manual which is a sure stimulus to a respectful journey, an excursion to places that an ancient rhetoric defined as “sacred” and which a pacified and more mature Europe will still consider truly sacred in its memory.

One more step towards that “register of War epigraphs” which calls scholars and enthusiasts, but also all new citizens (we hope especially in the young) to a deeper knowledge, also emotional and on various fronts, of this overhanging tragedy of the 20th century.

Michele De Bertolis
Cultural Councillor,
Municipality of Vittorio Veneto

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Ch. 1

MODERN WAR

WAR EVENTS IN THE SECTOR UNDER INQUIRY

OPERATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

TROOPS COOPERATING WITH THE ITALIAN ARMY

TROOPS COOPERATING WITH THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY

AUTHOR'S CONSIDERATIONS



MODERN WAR

The First World Conflict marked the definitive passage from Napoleonic type wars to modern warfare: the First World War, precisely, the one we have come to know which would serve, unfortunately, as prologue to the Second.

Conflicts are always preceded by a period of tensions which in some way justify them, accompanying them to outbreak point and trying, among other things, to get public opinion predisposed to an event which this time will come about, with a series of tensions, recriminations, precise political claims which strike a population absolutely unprepared from the practical viewpoint for a situation that will turn out to be long and devastating and from which both the winning and defeated side will emerge with problems that are sometimes greater than the ones that generated the war.

As always, the main causes are above all commercial, regarding protection of or projection into new market zones. A varied market, the result of the newly born industrial but also agricultural policies implemented by the different states. Among these it is important to point out that the United States stepped in for the first time, a new industrial, agricultural but above all banking power, with systems of actuation so “different from the usual European ones”, slow and separate, which would carry considerable weight in the economies of the various nations to such an extent as to make them dependent.

When it came down to the facts it was generally thought that it would be a question of just a few months, based on a few big battles through which victory would be achieved without excessive bloodletting.

Yet a precise warning of what could happen had already arrived from the Russo-Japanese war, fought in the Far East between 1904 and 1905, which had shown unequivocally just what might be exponentially possible with new weapons and new military techniques. The frightening fire power acquired meant unthinkable costs and losses.

The aim instead was that the advent of “this parenthesis” should put an end to, or at least deeply mitigate, the social tensions accumulated in recent industrialisation processes under way in the various nations that were not yet accustomed to them. The various declarations of war were welcomed as a general occasion for detachment from the reality of the moment, in the hope that a new social existence might emerge, characterised by a common purpose, work, discipline and camaraderie.

Some social classes, urged on by different motives, were actually at the mercy of enthusiasm due to irrational feelings and expectations fed by the collective illusion. In other words, the outbreak of war gave the idea of the possibility of a great change, the prologue to a different lifestyle and an alternative existence.

But the First World War was also the stage for the debut of the newborn “age of steel” and the many new factors that characterised an age of great development, heavily marking its course.

While the subtle play of diplomacy wove alliances, involving new states and their satellites, linked to renewed colonial equilibrium and thus transforming the conflict from Europe to the World and then to Total War, all the national production capacity was brought into play, for the first time aimed uniquely at the war, with mass employment of the most extreme technology and citizens, initially

brought together to give strength to the nascent industry and then used as a manoeuvring element in the increasingly necessary specialities of the various armies. The reality soon turned out to be different and in the meantime the war “became modern” in the sense we understand today. It was another kind of battle in which technology and industry were entirely at the service of the armed forces, and all inventions were designed and implemented to cause maximum damage to the enemy and at the same time supply maximum protection of one’s own army. The same thing occurred at sea with the advent of battleships – the latest discovery in the armouring capacity of iron and steel – and even more so with the highly fearful submarine which, exploited intelligently and on a mass scale, left its mark on the great battles but also, and above all, on the transport of raw materials and supplies, increasingly necessary to the belligerents and certainly not generally available at home.

In this context it is important to grasp the concomitant civilian fallout that would derive from the use of so much technology and the consequent exploitation of new possibilities that would be a feature of the whole century. Equipment, systems and weapons, but also basic innovations such as the advent and development of transmissions and the definitive replacement of horse-drawn vehicles by cars and trucks manufactured by the new companies. This meant that centralised or detached logistics systems could be set up rapidly. And then the advent of aviation and the evolution and spreading of the chemical industry which would increasingly characterise life at the front as much as along the supply lines.



Austro-Hungarian 305 mm battery

Imagined as a war of movement, as we have seen, it was actually no such thing and soon turned into a war of position and attrition. The efficacy of the weapons – firearms and chemicals – was such that words like machinegun, barbed wire entanglement, trench and gas soon became sadly commonplace, with undeniable repercussions on troop mortality and the morale of the combatants. The war of movement, dynamic, chivalrous, in 19th century style, where battles were fought at close quarters on an open battlefield with great deployment of



Col Caprile battlefield... today

troops, was a concept that disappeared at once, except for brief flashes at the moment of final assault.

The major development was marked by artillery, machine guns and flamethrowers, no less important than the feared gas, mines, aeroplanes, tanks and the hundred new items that were adopted every day: the armies were inevitably obliged to entrench.

In this new way of making war (or undergoing it) there were alternative, diametrically opposed periods: long standstills on “lunar” battlefields, apparently motionless, suddenly gave way to the violent outbreak of artillery fire, which might cease just as suddenly... or be prolonged for whole days.

To stay alive the soldiers had to take shelter below ground: deep shelters and long passageways were dug, creating a dense network below ground for troops and equipment that gave the appearance of safety.

In a word, and for various reasons, this was the beginning of “trench warfare” which became one of the most oppressive aspects for the combatants who, to defend themselves, had to adopt an “almost caveman” behaviour, with the sensation of living in the troglodyte world of a pre-civilisation universe that had little to do with the reality of the conflict, and above all with the level of life theretofore achieved. This triggered neurosis and schizophrenic psychosis in the men, interpreted as a direct result of self-alienation while under fire.

The manifestation of these war pathologies in fact represented an attempt at per-

sonal, imaginary flight from a world in which reality was steeped in destruction and coercion of its human aspects.

Soldiers were afflicted by pathologies like “shell shock”, “explosion shock”, “gas shock” and “burial shock”.

New mental situations arose out of the changing system of warfare. Wholly unknown, unprecedented illnesses appeared. Both during and after the war a great many soldiers had to undergo specific therapeutic programmes for psychic recovery, most of which were unsuccessful in healing the interior fractures of the mind.

By way of example it is worth pointing out that on the Italian front more than 40,000 were admitted to the psychiatric hospitals of Verona, Padua and Treviso.

But the wounds and the maiming typical of the front were not all.

What can we say for example... about the “Spanish” flu that struck during the final year of the war and lasted throughout 1919? In Italy alone it claimed more victims than the war itself. All of this however seemed to be no part of the supposable, and when Italy entered the war against the Austro-Hungarian empire in May 1915 it was widely thought that the opening of a new front would lead to defeat by encirclement of the enemy armies, first the imperial then the German troops, by December of the same year. So what had been happening for almost a year on other fronts – France, Belgium, Russia, northern and central Europe – were only bad periods suffered by other people. The duration of the national war and industrial efforts were in fact distorted.

The tactics of general Cadorna, featuring massive frontal attacks with great masses of troops and subsequent holding to the last of the positions gained, led immediately to huge losses and subsequently to the collapse of a dream. The efficiency of weapons and vehicles simultaneously redesigned the armies’ fighting and logistic requirements which, unfortunately for the Italians, were not abreast of the new tactics necessary. The immobility and vastness of the front were linked in parallel with the problem of supplies: war and building materials, problems deriving from finding provisions and various goods for the fighting troops, but above all raw materials which the nation did not possess, depending on aid from the allies, especially after Caporetto.

Miles of railroad were rapidly laid; new roads were built, pathways and mule-tracks, but also complex defensive works behind the front line.

Transport systems were organised with cableways, great waterworks were built, hospitals, large transit centres and barracks for the troops, artillery centres: in other words, the front was transformed into a huge building site where the Engineer Corps, but also fighting units and militarised workers, participated actively in the war effort. Over and above the 170,000 men of the Engineer Corps, Italy employed at least 650,000 civilian workers, women, men and... children!

Clearly the fruits of this enormous effort remained after the war, and the territory, but also the minds of men, were consequently transformed. Those changes are still perceptible today, and ninety years on they have become a “historic presence” for whose safeguarding, albeit delayed, a recovery campaign has been set up which can count on ad hoc national and regional laws.

Law N° 78 of 7th March 2001 and its subsequent modifications, for example, is indubitably “the first real national law” which attributes historical value to these



Italian military mule track with postings in Canal del Brenta

works, safeguarding not only their “physical” but also their “moral” value, acknowledging them as a source of documentation of the historic event. It associates these works with the term “vestiges”, meaning “place of memory”. So as a general whole the vestiges of the First World War are the PLACE OF MEMORY PAR EXCELLENCE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

WAR EVENTS IN THE SECTOR UNDER INQUIRY

Between mid 1915 and almost all of 1917 the territory being investigated was only marginally affected by the war, with the exclusion of the Brenta Canal, which became an important supply line to the Asiago Plateau, the lower Val Sugana area and the country behind the Italian lines between the Lagorai Mountains and Passo Rolle (zone of Primiero).

1916 was however a particularly important year. Following the mighty Strafexpedition (Punitive Expedition) which involved 380,000 men on the Hapsburg side alone, the front was shifted dangerously close to the edge south of Asiago and the eastern edge of the Plateau, temporarily touching the Marcesina plain, the Melette di Foza, part of the Val Frenzela and Col del Rosso.

Subsequently, with the Austrian offensive over and the troops returned to their original position, the Italians grasped the need to urgently carry out an extensive reinforcing of their rearguard defensive lines to avoid any repetition of the occurrence. On the eastern edge of the Plateau, the bottom of the Brenta Canal valley and the Grappa Massif, work was begun on the construction of weapon-pits, artillery emplacements and consequently the necessary mule-tracks, cableways and shelters for both men and materials.

The work on Grappa continued for most of 1917, creating some of the most important logistics works that were the framework of the first line of defence by the end of the year and turned out to be essential after the defeat at Caporetto.

On the Massif alone no less than 46 batteries were installed, 1 large calibre, 27 medium and 18 small. Other works carried out included two cableways and an entire road network which if not wholly satisfactory was a valid foundation to build on subsequently. Special mention should be made of the waterworks system, formerly inexistent, whose construction was of very great impact, and not only in organisational terms.

From Caporetto to the Grappa-Piave line

(from 24th October 1917 to 4th November 1918)

On 24th May 1915 the Royal Italian Army began to engage the K.u.K. (Austro-Hungarian army) along a 600 kilometre line, choosing the sector of the Isonzo as main theatre. There were no less than eleven bloody and exhausting battles (from 1915 to 1917) which resulted however in slender territorial advantages. The imperial state, which had also been engaged on other fronts for a year (1917), was worried and worn out due to the waste of equipment, materials and men, culminating in loss of the Bainsizza plateau. With its German ally (which guaranteed participation of the 15th Army, consisting of 7 divisions hand picked from the best with mountain experience plus 8 of its own) an offensive was planned to push the Italians back to their initial positions. They employed a military tactic that was absolutely different for the type of front, based on intensive use of new and more efficacious gases combined with massive attacks concentrated at a single point, followed by rapid advancing into enemy territory.

As it happened, they were aided by a series of favourable occurrences, linked both to the weather and a certain relaxedness induced among the Italian troops who felt the period as a sort of pause for rearmament and their redistribution on the territory.

So on 24th October 1917 at 2:00 am in the morning, following more than six mon-

ths of preparation kept as secret as possible, the battle of Tolmino broke out (also called the 12th battle of the Isonzo) which led to the heavy “Defeat of Caporetto” (present day Kobarid).

The breach created in the Italian lines, in the triangle Plezzo-Tolmino-Caporetto, was exploited with the immediate pouring in of the Austro-Germans who overwhelmed the 2nd Army, outflanked the 3rd on the Carso range and seriously threatened the 4th of the Carnia-Cadore sectors.

It was a frightening blow which above all threw the organisation of the entire army into chaos.

The Italian Supreme Command ordered the immediate and desperate retreat to the new line of defence – Grappa-Montello-Piave – linking up with the old lines of the Asiago Plateau. This operation was carried out at the cost of great difficulties, enormous losses and frightening sacrifices, in bad weather conditions and slowed down by the concomitant flight of the civilian population who, mixed with disbanded military units, created huge difficulties in tactics and movements. With dramatic episodes parts of the 3rd and 4th Armies somehow managed to hold back the Austrian-German advance on the new established line, slowing down the feared disaster which also frightened their Anglo-French allies.

So after the misfortune of Caporetto the front was shortened by about a third (from around 600 to almost 400 kilometres). Forces were diminished and worn out, with prisoners, dead and wounded amounting to 300,000 and with 400,000 dispersed or sick.

Added to all this was a fearful loss of weaponry: 3,152 artillery pieces, 1,732 mortars, 5,000 machineguns and sub-machineguns, 22 airfields and a very great many provisions warehouses and munitions dumps. The terrible facts of a hallucinating defeat.

... And the whole army was only a hairsbreadth from total ruin.

As a consequence of the new line, but chiefly of a favourable moment, between November 1917 and October 1918 the enemy launched the first two great battles, the aim of General HQ being the “final push” to be wound up with the ruin of the whole army at the battle of Vittorio Veneto.

On the Italian side they were called:

- “Battle of Arrest” in two phases:
the first from 14th to 27th November
and the second from 11th to 21st December 1917.
- “Defensive Battle” or “Battle of the Solstice” from 15th June to 6th July 1918.
- “Offensive Battle” or “Battle of Vittorio”
from 24th October to 4th November 1918.

We feel it’s appropriate to supply a brief summary. Not to add anything to the historiography of the events or give a professorial list of the facts but simply to fix attention on the places involved in this study where the events took place, thus giving a better understanding of the whole work.

The “Battle of Arrest”

First phase (14th – 27th November 1917)

On 28th October 1917 the Italian 4th Army received orders to withdraw to the new line of Monte Grappa. While withdrawal was still uncompleted they engaged re-

peatedly with enemy troops who, galvanised by their success, tried to take advantage of the delicate moment to cross the ridge of Grappa and reach the Bassano plain, thus approaching the whole Italian army from the rear, isolating its combat units still in movement but above all disoriented by the recent events, and forcing the nation to surrender.

On 14th November, 21 days after the breakthrough, the Austrians began the attack on Monte Tomtico. On the 16th Monte Cornella and the Prassolan were lost.

On the 19th, after heavy fighting, the K.u.K. troops occupied the ridge of Monfenera.

On 21st November battle was resumed and the enemy attacked from the Brenta Canal to Monte Pertica while farther east it occupied the strategic position of Monte Fontanasecca. On 22nd November there was further occupation of Monfenera (as far as Osteria) and Monte Tomba.

Simultaneously Monte Pertica was lost and retaken several times.

On the 25th and 26th there were violent attacks on Pertica, Col della Berretta and on the Solaroli ridge but without positions being definitively lost. Obviously with the amount and intensity of the fighting it had to come to a stop at least temporarily in order to regroup, reorganise and rearm the units in view of the attacks that the Austrian-German army seemed ready to launch in December (32 days after Caporetto!).

So all was quiet from 26th November to 11th December.

The “Battle of Arrest”

Second phase (11th–21st December 1917)

Both armies took advantage of the momentary lull to reinforce the positions they had achieved. The allies too were preoccupied and sent help in the form of the 31st French Corps, deployed on the Monfenera-Ciano sector, and the 14th British Corps between Ciano and Nervesa. This provided relief but also raised the morale of the Italian troops who no longer felt left alone to face a tough moment.

On 11th December the Austrian-German armies resumed attack and in one strike took Col della Berretta and Monte Spinoncia, though it was only the next day, the 12th, that Col della Berretta, Col Caprile and Monte Asolone fell definitively into their hands.



View of the Col Caprile battlefield from the Austrian lines

After 21st December all the attacks were aimed at the Solaroli ridge, but only Monte Valderoa fell.

After that date all attempts were put off due to very bad weather, but also because the units were exhausted. By way of a marginal note we point out that the winter

of 1917 was outstanding for terribly adverse weather conditions, indeed the coldest and snowiest for a hundred years.

On 30th December 1917 the French launched a lightning attack on Monte Tomba and the 47th Chasseur Division managed to take the peak, routing the Austrian-German forces which retreated to Conca di Alano in response to an order from their high command which, fearing the return of the German troops to northern France, demanded that they be kept constantly occupied everywhere.

It is clear that at this point the shove, after Caporetto, was over.

It was a time for setting in order, but above all for repositioning the troops, the storehouses, and giving the minimum of respite to soldiers who had been sorely tried by two months of fighting, fatiguing and as cruel as could be, always in attack and too often without being relived. The front was thus established on new lines with the following forces facing one another (in brief, and only regarding the territory under inquiry).

On the Italian side:

- The 6th Army comprising the 20th Corps, consisting of the 10th and the 2nd Divisions (which at the Battle of Vittorio would be replaced by the 29th and the 7th operating on the Brenta Canal).
- The 4th Army comprising the 11th Corps consisting of the 18th and 17th Divisions.
- The 6th Corps consisting of the 15th and 59th Divisions.
- The 18th Corps with the 1st and 56th Divisions (replaced for the final battle by the 30th Corps with the 47th, 50th and 80th Divisions).
- The 1st Corps with the 70th and 24th divisions (which towards the end of the war came under the 12th Army operational on Grappa).

On the British side:

- The 14th Corps in three Divisions, initially deployed between Ciano and Nervesa, with the 47th remaining in the mountains, the 7th and 23rd which at the moment of the Battle of Vittorio would be on the Piave (around Tezze-Grave and Papadopoli).



On the French side:

- The 31st Corps (in two divisions) to which had been entrusted, as we have seen, the Monfenera-Ciano sector.

It should be remembered that there was also the 1st United States Regiment, variously deployed, and the 1st Czechoslovakian Division.

On the Austro-Hungarian side:

- The 11th Army comprising the 26th Corps consisting of the 4th, 27th and 32nd Divisions, the 1st Corps with the 55th and 60th Divisions, the 15th Corps made up of the 20th, 48th and 50th Divisions.

In the last period of the war the Austro-Hungarian ranks were framed in the “Belluno Group” where the Corps remained the same but included partial variations in their component Divisions.

The “Battle of the Solstice”

from 15th June to 6th July 1918

At this point, before setting out on a description of the events, we are duty bound to open a separate chapter dealing with the commitment of the navy.

In fact it is a subject little dealt with in Italian first world war historiography inasmuch as it is certain that the rapid levelling up of the great losses suffered at Caporetto continued until the Battle of Vittorio Veneto and beyond, made possible only by enormous aid in terms of raw materials, equipment and other materials that the Allies supplied, almost everything transported by sea which would not have arrived without the gradual loss in efficiency of German submarine warfare to which at the same time the Italian Navy responded with renewed incisiveness. But also the Italian Merchant Navy which paid the heaviest price in the war, losing 57.52% of gross tonnage as against the British 42.23% and the French 34.44%.

The Battle of the Solstice, launched by the state of Austria, had the precise purpose of repeating the positive outcome of Caporetto, with the aim of thrusting the Italian army over the river Adige. The 11th Austrian army, 23 divisions strong, was to attack the Asiago Plateau, Brenta Canal and Grappa Massif sector, objective the city of Vicenza, thus outflanking the Italian defences of the Piave. At the same time the 5th and 6th Austrian Army, with no less than 21 divisions, were to cross the Piave towards Treviso.

This offensive did not find the Italian Supreme Command unprepared. It was organised to buffer the blow.

At 3:00 am hours on 15th June 1918 the colossal Austria offensive began, at 7:30 am making a breakthrough on Col Moschin, in Val San Lorenzo, at various points of Monte Pertica, Val Cesilla and Val dei Pez, with occupation of the Solaroli salient. They also broke through at the Brenta Canal but did not get beyond the built-up area of Rivalta.

Between Asiago and Canove the imperial troops encountered the 15th Corps of the British army (7th and 23rd Divisions while the 52nd remained in reserve) which replaced the Italians at the front. The Austrians succeeded in penetrating the lines for about one kilometre, but the next day an allied counterattack brought the front back to where it had been at the start of the battle.

Along the river Piave the Austro-Hungarians occupied part of the Montello. But by the afternoon of 15th June the Italian counteroffensive began and almost all the lost positions were regained.

On 16th June Col Moschin was recaptured and the enemy routed to the north of Cima Grappa. Only the Solaroli and Col del Miglio salient remained in Austro-Hungarian hands.



Austro-Hungarian anti-aircraft machine-gunners on the Col Caprile

The “Battle of Vittorio” (the word Veneto was added in 1923)
from 24th October to 4th November 1918.

The Italian Supreme Command, aware for some time of the new ethnic tensions arising in the imperial army, planned an offensive that could create problems for the enemy, especially in certain sectors while at the same time accentuating disintegration.

The 4th Army, together with the 12th, were given the task of breaking through towards Conca Feltrina in such a way as to separate the Trentino Austrian divisions from those of the Piave. As soon as the breach was made the 8th and the 10th Armies were to march towards Vittorio. On 24th October, after violent softening-up fire from the Italian artillery, the offensive began, leading on the same day to the taking of several important positions such as Monte Pertica, the Asolone, Osteria del Forcelletto and Monte Valderoa, but the enemy recaptured them with subsequent counterattacks.

Unfortunately the offensive on the Piave was not carried out as planned due to the river being in spate. Nevertheless, Supreme Command ordered the 4th Army to proceed alone with its assigned objectives.

On 25th October various assaults were repeated on Col della Berretta and Monte

Pertica but, in a word, after alternating successes nothing changed and the enemy resisted. On 26th October there was intense fighting but in spite of local successes the Austrian lines held their positions firmly.

On the same day, when the river had gone down, attempts were made to break through on the Piave.

On 27th and 28th October there were furious struggles on Monte Pertica (no less than eight attacks) and on Monte Valderoa. In the end the Italians took the former. At the same time, towards Tezze di Vazzola, the Gravi di Papadopoli, our troops, with the aid and under command of the British (Lord Cavan), crossed the Piave.

On 29th October there were new skirmishes on Col della Berretta and Col Caprile, but the really important fact was that the Italians noted that the enemy was beginning to weaken in operational capacity and that the defeat of an army which had lately exhausted all its possible reserves was becoming clear.

Desertions were widespread and numerous, to such an extent that regular changeovers at the front were impeded, but they also led to considerable problems in the structure of that disintegrating army.

So in the afternoon of the 29th there was a further offensive thrust throughout the Grappa sector, shifting new units forward which headed towards the Conca Feltrina. The rout had now begun.

With the concomitant passage of troops into the lower Piave area, heading in a pincer movement towards Vittorio on 30th and 31st October, the situation became increasingly desperate.

By now defeat was hanging heavy on the Austro-Hungarian army, although some units, still formed in cadres, attempted to slow down the Italian advance and give the greater part of their troops time to get back into Austria... but it was a tough moment.

Between 1st and 3rd November the Italian troops reached the village of Borgo in Val Sugana and Fiera di Primiero in Val Cison. The pursuit continued, indeed intensified, in function of the upcoming contacts for surrender. This took place with the signing of the armistice on 3rd November 1918 at Villa Giusti in Padua, the Empire accepting all of the clauses imposed by Italy.



Austro-Hungarian troops beating a retreat on the Pordoi pass

In fact the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian army would lead to the disintegration of the Danube empire. The event marked the end of the war on the Italian front (just over a month from 29th September Bulgaria was forced into an armistice by Greece on the Salonica front). More generally it was the end of hostilities in Europe since Germany, on its own, would surrender seven days later (11th November) though it had not concretely lost the war in the field. ...In the end, between the two sides, there were 8.678.013 soldiers and 6.640.000 civilians dead, more than 21.187.715 wounded and 7.687.798 missing.

What is worse is that from that moment on the problems did not die down but rather got more acute, triggering the tensions and risings that would lead 20 years later to outbreak of the new, indeed SECOND WAR, involving even more of the WORLD, longer and with more deaths, suffering and inhumanity. None other than a continuation of the first, almost as if no lesson had been learnt.



British map of the battle of Vittorio Veneto

Nazione	Mobilitati	Morti	Feriti	Dispersi o prigionieri
Imperi Centrali				
Impero austro-ungarico	7.800.000	1.200.000	3.620.000	2.220.000
Impero Germanico	11.000.000	1.773.700	4.216.058	1.152.800
Impero Ottomano	2.850.000	325.000	400.000	250.000
Bulgaria	1.200.000	87.500	152.390	27.029
Intesa				
Belgio	267.000	13.716	44.686	34.659
Impero britannico	8.904.467	908.371	2.090.312	191.652
Francia e Colonie	8.410.000	1.471.800	4.266.000	537.000
Grecia	230.000	5.000	21.000	1.000
Regno d'Italia	5.615.000	650.000	947.000	600.000
Giappone	800.000	300	907	3
Montenegro	50.000	3.000	10.000	7.000
Portogallo	100.000	7.222	13.751	12.318
Romania	750.000	335.706	120.000	80.000
Impero russo (fino al '17)	12.000.000	1.700.000	4.950.000	2.500.000
Serbia	707.343	45.000	133.148	152.958
Stati Uniti	4.355.000	126.000	234.300	4.500
Totale	65.018.810	8.678.013	21.187.715	7.687.798

Table of the losses in the First World War (Wikipedia Source)

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The premises for carrying out our enquiry arise from this scenario. The investigated territories are therefore interesting as a whole, also because they alternate between the front lines and the most distant places behind, covering often indefinite fronts of struggle due to alternating vicissitudes. Territories that were formerly Italian second lines became Austro-Hungarian front lines, with a great many vestiges linked to these events, even some with a twofold signature... due to twofold use.

As for the zone of contact between the two armies, starting from the west this ran from the eastern edge of the Asiago Plateau (Monte Cornone), descended to the bottom of the Brenta Canal valley (the old Osteria della Grottella and railway line-inspector's house N° 68), rose up the Grappa Massif touching Col del Miglio, Osteria del Lepre and the ridge of the Asolani Hills, descended in Val Cesilla and then rose up on Monte Pertica. From here, by way of the Bocchette, it linked up with the crest of the Solaroli mountains, descended towards Monte Valderoa, Val delle Mure and Val Calcino, rose again towards Monte Spinocia and Porte di Salton and then descended into the area of Conca d'Alano and Monfenera. It touched the Piave at Fener, on the east bank (Valdobbiadene and Vidor) the Austro-Hungarian line, while the Italian line held the west bank (Pederobba and Cornuda).

As I said, over and above the front line areas the territory behind was also analysed, going as far as the Conca Feltrina where the Austrians had important infrastructures.

For the Italian part we reached the Treviso foothills, terminating at the chain of the Asolani Hills, then passing from the actual front line – marked by the trenches fought for in the various battles – to the respective logistic centres that carried out different functions (cableways, artillery centres, hospitals, encampments etc.). This gave an idea of how the two sides were organised for fighting on this new front.

On the Italian side there was greater need for infrastructures of a defensive type throughout the zone: we need only think of what was done on the Brenta Canal where even today the remains of at least twelve lines of defence are still visible whose names, in military code, were: Linea Fede, Vittoria, Battisti, Prati, Menotti, Mameli, Delle Stelle, Orazio, Bruto, Cesare, Bandiera and Dei Terrazzi, distributed in depth towards the south with a direct link to what was called the “Bassano bridgehead”.

The situation on the Austro-Hungarian side was altogether different: there was the “Feldwachenstellung” (the zone of Giara Modon after the taking of the built-up area in June 1918) organised in small posts set in front of the first line that touched railway line-inspector’s house N° 68, south of the built-up area of Corte at the bottom of the Brenta Canal valley. The second line lay behind this, north of San Marino, while the third line was between the built-up area of Collicello and Val Nassa, known as “Zwischenstellung” and consisting of small active elements called “Stützpunkte”, before arriving at the great Austro-Hungarian logistics centre of Cismon del Grappa... and this was only for the Brenta Canal.

So there were few defensive lines set back, certainly not structured or organised like the Italian ones but at any rate considered sufficient to protect the big logistic centres of Cismon del Grappa, Vannini, Piovega di Sotto and Primolano.

From what could be ascertained, by way of example, the amount of concrete used by the two sides was notably different and was a sign of dissimilar conceptions of warfare. Many of the Italian shelters, embrasures and observation posts still in place were reinforced with it whereas the Austrians used it very little indeed. The evident difference, borne out by facts, is also explained by the different military tactics adopted, even more than by the economic factor.

With the arrest on Grappa, due to the arrival of winter, of the advance consequent to the breakthrough at Caporetto, the army of the double monarchy did not alter its attitude in the expectation of overrunning the Italians in spring '18. In fact during the winter hiatus they created infrastructures suitable for encampment at high altitudes, in unprecedented positions and with military structures aimed at resuming the offensive as soon as possible to reach the Vicenza plain, again with view to encircling the Italians on the Piave.

On the Italian side the approach was diametrically opposed: with the memory of the defeat at Caporetto, the positions now had to be impregnable, which is to say tough, numerous and set on particularly suitable terrain. None must be lost. So over and above the main buildings for living on the new front, a whole series of backup lines was created that should allow no breakthrough. This was the Italian *modus operandi*.

That of the Austrians was diametrically opposed, chiefly exploiting the value of the terrain and building lighter, smaller defensive shelters: though there were not many military constructions they were nonetheless distinguished for their great



Military map of the Italian lines in the Canal del Brenta (SME Rome)

efficiency, a fact that has been verified throughout the territory investigated. They featured few independent active elements but the latter had considerable fire power (Stützpunkte) and as a whole offered the same degree of safety as the Italian ones which were far more subdivided and structured. This tactic makes their smaller number incontrovertible, which has also been verified on the basis of cartographies of the period found in various historical archives.

TROOPS COOPERATING WITH THE ITALIAN ARMY

The Italian Front, in its complexity, saw the participation of other armies in support of the two main belligerents (the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Kingdom of Italy). In virtue of the Treaty of London signed in 1915 with the Triple Entente (France-Great Britain-Russia) there were French, British and subsequently United States troops. Over and above these, there were units made up of deserters or of prisoners of war from the regular imperial army who were freed and rendered operational according to ethnic group: Czechoslovakians, Rumanians and Poles, troops who took part above all in order to regain independence from the Habsburg crown.

Among the Austro-Hungarian ranks on the Italian front there were Germanic units as sanctioned by the 1882 Treaty of Vienna between Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy (the latter withdrawing in 1915 to join the Triple Entente).

Czechoslovakian Units

Czechoslovakian Units

The Austro-Hungarian Empire was established in 1867 as a federal constitutional monarchy, the result of a compromise (Ausgleich) between the Hungarian nobility and the house of Habsburg following the Treaty of Prague, subsequent to the defeat by Prussian-Italian troops at the battle of Königgrätz. The intention was

to maintain the old Austrian Empire of 1804, with the Habsburgs therefore both emperors of Austria and kings of Hungary and Bohemia.

The empire comprised: Archduchy of Lower Austria, Archduchy of Upper Austria, Kingdom of Bohemia, Margraviate of Moravia, Duchy of Silesia, Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomerania, Duchy of Bucovina, Kingdom of Dalmatia, County of Gorizia and Gradisca, Margraviate of Istria, City of Trieste and suburbs (given the collective name of Austro-Illyrian Littoral), Duchy of Carniola, Duchy of Stiria, Duchy of Carinthia, Duchy of Salzburg, Principality of the Tyrol, Land of Vorarlberg, Kingdom of Hungary (including Transylvania and Vojvodina), Kingdom of Croatia and Slavonia, City of Rijeka.

The Kingdom of Hungary was substantially self-governing, with an autonomous policy in many national affairs such as diplomatic relations and defence.

The empire of the Dual Monarchy (capital Vienna, 2,200,000 inhabitants in 1914 as against 440,000 in 1840), stood on an area of 680,887 Km² – in 1907 it was the biggest European state after Russia – with an overall 52 million inhabitants in 1910. Austria and Hungary (capital Budapest) had separate constitutions, parliaments and ministries. What they shared were only the sovereign and the ministries for foreign policy, economics and war. Side by side with the royal imperial army, including soldiers from all ethnicities, there were also the Austrian (Landwehr) and Hungarian (Honvéd) armies. Questions of finance (such as the subdivision of shared costs) and of commerce were governed by ten-year renewable agreements.

Since it was a multiethnic empire in an age of powerfully reawakened nationalism, it continually laboured under disputes among its eleven main component ethnic groups, which were: Germans 23.9%, Hungarians 20.2%, Czechs 12.6%, Poles 10%, Ruthenians or Ukrainians 7.9%, Romanians 6.4%, Slovaks 3.8%, Serbs 3.8%, Slovenians 2.6%, Italians 2% and Serbo-Croats in Bosnia 1.2%, all with representation in parliament.

This notwithstanding, in only fifty years of existence it underwent rapid economic growth and marked modernisation as well as being the cradle of many liberal reforms.

The separatist impulse came mainly from the central regions of Europe such as Moravia, Slovakia, Czechia and Bohemia which aspired to independence. In this context the most active were the Czechs and the Slovaks (the third largest ethnic group after Germans and Hungarians) whose discontent and incitement to separation led, on the outbreak of war, to the forming of troops to fight the imperial forces.

They were established as companies of volunteers who united with the Tsarist army, but also with the French, to struggle against the Habsburgs and claim their own national autonomy.

In Italy in 1916 Ratislav Štefánik, an exponent of Czech independence, suggested the formation of military units to fight alongside the army. So in the first half of 1918 the “Czechoslovakian information units” were set up. Each was the size of a company, detached and under the command of the various armies, consisting of deserters and prisoners of war from the Austro-Hungarian army who had gathered together and were acknowledged by right to be the military body of the future state of Czechoslovakia.

These units subsequently became the 39th Explorers Regiment, a special unit with tasks of reconnaissance and infiltration, sabotage, psychological warfare and

espionage. It may be seen as a precursor of present day special forces since it certainly anticipated the non-conventional aspects of operations in contemporary warfare.

In parallel, the Czechoslovakian Legion was established. Dressed and equipped like the Italian troops the Legion, formed of 7 battalions stationed at Mantua, was responsible for defensive works.

On 21st April 1918 Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, President of the Council of the Kingdom of Italy, concluded with Štefánik a "Convention between the Italian Government and the National Council of the Czechoslovakian countries". So the increasingly numerous troops who had directly deserted from the Austro-Hungarian army were formed into cadres in the Royal Army, in divisions commanded by an Italian general and therefore under the Italian Supreme Command.

On 3rd May the "Czechoslovakian Legion" became the "Special Czechoslovakian Division" and subsequently the "6th Czechoslovakian Division".

In June it took part in the fighting on Montello and at Fossalta di Piave to block the Austrian offensive, and in the first lines of the Monte Baldo-Monte Altissimo di Nago sector.

By September 1918 the 6th S. C. Division consisted of 6 infantry regiments: 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th and 39th Explorers.

On the eve of the Battle of Vittorio it was transformed into an Army Corps (the 6th and 7th divisions) of the 9th Army general reserve, but only the 39th Explorers Regiment fought in the battle.

The 6th Special Division was operational at the line with tasks of offence but chiefly to defend the first Italian lines. There is however reliable information that Czechoslovakian units formed into cadres in the information offices (I.T.O.) had already been operational for some time in the commands of the various armies, carrying out delicate duties.

Also with regard to the Grappa Massif there is fragmentary information about Czechoslovakian troops from the 39th Explorers Regiment formed into cadres, for example, in the 18th Division of the 9th Army Corps. A document dated 9th May 1918, from 4th Army Command, informs the other commands that a Czechoslovakian company is coming to the front to carry out special intelligence-gathering investigations into enemy units, counting their numbers and trying to persuade the troops to desert.

On 17th June the 4th Army Command informed the 9th Army Corps that two Czechoslovakian platoons (total 100 soldiers) were being sent to the Col Moschin – Monte Asolone sector with the mission of gathering information about enemy units in the front lines.

There is mention (24th July 1918) of a 200 strong Czechoslovakian company of the I.T.O. (information) unit in the Val Cesilla – Monte Asolone sector with the task of fraternizing with the enemy and inciting to desertion through direct contact or indirect contact by means of songs, sounds and shouting in Czech.

On 2nd September 1918 the Calabria brigade (later alternated with the Bari brigade) hosted a Czech company of around 200 men with a Polish platoon from the I.T.O. units whose task was to persuade their fellow countrymen to desert the Austro-Hungarian lines. On 4th September mention is made of Czechoslovakian patrols sent to the front lines of Casera Cestarotta, Cà Tasson and Val Calcino for the purpose of pressing on beyond the Italian front lines and making contact with

the enemy, spreading desertion propaganda and distributing foodstuffs.

On 14th September 1918 there was a Czechoslovakian company at Porte di Salton whose mission was to listen to and make contact with their fellow countrymen in the enemy lines at Monte Spinoncia.

On 13th October 1918, at a height of 1,520 metres on Monte Asolone, there was a 70 man Czechoslovakian platoon of the 4th Army Command I.T.O. unit, again assigned the task of making contact, for the purpose of information-gathering, with their fellow countrymen still fighting in the enemy trenches.

On 23rd October 1918 the 9th Army Corps Command informed the 17th and 18th Division commands of the arrival at the Italian front lines of groups of Czechoslovakian and Polish soldiers wearing Austrian army uniforms. They had the delicate task of penetrating the enemy lines to spread alarm and confusion on the morning of 24th October, as soon as the enemy lines were broken at the start of the conclusive battle of Vittorio.

For all the Czechoslovakian soldiers, as for the other ethnic groups serving in the Italian army, the risk was of course extreme: the Austro-Hungarians considered them traitors on a par with irredentist troops from the Trento and Trieste areas who had deserted the ranks of the Habsburg army to fight alongside the Italians. If captured they were summarily court-martialled and immediately sentenced to death by hanging or firing squad, as happened in Conegliano (TV), Oderzo (TV) and Arco (TN).

In the narration of the events of the battle of Grappa, where Czechoslovakian troops took part, the description is incomplete inasmuch as these soldiers were already enlisted separately in the ordinary units, again with view to exploiting their language skills and their knowledge of the enemy army. On this subject we know of papers found at the Historical Office of the Army General Staff in Rome which indicate that they were also active on other fronts.

30th June is celebrated as "Czech Armed Forces Day".

Romanian units

As previously mentioned with regard to the Czechoslovakians and subsequently to the Poles, with such a vast number of ethnic groups, and at a moment in time where nationalist fervour was particularly strong in Europe, it was obvious that for the Romanians too there were different stances taken concerning the Reigning House: on the one hand it was seen as a supranational point of reference and on the other, of course, as a tyrannical oppressor. Considerable divisions of thought arose which, during the conflict, were underscored by this ethnic group's siding with one or other of the belligerents. This led to Romanian troops, officially part of the K.u.K. (A-H army), being deployed almost exclusively in the Italian theatre to prevent them fraternizing with other Romanian troops fighting with the Tsarist army on that front.

So in the end there were also combatants of this nationality in the Italian army, first used sporadically as translators and informers and later, as desertions increased, in special units.

In 1916, according to Ministry of War data, there was already a considerable number of Austro-Hungarian POWs of Romanian nationality in Italy. There were no less than 3,600 in the Mantua camp, 2,000 in Cavarzere and 800 in Ostiglia and Caravelle respectively. In these camps as in others the Information Offices of each Army were authorised to seek volunteers to employ mainly in the informa-

tion and propaganda service.

An important turning point for Romanian prisoners came with the “Congress of the Oppressed Nationalities of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy” (Rome 27th March / 10th April 1918) where the delegates Draghicesco, Lupu, Deluca, Mândrescu and Mironescu secured, from the Italian Ministry of War, the opportunity to organise autonomous armed troops, on a national basis, to place under the jurisdiction of the various national committees, offering the members the legal status of allies. On 6th June 1918 in Cittàducale, with the support of the Italian military, professor Mândrescu and prince Dimitrie Ghica, former Romanian A-H minister in Italy, founded the “Action Committee of Romanians from Transylvania, Banato and Bucovina” who, thanks to the interest of Minister of War Vittorio Zupelli, were brought together in a “Romanians in Italy Legion”, with the strength of a regiment, under the command of Brigadier Luciano Ferigo.

The Romanian Legion “Horea” was established in Avezzano on 15th October 1918.

Over and above information activities it was not rare to find Romanian troops in the Italian ranks against the Austro-Hungarians. For example in June 1918 a Romanian company with the 8th Army distinguished itself on Montello and again (27th and 28th October) on the Piave. The 2nd Assault Division also cited the example of a Romanian unit for bravery in the field during clashes with the enemy.

With the 6th Army, seconded to the 48th British Division and the 24th French Division (Altopiano d’Asiago sector), four information platoons were operational. A larger unit operated with the 4th Army while the 1st and 7th Army each had a platoon with information duties.

On 15th November, with the war ended, the 2nd Regiment – called “Closca” – was established and in February 1919 the 3rd Regiment “Cristan”. The three regiments were named for national heroes executed in 1784 in Transylvania.

In March 1919 the three regiments were reorganised into marching battalions (i.e. unarmed) and sent to Taranto for repatriation by sea.

In the end the Romanian Legion counted 525 officers and more than 36,000 men.

Polish units

Since almost all the battles on the Eastern Front during the First World War took place on Polish territory, the Poles fought with the German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian armies, forced to fight against one another and be involved in a conflict that had nothing to do with them since the Polish nation did not even exist.

Commandant Józef Klemens Piłsudski, considering Russia the most dangerous enemy, formed the Polish Legions within the Austro-Hungarian army, giving them a sort of supranationality. Other Poles from Galicia fought against the Italians from 1915 onwards. On 5th November 1916 the Central Powers declared the independence of the Kingdom of Poland but simply as a puppet state to be used against Russia. After the fall of the Tsar’s regime in 1917 the Poles no longer had any reason for fighting alongside Germany and Austria. In 1917 Piłsudski obtained a seat in the State Council of the new kingdom but refused to take the oath of loyalty, thus also turning against the Central Powers who then had him arrested and interned in Magdeburg for the duration of the war. In 1918, after the peace of Brest-Litovsk between Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary, general Jozef Haller’s Second Brigade rebelled and marched from Ukraine to join other

Polish troops, already formed, and fight against Germany. During the Russian revolution Polish army units formed the First Polish Corps commanded by general Jozef Dowbor-Musnicki, but in the attempt to reach their Homeland they were disarmed by the Germans. Refugees and volunteers organised the new army at Murmansk and fought with the British on the White Sea coast and with the French in Odessa and Siberia. They later succeeded in returning home. Roman Dmowski, founder of the right wing of the National League, identified Germany as the real enemy. He went to France (where the "Bayonne Legion" was already active) and with Ignacy Paderewski organised Polish troops of volunteers from the United States, Canada and Brazil and from the German and Austrian armies.

These troops were known as "Haller's Army", after their commander.

On the Italian front, mention should also be made of the formal establishment of units under the Polish League which, like its Czechoslovakian and Romanian counterparts, was driven by the desire for independence.

Just a few days before the battle of Vittorio the Polish Legion, consisting of Polish POWs, was formally approved. They were to go operational only in spring 1919 for the envisaged final offensive against Austria, but the unexpected outcome of the October 1918 offensive, which led to the downfall of the imperial army, meant that they were never sent up the line. This however did not interrupt the formation of the Legion in early 1919, volunteers and former POWs of the fallen Habsburg Empire who had meanwhile been granted the legal status of allies in accordance with the Rome agreement of 10th April 1918.

At this point the organisation into new units was a purely logistical fact inasmuch as it was the only way to repatriate a great number of people who were a burden on the Kingdom of Italy's treasury.

United States Army

The United States declared war on Germany on 6th April 1917 following the German decision to pursue "indiscriminate submarine warfare". Woodrow Wilson's proposal was accepted by Congress with only Jeanette Rankin of Montana voting against.

As early as the mid 19th century the United States had risen to become a great industrial power and over the first decade of the new century had, for example, increased its industrial production by 76%. In the same period it was also one of the leading exporters of foodstuffs (especially cereals and beef). On the outbreak of war, between 1914-16, the volume of exports to Europe quadrupled in spite of the fact that trade with Germany was almost zeroed by the British blockade.

There was also the question of emigration which in 30 years had transformed the country into a multiethnic population, almost doubled in number, with no less than 31 million new arrivals between 1870 and 1900. At first these were mainly Scots, but they were followed by Spaniards, Germans, Poles, Jews and Italians (14 million between 1876 and 1918). This says a lot about industry's "national incorporation" but also absorption capacities. Already a leader in steel production, it opened up the way to new factories for nonferrous metals, bakelite and chemicals, but above all oil refineries: from 2,5 barrels of refined oil in 1865 to 165.8 in 1914, with all that this meant for development in automobile manufacture.

From the economic viewpoint there was a question even more pressing than exports being jeopardised by submarine warfare. In fact during the first two years of the conflict the power relationships between the American and European

financial systems had been overturned: if at first Europeans had largely contributed to financing American industrialisation, now the USA was the creditor of the European countries involved in the war. But at the beginning of 1917 the debts of the belligerents were heavily asymmetrical since the Germans owed around 27 million dollars while the British owed around 2 billion, which is to say more than seventy times the sum.

Defeat of the Entente would have therefore brought about the insolvency of the main American debtors and repercussions on the economy would have been disastrous. Hence the real reason behind the intervention of the New Contender. The British and French insisted on the immediate need for American infantry to reinforce the front lines, although these troops (stationed in England and France) were initially poorly equipped and lacked their own artillery, aircraft and Engineer Corps.

Expeditionary force commander John. J. Pershing refused to break up his own units and employ them as the allies suggested. What he did instead was to begin rearmament and re-equipping of the forces in accordance with a precise logic, with materials purchased in part from France and Britain themselves.

After the defeat at Caporetto, although the allied attitude was in any case one of not giving troops to Italy inasmuch as they wanted to concentrate their strength on the western front, an expeditionary corps was sent in support on request of the Italian Command to block the Austrian-German advance in the Veneto plain. So in June 1918 (after the Battle of the Solstice) a small number of infantry arrived that operated only on the lower Piave, thus thwarting the Italian intention of a great counteroffensive with American aid.

In the Grappa Massif and Alto Vicentino sector the American Red Cross (ARC) was present with its own structures and vehicles to care for the sick and wounded. Many intellectuals were employed as ambulance drivers with the units, notably Dos Passos and Hemingway.

The American 332nd Infantry Regiment was a line unit, under the 9th Army as reserve. In October it was transferred to the 3rd Army in the 31st Division on the lower Piave. This regiment took part in the Battle of Vittorio, coming into action when the lines on the Piave had been broken. It crossed the river at the Grave di Papadopoli and pursued the enemy towards the river Monticano and then the Livenza. In this manoeuvre the 31st Division, and therefore the 332nd Regiment came under the Italian-British 14th Army Corps commanded by the Earl of Cavan. On 3rd November he reached Tagliamento and found the enemy rearguard which put up resistance. On the 4th he received an order to force the river and set up a bridgehead for the taking of Codroipo with the 2nd battalion of the 332nd Regiment which received its baptism by fire and managed to capture about a hundred prisoners, suffering only a few wounded.

In mid November, with the war over, a battalion of this regiment, together with the "Grenadiers of Sardinia" brigade, was sent to garrison the city of Rijeka which was occupied by battalions of the Serbian 5th Infantry Regiment claiming control of the city. The troops sent by sea arrived only on 17th November while those sent overland by convoy arrived on the 20th. In January 1919 the United States 332nd Infantry Regiment was still operating within the Italian Army.

United States losses on all European fronts in the first world war were as follows: 126,000 dead; 234,300 wounded, mutilated or invalided; 4,500 taken

prisoner or missing in action. Out of 4,355,000 men mobilised there was a total loss of 8%.

British Army

The build up of British units on the Italian front took place gradually. Between 1915 and 1916 there were military consultants and operational units, first and foremost 10 artillery batteries from the Royal Garrison Artillery for a total of 40 cannons put at the disposal of the 3rd Army. After the rout of Caporetto things were speeded up at the request of the Italian Supreme Command. The arrival of fresh units was fundamental to relieving Italian units worn out by their attempts to arrest the Austrian-German advance on Grappa and the Piave. When this had been achieved, between November and December 1917, the French and British contingents arrived at last, delayed by inadequate logistical organisation and the scattering of Italian units in flight towards the Po valley across the Piave.

The British remained in Italy until the first months of 1919, fighting on Montello, along the Piave at the Grave di Papadopoli and on the Asiago Plateau. The Commander of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was general Sir Henry Plumer, later replaced by general the Earl of Cavan.

Initially the BEF consisted of about 110,000 British troops grouped in the 9th Army Corps (with the 5th and 41st divisions that would return to the French front on 13th March 1918) and the 14th Army Corps (with the 7th, 23rd and 48th divisions) that was transformed into Supreme Headquarters on 18th April 1918.

The 41st and 23rd Divisions took over from the 1st and 70th Italian Divisions, taking up position in the first lines on Montello, while the 7th was held in reserve at Veduggio and the 5th and 48th at Cittadella and Tezze sul Brenta respectively.

The British Pioneer and Engineer Corps built numerous defensive rear lines which were a great help in limiting the Austro-Hungarian offensive on Montello in June 1918.

The British, against their wishes, did not play an active role in the battle to delineate the new line at Grappa Massif-Piave .

In April 1918, with the Caporetto crisis now over, the 14th Army Corps and its divisions were transferred to the Asiago Plateau: the Monte Kaberlaba, Val Magnaboschi, Monte Lemerle, Monte Zovetto Cesuna and Torrente Ghelpac sector, which was under control of the 6th Italian Army. In this sector it continuously carried out nocturnal guerrilla warfare in order to assess the size of the enemy's forces; take prisoners and gather information. Historical data shows that between March and September 1918 about forty such missions were completed. The British successfully defended their sector during the June 1918 offensive; however in some zones, they were forced to retreat from the front lines, and later incurred heavy losses in order to reclaim them.

In September the BEF was reorganized. The 48th division stayed on the Asiago Plateau which was controlled by the 6th Army, while the remaining divisions were moved to join the 10th Army on the plain, which was between the 8th and the 3rd Army along the Piave.

The 48th British division took part in the Battle of Vittorio led by the 12th Army Corps, together with the 20th Italian division.

Initially the 6th Army carried out the offensive in the sector: Melette – Monte Lisser – Enego, which was far from the British to such an extent that British units guarded their front lines by launching nocturnal raids in the Canove sector. On October

28, the French who were based to the South of the Asiago Plateau, notified that the enemy front line was weak. They began to fall back into fortified positions in the north of the city (Winterstellung). On the 29th a British raid confirmed the situation as communicated by the French that lines were weak not only near Ave (south of Asiago) but also up to Austrian position left near the Capitello Mulche (north-west of Asiago).

At that point, General Montuori, who was the officer in command of the 6th Army gave the word to move forward on the line to gain Levico and Caldonazzo through Val d'Assa and Passo Vezzena.

On October 30, the British suffered defence damages during attacks to gain Monte Moschiag, and once it was occupied they attempted to conquer Monte Verena and Erio.

On the 31st the British continued to push their way through the sector of Canove; to the south of assigned targets.

On October 11 no progress had been made by either the 144st or the 145st brigade after a night of skirmishes near Camporovere due to the strength of the Austrian defence. The officer in command of the British divisions gave the word to assault Monte Moschiag by using a clever manoeuvre to move around Camporovere.

On November 2 the British conquered Monte Interrotto and Moschiag.

Once they attained these objectives they crossed through Val d'Assa smiting the retreating Austrians and gained a significant quantity of war material. By the evening they had occupied the important Passo of Vezzena, after fighting near the Passo in the area of Basson.

On November 3 the 48th British division headed towards Levico to continue their seizure of whole regiments. At 12:30 p.m. the first vanguards entered Caldonazzo. There, the British there got instructions to occupy Civezzano and Nogare e Madrano.

In the final battle the Austro-Hungarian forces were defeated, while the 48th British division suffered 7 casualties; 123 wounded and 19 missing-in-action.

British divisions together with Italian corps of the 10th Army, were assigned the task of building a bridgehead close to Grave di Papadopoli along Piave, in order to defend the right flank of the nearby 8th Army. They carried out this task whilst heading towards Livenza River between Sacile and Portobuffolè. The bridgehead was intended to protect the troops when crossing bridges, boardwalks and ferries from Palazzon to Salettuol. The bridgehead was built during the night between the 26th and the 27th of October.

On the 27th at 6.54 am, they assaulted the enemy lines on the east bank of Piave. They broke through the lines towards the bank, but at Borgo Malanotte, the 201st brigade Landsturm supported by the 137th Austrian infantry regiment, blocked the British assault.

Overall the British achieved a positive result since they managed to push through the Austro-Hungarian lines for about three km. In the course of these operations the B.E.F captured: 121 officers, 3520 petty officers, and their troops, as well as 54 artillery pieces. The following day the word was given to move forward until the Monticano river, then take charge of the bridges at Livenza between Sacile and Portobuffolè.

On October 29 the British faced a counter-attack by the 24th and 26th Schützen division, but they successfully halted the attack and carried on until Vazzola and

Cimetta (where an onslaught took place), taking a bridge intact, even if though it was undermined by the retreating Austrians. On the evening of November 29 the 14th Army Corp overcame the enemy's resistance and took most of the Austrian rear.

Due to exhaustion from the fighting and the stiff resistance of the enemy especially at Orsago -Gaiarine, the British slowly renewed their advance towards the bridge of Sacile sul Livenza.

On October 31, after a house to house struggle, York and Lancaster entered Sacile. They gained an impressive war chest due to Sacile's use as a logistical base for supplying the 6th Austrian-Hungarian Army.

Despite of their advance they could not stop the Austrians from bursting bridges caused a delay outside of Livenza.

On November 1 the B.E.F was given the word to move forward in the direction of Sant'Odorico and Casarsa della Delizia. On November 2, they assembled enough bridges to cross Livenza which allowed them to rapidly advance in greater strength. On that day they reorganized their units and prepared for the crossing of Livenza, but there were some difficulties: due to the depth of the water (4m) they could not rebuild the destroyed bridges and their boardwalks. It was too much for them. However the British built two bridges at Sacile and Cavolano which had two boardwalks.

On November 2 B.E.F reached the banks of Prata and Tagliamento, with a view to the signing of an armistice due to the enemy's defeat the Commanders of the 10th Army instructed all the units to quickly proceed beyond the banks of Tagliamento. On November 4 the British 14th Army Corps together with the 7th Division reached Basiliano and Pordenone- Fontanafredda with the 23rd Division.

During the final battle the 7th and the 23rd division suffered the loss of 274 soldiers, 1147 injured and 193 missing-in-action.

Today built on the battlefields are close to 17 military cemeteries: such as on the Asiago Plateau and the Alto Vicentino, as well as along Piave and in the municipalities of Friuli. This is where the graves of 4000 fallen soldiers are safeguarded by the "Commonwealth War Graves Commission".

French army

The considerations made earlier with regard to the British troops work for the French too. During the early days of the war in Italy, the French soldiers acted as military advisors and were flanked by several flight squadrons and numerous artillery units. At the beginning of 1917 they expressed their willingness to send troops if Italy needed them to support the more incisive offensive actions in areas which, up until then, had been characterised by exhausting campaigns without achieving any tangible results.

With the Austrian offensive in October 1917 on the Isonzo, the French contingent increased considerably, in an attempt to re-establish the front on the new lines of resistance on the Piave and Monte Grappa. On the 6th of November 1917, much of the French aid was stationed on the Brescia plain and in the Vicentino district. The total contingent amounted to over 130,000 men enrolled in the 64th and 65th divisions of the XXXI Armed Corps, and mountain detachments with the 47th and 46th Chasseur des Alpes division. The 46th division was sent to defend Valcamo-

nica. On the 20th of November the 23rd and 24th division of the XII Armed Corps arrived.

From the 5th of December, the XXXI French Armed Corps took command of the highly chaotic and delicate Monte Tomba – Monfenera sector, appointing the élite 47th Chasseur des Alpes division to defend it. This division unfortunately suffered the loss of Col. Bel, an officer who was very popular with his infantrymen, on the 13th of December 1917.

The aim of the French was to prepare an action capable of totally reclaiming the Monte Tomba – Monfenera sector in order to force the Austro-German troops back to Conca d’Alano below.

This action was launched on the 28th of December 1917 with a preparation of artillery that lasted the whole of the 29th and increased in intensity on the morning of the 30th, peaking in the early afternoon. While the fire was still ringing out, at 4.05 p.m. the French attacked. The whole line was taken at 4.35 p.m. and immediately reinforced to withstand any enemy counterattacks, but is remained in friendly hands until the end of the war.

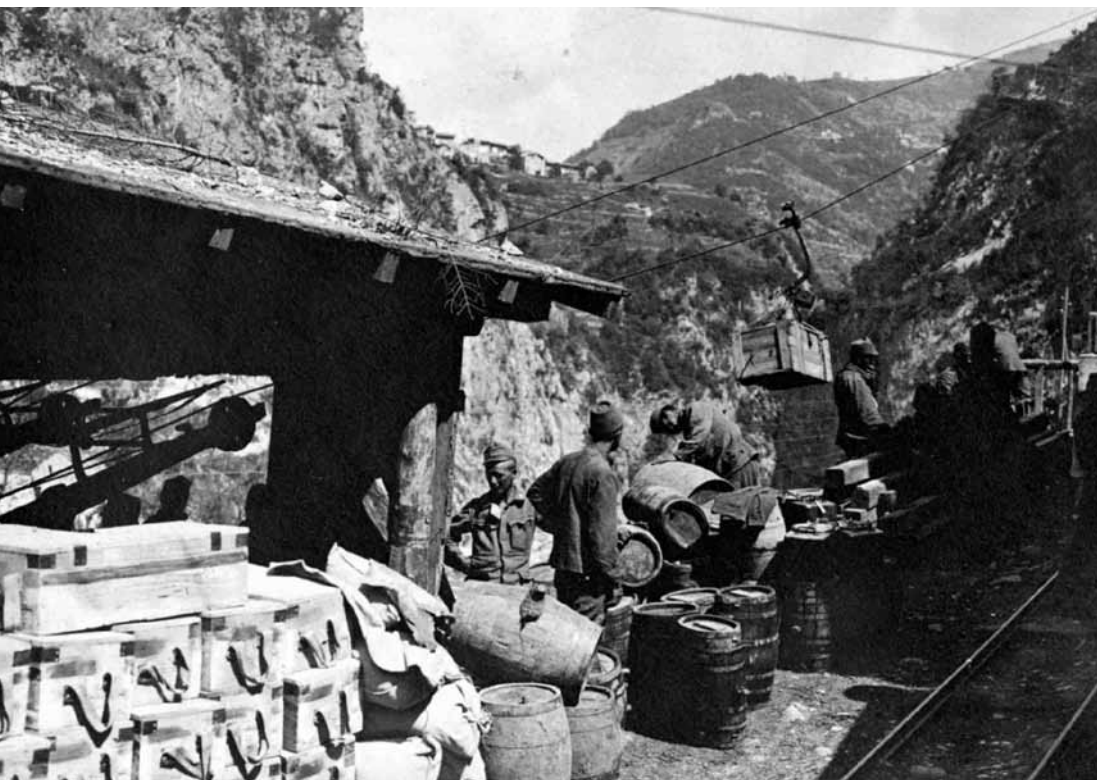
Shortly after the stabilisation of the new front, most of the troops (about 100,000 soldiers) re-entered on the western front, leaving a small but important contingent in Valdobbiadene, operating both on the Altopiano d’Asiago and on the Piave in the Battle of Vittorio Veneto.

From the 10th of July, the 23rd and 24th divisions of the XIII Armed Corps were incorporated into the 6th Italian Army; in the middle of October 1918, the 23rd came under the command of the I Armed Corps of the 12th Army.

On the Altopiano d’Asiago, the French were in control of an area known as the “French sector”, located in the south-eastern districts of the town of Asiago, where they made quick raids to capture prisoners and destroy specific enemy posts. These included the raids of the 107th French regiment in Zocchi and on Monte Sisemol in August.

On the eve of the final battle, the 6th Army was assigned the task of preparing the

Austro-Hungarian cableway station near Vannini



decisive action in the Melette – Monte Lisser – Enego sector, with the aim of re-joining the troops of the 4th Italian Army in order to take the Conca di Feltre. On the 24th of October, the French division was instructed to raid the Monte Sisemol sector, and these raids led to the capture of large numbers of prisoners. These actions were repeated for the next few days until, on the 28th of October, it was realised that the most advanced enemy lines were breaking down due to the progressive withdrawal of the Austro-Hungarian to the more solid lines north of Asiago and Gallio. On the 29th, there was a more consistent abandon of the lines, but the peak of the Sisemol remained stable, only to be heavily attacked by the French between the 31st of October and the 1st of November. After conquering the peak, they advanced and occupied Monte Longara and Val di Nos, and attempted the occupation of the Melette di Gallio sector.

On the 2nd of November they had reached Valle di Campomulo and by now the military collapse of the Hapsburg troops was clear. During the days that followed, the XIII Armed Corps (and therefore the French divisions) headed for Bocchetta Portule and Cima Larici, also passing through Val d'Assa to prevent the withdrawal of the majority of the Imperial troops on the Altopiano towards Trento.

The 23rd French division was placed under the orders of the 12th Army, which was in command of the sector stretching from Porte di Salton to the River Curogna.

At the beginning of the Battle of Vittorio, this division was assigned the task of forming a bridgehead at Valdobbadiene to attempt the crossing of the Piave. Two bridges were set up at Pederobba mill and the French engineers took part in their construction, but the high level of the river swept one of them away immediately. The other however, was completed without the Austrians realising until the morning after. On the 27th, at 3:00 a.m., it was destroyed by the fire of the Hapsburg artillery, but in the meantime, most of the 107th French infantry regiment and the "Bassano" and "Verona" Alpini battalions had already managed to cross to the enemy side and, following the bloody battles between the 44th and 3rd Bosnian regiment, they extended the bridgehead, occupying Cà Settio.

Cableway Austro-Hungarian towards Cison del Grappa



The enemy reaction was fierce but did not succeed in destroying the new bridgehead which had extended as far as San Vito, Funer, Madonna di Caravaggio by evening, forcing the 31st Austro-Hungarian division to entrench themselves along the defensive line of Monte Perlo, Monte Pianar and the Valdobbiadene hills.

On the 28th of October, with the construction of new bridges, the 138th French infantry regiment reached the bridgehead, working with the 107th regiment on the immediate assault of the Monte Perlo - Monte Pianar line.

In the evening, after tenacious resistance by the 17th regiment of the 20th Honved division and of the 3rd regiment of the 31st division (smaller) the line was taken.

On the 29th of October, the occupation of the line extended further, albeit momentarily, with Monte Pianar returning in the hands of the 20th Honved division.

On the 30th of October, the French infantry division occupied Monte Balcon, covering the flanks of the 78th French infantry regiment, which occupied the town of Segusino, and helping, with its machine-guns, the Trapani Brigade to occupy Quero. Now the aim had become Feltre, climbing the Piave valley and passing the confluence of the Sonna torrent on the homonymous river. After Feltre, the occupation had to be extended to the majority of the imperial troops which were still present on the Valle del Piave – Massiccio del Grappa sector.

TROOPS COOPERATING WITH THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY

German army

Despite the fact that the Hapsburg Monarchy had always been an arch enemy of the Kingdom of Italy and had been preparing to attack it sooner or later, when it joined the war (May 1915), it experienced immense difficulty in organising the over 600 km of front, insofar as the majority of its troops were engaged in the east against the armies of the Tsar. Consequently, Germany immediately sent divisions to aid its Austrian ally on the Dolomitic front.

However, it was with the 12th battle of the Isonzo (October 1917) that the Italian divisions came into direct contact with the German troops.

Cadorna had still to break through, but had worn out the Austro-Hungarian army, inflicting huge losses. A new thrust forward could be fatal. This meant that it was necessary to move as quickly as possible to break free from the mortal embrace of the Italian armies. To do so, the Austrians appealed for help to the Germans, who, fearing that they might be surrounded from below, sent some of their top units and excellent commanders to the Isonzo front.

The “Deutsche Alpenkorps” division, trained for mountain combat and made up mainly of Bavarian and Prussian troops, which was characterised principally by its

independence in terms of artillery, engineers and flight squadrons, was formed of Bavarian Alpine and German-speaking Austrian troops. Their commanders, chosen among the best, were: General Otto von Below and his Chief of Staff Konrad Krafft von Dellmensingen (the young lieutenant Erwin Rommel was also part of the unit), at the head of the 14th Army, which also incorporated Austro-Hungarian divisions. With the XII battle of the Isonzo, which began at 2:00 a.m. on the 24th of October 1917, (better known as the battle of Caporetto by the Italian and of Tolmino by the Austro-Germans), in which the central empires almost achieved the complete destruction of the Italian armed forces.

It was split into four separate groups (referring solely to the German troops and not the Austro-Hungarians).

Krauss Group (I Austro-Hungarian Armed Corps), commandeered by Alfred Krauss, consisting mainly of Austrian troops with the support of special German troops belonging to the 35th gas launching battalion, which used phosgene in the Conca di Plezzo, beginning the breakthrough and subsequent collapse of the Italian lines. Reserves for the Krauss Group were provided by the German Jäger division, which managed to conquer various eastern areas on the Massiccio del Grappa (Conca di Alano and the Monfenera – Monte Tomba ridge).

Gruppo Stein (III Bavarian Armed Corps) commandeered by da von Stein.

Made up of the 12th and 117th Bavarian infantry divisions and the Alpenkorps. This last division, consisting of Bavarians, Prussians and Württembergische, was made up of three Jäger regiments and the Württemberg mountain battalion (where Rommel operated). The Stein group managed to break through the Italian lines at Tolmino in the 12th battles of the Isonzo and began marching as quickly as possible to outflank the Carnia-Cadore army which ended near Longarone. After reaching the Massiccio del Grappa they were distinguished by various assaults at Monte Spinoncia, Solaroli and Monte Valderoa.

Berrer Group (LI Armed Corps) commandeered by von Berrer, who fell at Udine and was replaced by von Hofacker.

German troops at Sacile



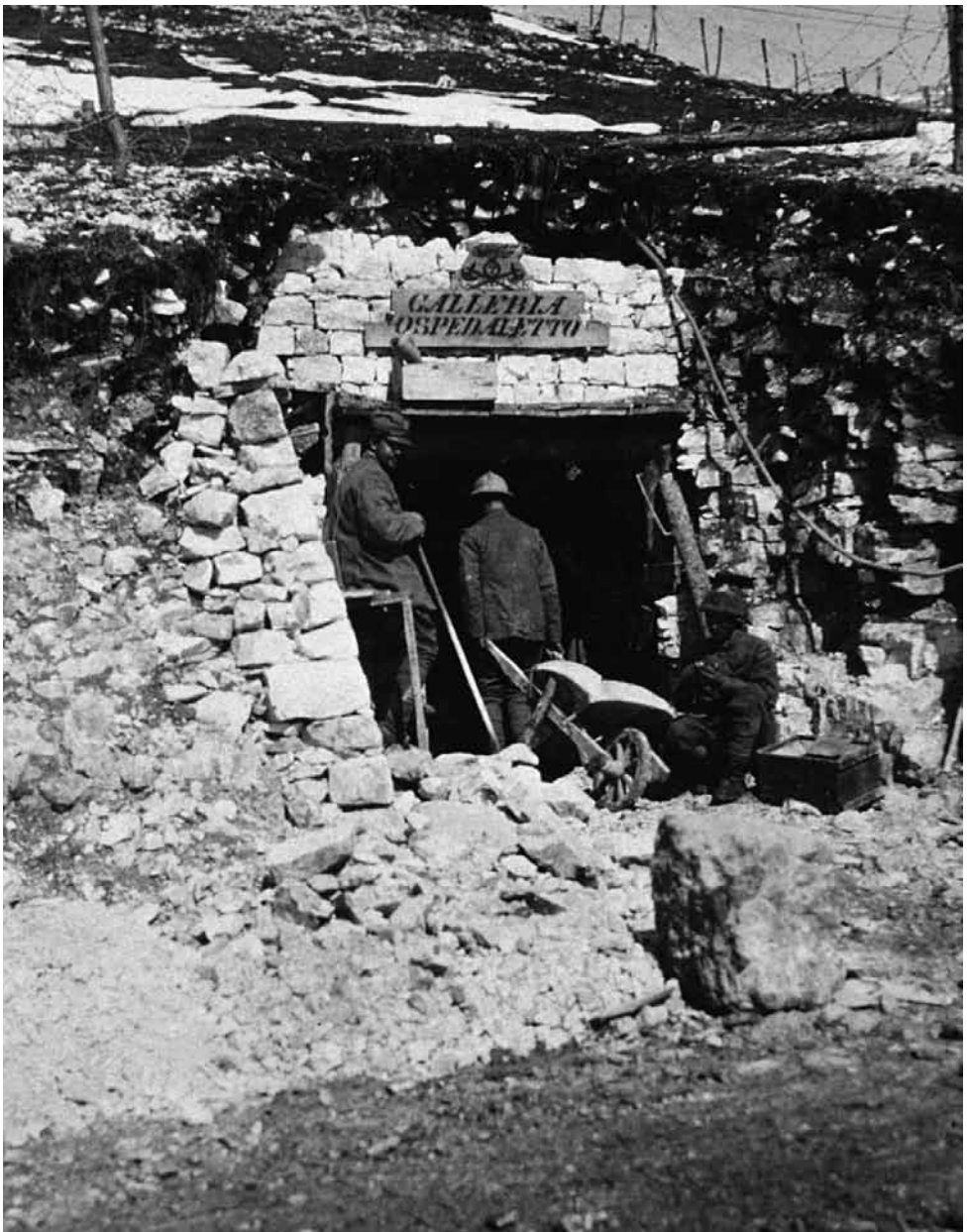
This group was made up of the 26th and 200th German infantry which was operational on the Massiccio del Grappa, fighting courageously against the backdrop of Val Calcino and taking Monte Valderoa on the 17th of December 1917.

Scotti Group (XV Austro-Hungarian Armed Corps) under the command of Scotti. This group comprised the 5th German infantry division, which succeeded in occupying the peak of Monte Spinoncia on the Massiccio del Grappa on the 11th of December 1917.

On the 22nd of November 1917, after relentless assaults, the German troops, together with the Austro-Hungarians, also occupied the strategic Monfenera -Monte Tomba ridge (869 m), holding it until the 30th of December, when French-Italian forces reclaimed it thanks to the incredibly fast action of the Chasseurs des Alpes of the 47th French division, during the vicissitudes that took place between the German and Austro-Hungarian divisions. The daring actions of the Germans also helped to attack the defensive system which had just been tacked into place on the Piave and the Grappa, making a valid contribution to outlining the new front line which benefitted from extremely important points.

As early as December 1917, the German Supreme Command had decided the re-entry of its troops on the French front, and this took place between the end of the December 1917 and January 1918.

Monte Rivon 1918 - Construction of an Italian medication place



AUTHOR'S CONSIDERATIONS

I love the area I come from; I adore my territory!

As a child I often used to go out in the Vicentina foothills.

Areas like the Pasubio, Altopiano d'Asiago and Massiccio del Grappa were the destinations of Sunday trips with the family and childhood friends.

Initially I couldn't feel it, but later I understood that I lived in a part of the world characterised by History and soon the stories of the battles fought here grabbed my attention more than anything else. Those strange furrows, those inappropriate areas of deforestation, those meadows full of holes, those devastated drystone walls began to create a clear image in my mind. Trenches, tunnels, barracks, former war cemeteries: the more I looked at them, the more I took part, inside my head, in the story of the battles that had generated them.

I began to read to understand what had happened and how the territory, which still bears the signs of furious combat, had participated.

I remember the title of my first book: "Tappe della disfatta" (The end of an army) by Fritz Weber.

As time went by and my interest increased, visits to the battlefields became open-air lessons. I began to understand why certain peaks appealed more than others and why the war only came to certain areas later.

Because some areas are rightfully declared "HOLY AREAS".

But what couldn't escape the observer and became the most immediately perceivable aspect (if we exclude – without forgetting – the cost of human lives "paid" overall!) is the profound transformation endured by the territory as a result of the wartime aggressions.

This is the heritage of the First World War on the Grappa too.

On one hand, roads, paths and aqueducts, some of which still partly or completely in use and, on the other, the devastations in areas which were battlefields, with evident traces still present, despite the fact that nature succeeds in reclaiming the spaces stolen from it and in healing the wounds inflicted. It isn't easy to cancel devastations and the effects of man's actions are still visible on the land, like an indelible mark.

Beyond the battlefields, where the front line ran and where the maximum destruction took place, kilometres from the areas involved in the conflict, an army of soldiers and Territorial Army members worked hard and fast to normalise and facilitate the provision of supplies.

A huge site animated by a multitude of people who lived amongst the fatigue and dismay of a fierce war, even more oppressed by the prospects of never seeing completion of a job begun, when another one cropped up, already marked by considerable tension, effort and fatigue.

Now the time passed becomes a blanket of fog covering the territory, cancelling out (but luckily not altogether) much of what was present.

Today the tunnels have collapsed and the trenches have been filled in; many of the paths no longer exist and numerous signs, although still present, cannot be interpreted other than by an expert and attentive eye.

I've always looked at these things with a feeling of deep respect for what they represent: places that take us back in time to those days. Places steeped in history and memories.

At the beginning of 2000 I began visiting the battlefields again, following the inevitable interruption to complete my education.

The new sensation evoked by this return made me realise immediately that something had changed.

When I returned to the places I knew, I immediately sensed the change in the territory. Certain views that I was familiar with had changed due to the slow but inexorable result of the work of nature, which repairs, restores and masks, eliminating the signs on the territory, aided by the demise of farming and forestry activities and, consequently, the progressive abandon of the mountain areas.

In 2002, having noticed what was happening in that environment that I had learned to love and, above all, respect so much, I began to catalogue the first of a fair number of military epigraphs on the Massiccio del Grappa.

This interest first developed when, from inside a system of tunnels, I noticed some writing at the entrance to one of them, written into the cement while it was still wet. After cleaning it up as best I could I was able to read the almost goliardic encouragement of a field artillery unit to its regiment.

A banal discovery in such a place, but a new world that struck my imagination, revealing things that I had already seen but never observed and understood before. A world that touched me suddenly, exciting me when I realised, without warning, that I had received a message from the immediate past; a message of a life which had possibly never had a chance to run its course.

A message characterised by a specific mood, fruit of situations I had no understanding of, and which transmitted strong emotions.

I was holding the spiritual communication of a soldier who was experiencing different moments: perhaps fear or excitement, self-pity or even the desire to outlive himself. A message from someone who, in these small and human traces, offered me glimpses of moods dictated by indefinable moments of life.

...This is something that can rock you deeply from inside.

This is something that can change your life!

I was gripped by a feeling of anxiety, amazement and the perception of possibility, ...in the normality of an everyday moment of life. That's what the revolution that I'd failed to grasp up until then was all about: finding, in a silent but living and changing wood, the words written by a soldier in 1918; an unnamed soldier, poor player in a disaster which I was still able to perceive everywhere I looked.

I tried to remember if I'd seen other, similar traces in the past, and where, as thoughts that made me reflect on the importance of this type of study filled my mind. Soldiers encouraged by different reasons left all kinds of writings on concrete, rocks, plants or wherever possible, some of which are still partly visible and bring us distant messages from way back then, whatever they were.

So I began to investigate the dissemination of those signs on the Grappa, and soon made more and more discoveries, realising that this was a real "data transmission system", a form of information, a way of relieving tension or .. more simply a pastime.

The whole area was so full of them that I felt that it deserved further and systematic investigation! ...because I wasn't dealing with something "major" and therefore censured or referred to in books about the period.

They were small but great signs of different history; history within history, but, above all, "history of varying humanity".

This is why I began to document the epigraphs connected with the First World War on the Massiccio del Grappa, to defend them.

In other words, my aim since then has been to register this heritage hidden on the territory, trying to measure it, collecting it and extending the bases, simultaneously with any future researches, insofar as this is still possible, or initiatives focused on the protection of these “war inscriptions”.

Cima Grappa, defences of the peak stronghold



Ch. 2

EPIGRAPHY

WAR EPIGRAPHY

SAFEGUARDING OF EPIGRAPHIC HERITAGE

TYPES OF MILITARY EPIGRAPHS

DECORATIVE AND SYMBOLIC ASPECTS OF EPIGRAPHS

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF EPIGRAPHS



EPIGRAPHS

The term epigraphy comes from the Greek, γράφω (*graphein*) which means to write and *πί* (*epi*) which means above.

A word which unites two fundamental concepts: that of writing, on a support.

In other words, an epigraph is an inscription on a rigid support, which may be made of different materials and will last in time (within certain limits).

According to this statement, writing left on paper or coins is not subject to study, nor, in a more extensive manner, are prehistoric inscriptions subject to this study, inasmuch as they are covered by other areas of research, their study being channelled through the knowledge of the civilisations that expressed them and which used alphanumeric systems capable of transmitting ideas and concepts among people.

Consequently, this sector comprises all the writings left by man on boundary stones, columns, stones, rocks, wood and even certain architectural structures. Different types of message were entrusted to epigraphs: electoral, religious, funeral, honorific, juridical and military, but also poems and sentiments read by those who were educated or by the population that was unable to read but had access to people capable of explaining the texts.

Therefore, the role of epigraphs became that of being the main method of communication between institutions and citizens, as well as being an important private communication vehicle. According to some scholars, in towns, their growth increased at the same rate as the literacy and education of the population.

Naturally there are different branches of epigraphy, one of the most widely studied being northern and southern Semitic epigraphy.

When the discussion turns to classic epigraphy however, reference is made to Greek and Latin epigraphy. In turn this is broken down into Christian and medieval. The oldest Greek epigraphs we are aware of date back to the VIII century BC, while those of Latin origin are from the VII and VI century BC.

For the Latin ones only a heritage of roughly 350,000 epigraphs has been calculated; a volume which is increased by about a thousand units, thanks to the increasingly sophisticated systems applied to archaeological research.

The birth of modern epigraphy dates back to the Renaissance, a period during which, after the medieval decline, "classic" tastes were revived and work began on seeking out and scientifically cataloguing the pieces. This impulse was also encouraged by a copious traffic of finds held by numerous art dealers, stretching roughly as far as the Illuminist period.

However, the turnaround came in Germany in the 19th century, when epigraphy broke free from the influence of the dealers and collectors to enter as a permanent discipline at the Berlin Academy of Science. Two literary works were promoted to register the inscriptions which, even today, over a century on, are a point of reference for scholars. For the Greek epigraphs, the "Corpus Inscriptionum Græcarum" in four volumes, while there are sixty volumes in the "Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum", which is still to be completed. All this interest devoted by science to epigraphs is based on testimonies and objective historic information from reliable sources. In some spheres, epigraphs are the only available document to shed light on historical events or provide information on architectural and other structures which are now in ruins.

All this proposes them as important pieces in the puzzle that allows us to learn

about past civilisations. ...Then the fact that they were created on durable materials is a clear manifestation of the desire to hand these messages down through time.

WAR EPIGRAPHS

A challenge, not only for me and for those who have helped me, but also for those who, in some way, want to “write” history with me.

Today, the military vestiges identified, as cited by law 78 of 2001 under art.1 paragraph 2, as “boundary stones, monuments, coats of arms, graffiti, memorial stones, inscriptions and tabernacles” fall under a system of protection.

Attention to these different types of evidence of the Great War and to this moment of great epigraphic production on the various battlefields comes from scholars and enthusiasts who work to protect and defend them via projects that lead to constant discovery, cataloguing and study.

They are original documents of the war which could soon be lost due to wilful negligence.

The go-ahead for this “study” was probably given by a vast research and registration campaign, which was born spontaneously on the Friulan front of the time, now between Slovenia and Austria, and then expanded to other areas.

There is now sufficient information to make these war epigraphs an important source of historical documentation on the area, flanking the copious presence of paper documentation kept in the archives, as well as texts and historical researches. While this is clearly fundamental, the epigraphs found on the territory are unanimously and directly much more involving due to the fact that they were created and left as a result of a precise desire by the soldiers themselves during the war.

Those who have been studying battlefields for some time rightfully sustain that “the Archaeology of the Great War” is a “complete sector in its own right” which deserves specific study (see the Società Storica per la Guerra Bianca - Historical Society for the White War).

The war is actually still a very recent event and the sensitivity being shown towards this part of our recent European history will allow the most complete preservation possible, with attention to even the tiniest details, in order to make it much more “accessible”.

For this reason, and due to this explosion of passion, new research techniques and tools are being used to enable a better and more clearly reasoned system of operation. This system is subdivided into two different working “areas” linked to the availability of different practical and financial resources.

On the French front, with the participation of French, British and German soldiers, historians, geologists, forensic archaeologists, computer technicians and universities, etc., a campaign is underway to reconstruct the battlefields, the arrays and the postings, just as they were at the time of the conflicts.

In the same way, in Italy a conspicuous number of scholars and enthusiasts have recently begun searching for epigraphs, approaching this discipline with scientific method which enables dedicated fields studies, using new technical instruments (satellite photos, GPS and GIS). All this is a consequence of the fact that

their production on our front was considerable. Thanks to this greater availability, we are further ahead in terms of study and registration. However, we have the problem of disappearance due to wear, collection activities and vandalism which constantly erode the cultural heritage, against which our only defence mechanisms are photography and cataloguing.

This is compounded by the fact that it is best not to move the epigraphs, as they retain their value only in their place of origin. This is another reason for speeding up and specialising the selection, as removing them to preserve them and conserve them in museums without a precise description of their original function would be of no help to the historical information they transmit. On the contrary, it would be diminished in comparison to its original value.

To combat this loss of heritage, in 2001 the Italian government issues law no. 78 which also defends them, granting them the status (and dignity) of “cultural assets to all intents and purposes” (see other page).

The legal acknowledgement of these types of objects, supported by the new laws, makes it easy to understand how field study is one of the new frontiers in reading into the facts regarding the Great War, and, above all, the only way to catalogue them in order to avoid their inevitable disappearance, gaining the consent of the institutions that make the laws for their defence.

It would also be necessary to explain or to understand what they really represent for each of us, but here the issue becomes divergent and difficult, touching the sensitivity of the soul. We would like to communicate with those that have this capacity and who see the conservation of an asset that belongs to them as being the mark of its civilisation.

View of the Col dell'Orso sector (SME Rome)



THE DEFENCE OF THE EPIGRAPHIC HERITAGE

The interest in military epigraphy today is immense.

As mentioned earlier, the law on the “Defence of the historical heritage of the First World War” that regulates possible initiatives in defence of “military vestiges”, is a huge step forward, inasmuch as it considers them as a direct consequence of the war, evidence of a period which changed the face of the world’s political, social and economic scene.

The possession of an historical memory acquired by defending these elements also opens up new ways of learning about the events, simultaneously making the most of resources for a more lively and active historical-educational tourism. Last, but by no means least, their conservation helps gain a better understanding of the sacrifice made by those soldiers, amplifying respect for them and commemoration, but also highlighting and focusing on the values that made it possible. What we can be sure of is that, in order to apply the various forms of defence envisaged on the territory, the broadest possible knowledge of the subject is indispensable.

In this case we are talking about an immense heritage of military vestiges, both in terms of quantity and quality, for which the law stimulates the launch of specific registration campaigns, in order to acquire possession of as precise a picture as possible of what is still present on the territory.

The special laws promoted by Lombardy (R.L. Nov. 2008, no. 28), the Piedmontese Regional Law proposal (30 Apr. 2008 no. 537), that of the Autonomous Province of Trento (no. 2/1980 and no. 17/2001), of the Venice Region (R.L. no. 43/1997) and of Friuli Venezia Giulia (no. 10/2000 and no. 14/2000) have laid the foundations for the application of a principle to defend the territory at historical and cultural level, linked to the World War, including War Epigraphs.

Almost all the initiatives undertaken at the time and in the recent past have been carried out by enthusiasts who assigned them greater importance insofar as they comply with the same acts required by the legislator, who highlights the excellence of the work done.

These enthusiasts include Colonel Abramo Schmid, who began cataloguing those on the Carso in the 1980s. Then came the moment of Antonio and Furio Scrimali, who registered everything still present on an extensive territory stretching from the Alpi Carniche to the Carso. In 1996 the “Gruppo di ricerche e studi Grande Guerra” (Great War Research and Study Group) of the Società Alpina delle Giulie, the Trieste section of the Italian Alpine Club (the members of which included Silvo Stok, Marco Mantini, Gea Polli and Nino Cortese) began a job in the area, which is still in progress, with the aim of setting up an authentic registry, the product of an in-depth study made possible partly by the transfrontier project “Pro Hereditate”, in which Slovenia is also participating.

In other areas of the Italian fronts, enthusiasts similar work projects are being organised by other enthusiasts, like Guido Baù, who has been operating on the Altopiano di Asiago since about 1980; Antonio Chiesa and Tiziano Bertè who studied military epigraphs in the Val Lagarina in 1990; while Santo De Dorigo moved his investigations on the chain of the Lagorai.

On the 23rd and 24th of June, at the Cimbro Institute in Luserna (TN), an important international convention entitled “Archaeology of the Great War” was held, the various topics of which included that of Marco Balbi, who presented a report in

war epigraphy entitled “New territories for the archaeology of the Great War: epigraphy and toponymy”.

It should also be pointed out that, between July and September 2006, at the Visitors Centre in Paneveggio (TN), Balbi and De Dorigo inaugurated a photography exhibition entitled “The Great War in stone. Memorial stones, Inscriptions and Graffiti...from Cauriol to Cima Bocche”.

Another recent publication has been the study carried out on Pasubio, by Claudio Gattera and Roberto Greselin.

This large amount of work and, above all, this creation of awareness, have been possible not only thanks to the people mentioned, but also to the numerous volunteers and enthusiasts who, encouraged by pure interest, have made a significant contribution to the results achieved, without mentioning their names.

The effervescence in the field is such as to offer an understanding of how, from the Stelvio to the Adriatic, there are numerous initiatives underway to register and defend the military epigraphs of the First World War.

It is singular how these studies in Italy are always more widespread and important, while on other fronts, such as the western front in France or the eastern front in Galizia, the Carpazi, the Balkans or Salonicco, they aren't so popular, despite remembering, in favour of the nations where these battles took place, that mentioned above.

To have a rough idea of what has been catalogued so far, there are currently at least 2700 vestiges in the area of Pasubio, Vallarsa, Val Terragnolo, Val Posina, Altopiano di Asiago, Isonzo, Carso, Grappa and Lagorai. This isn't a complete figure, as many studies are still in progress and there are many areas of fronts still to be analysed.

In the end, the knowledge and location of military epigraphs offers numerous considerations, as interesting considerations can be drawn on the techniques used to create them, the placement on supports and the importance attributed to them. For instance, tracing the memorial stone of an infantry regiment or of a bat-



Collapse of a tunnel with a broken military plaque

talion in a given place is important because it determines the areas and the period of time in which the division was active, confirming that stated in the historical documents stored in various archives.

Moving on to an analysis of their presence on the territory it is undeniable that these vestiges, the direct manifestation of the war, have a considerable cultural value and that their loss would damage the collective nature and the historical memory of the place. Unfortunately, if they aren't adequately protected, the epigraphs are destined to deteriorate gradually until they are lost altogether, for lots of reasons: in consideration of the support on which they were written, on the erosion that has worn them away in time, erosion due to being washed away or to weathering, due to the harsh temperatures during the changing seasons, due to age.

We mustn't forget that the supports themselves can collapse, such as in the case of the collapse of a tunnel entrance which can indirectly but obviously cause the loss of the memorial stone or plaque.

Example of the collapse of a tunnel with a broken military plaque.

There is also the possibility of "natural loss" of the element linked to factors such as landslides that cover up the element, overgrowth by vegetation, etc.

While these have to be accepted, inasmuch as natural and due to the passage of



time, theft by unscrupulous people to enrich private collections, impoverishing the public epigraphic heritage, is neither acceptable nor understandable.

There have recently been too many reports of these events, which are occurring far too often (also within the area covered by this research).

These are, to all intents and purposes, thefts and as such they are punishable by law. It is hoped that this punishment will be as harsh as possible as these acts diminish the common heritage.

In the exposure of the finds, the provision of precise indications is purposely avoided to prevent theft.

Unfortunately, the disappearance of these items causes the loss, not only of local historical and cultural identities, but also of authentic works of spontaneous art, capable of providing historical information.

In addition to this, these signs enhance the value of otherwise impersonal and anonymous postings, trenches and tunnels, conveying them a precious touch of varied humanity.

It is still necessary to draw attention to the fact that these elements only have a reason to exist and relative "value" if they remain in their place of origin. Photographing them, mapping them and measuring are consequently the basis for a first form of protection and defence. This research is also a way of creating awa-

Bocca di Forca (Monte Grappa) Before and after the theft



renewed, aimed at all the Administrations, Entities and Institutions that work for the defence and enhancement of the value of the territory and cultural heritage. It is to these organisations that we extend an urgent invitation to lend a hand, even after the research has been published, insofar as we are sure that there will still be a lot more to discover on the territories that fall under their jurisdiction; pieces in the puzzle of an already extensive map of events that will become increasingly important for everyone in relation to its thorough development.

TYPES OF MILITARY EPIGRAPHS

The method of classification of the elements is a consolidated system, thanks partly to the numerous sector-specific publications on the subject.

This can take place in various ways, as we have seen, and can be carried out on the basis of their distribution on the territory or in relation to the type of military division that created them, the type of material used, etc. The aim is to make the study even more complete, reporting the type of cataloguing possible on the basis of the text, the system or the method of accomplishment.

On the basis of the type of support, we can identify the following categories:



MEMORIAL STONES. Those epigraphs the text of which is sculpted onto a support (rock, slab of marble or concrete) which has been prepared especially and subsequently erected in its final position. Memorial stones are often accompanied by decorative elements, stucco and different styles of writing (Liberty, Gothic, etc.) increasing their artistic value.

The photo shows a memorial stone erected in a posting.



INSCRIPTIONS. The text is engraved directly into a previously positioned support (rocks, concrete, etc.). The text was often engraved inside a specially prepared frame. Consequently it was not casual, but planned and reasoned in relation to its final aim.

The photo shows an inscription on a rock.

GRAFFITI. Created on any kind of support: the distinguishing factor is their casual and extemporary nature, obtained hastily and without the desire to create something more stylistically elaborate. Classic examples are signatures or short sentences left by soldiers in fresh cement during the construction of military elements. Often plaster, cement or rocks were engraved using any sharp item to hand, including bayonets.



KEYSTONE BRICKS. Sometimes access to tunnels was through an entrance reinforced and embellished by an arch made of stones or rocks which clearly bore a “keystone brick”; which was the main point of the entrance. This was frequently decorated with the symbol of the division that had built it, often accompanied by short slogans.

The photo shows the entrance to the tunnel occupied by the 176th Company, which decorated the keystone brick.



After completing these initial classifications, we can create new chapters applied to the analysis of epigraphs, the type of text, the types of message indicated, etc.

They are usually subdivided into:

COMMEMORATIVE EPIGRAPHS. These are very important and the most common. They offer reliable information regarding the division that positioned them and important details concerning the time spent by the division on the line, the tactics employed, whether they conquered or defending a positing or whether they were responsible for the construction of the element. That at the side shows the triumphalist sense indicated.





SERVICE EPIGRAPHS.

These convey a name to particular elements, postings or military roads, or indicate their function during the war. This category comprises inscriptions indicating roads or paths, clearings, fountains, etc. Most of the time, the names of the postings were indicated on the military maps of reference.

The photo shows an epigraph which clarifies and identifies the function and name of the posting.



FUNERARY EPIGRAPHS.

These indicate the presence of a fallen soldier. They were usually created by his friends, to remember or give a final salute to their companion. Almost all of them are made up of memorial stones erected in military cemeteries of the time, or in the place where the soldier died. There are also many makeshift ones that are more plain and bare.

The photo shows the final salute of the company to their fallen companion.

Another important cataloguing method is that based upon the official or unofficial nature of the epigraph:



OFFICIAL EPIGRAPHS.

These were left by the divisions in an official manner. They have considerable impact in terms of solemnity and are usually the most detailed at artistic level and with regard to their finish. They were often positioned along routes travelled by troops so they could be seen by more people and convey notoriety to the division.

These epigraphs strengthened the sense of belonging to the division, while the individuality of the single soldier is hidden by the name of the company or the brigade. They are of outstanding importance as they indicate the precise position of the division on the territory.

UNOFFICIAL EPIGRAPHS.

The category includes the writing left by individual soldiers. They usually go from their name, surname and title to the name of the tunnel (or the hometown of the person that engraved them?), but also to symbols, dates, drawings and messages of hope, joy and suffering experienced. Basically they are the most direct and live expression left by soldiers more or less everywhere.



Individualities emerged loud and clear, almost like a way of affirming their presence in situations often at the limits of humanity... And this is what we like reading in these messages.

The classifications mentioned are not complete with the possibilities of investigation, although they undoubtedly lay the foundations for the collection of enough data to allow cataloguing for the analysis of an epigraphic heritage that has to be calibrated and organised to reach high levels of investigation.

From that exhibited it is possible to study and interpret the epigraphs, flanking them with different levels of classification, with the advantage of obtaining more or less in-depth analyses of the heritage investigated, improving knowledge in terms of quantity and quality and opening up new possibilities for research on the territory.

DECORATIVE AND SYMBOLIC ASPECTS OF EPIGRAPHS (Minazzi Monica)

Comparing the Italian and Austro-Hungarian epigraphs, it is possible to see how the former are undoubtedly more creative, full of decorative elements, but also representative and definitely much more artistically complete.

The best examples are those of the soldiers of the Alpini Corps, the stylisations of canons, the horseshoes and miniature reproductions of weapons (particularly characteristic in the Italian army). The most elaborate creations include realistic or mythological faces (see datasheet no. 795).

As regards the more classic decorative elements, we find frames, floral subjects, leaves and geometric motifs. Attention to aesthetics, in various cases, is also entrusted to the use of gothic characters (datasheet no. 116) or inspired by the Art Nouveau style (artistic movement which embraced the years from the late 19th to the early 20th century), (datasheet nos. 71 and 73), but always dictated by the creative talents of the soldiers, their commanders or those who asked for their creation.

Those attributable to the Military Engineers, the Artillery or the Alpini Corps, often bear the symbol of the Corps in question (e.g. datasheet nos. 453 and 840). Particularly significant are the epigraphs of the Machine-gunner Companies which stylise, often very realistically, the weapons used by the Company, acquiring an added value as a military history document (datasheet no. 294).

The same cannot be said for the Austro-Hungarians who didn't have symbols to distinguish the individual divisions. In their case, "hat badges" were much more frequently used and the soldier's eclectic style or sense of belonging was focused much more in this direction.

The Austro-Hungarian epigraphs were much plainer and more linear, taking on a more austere aspect. However, this does not mean that they are less interesting in historical terms and less capable of creating an emotional involvement (datasheet nos. 656 and 657).

From the point of view of proportions, in most of the epigraphs, both Italian and Austro-Hungarian, the geometric space occupied by the armorial bearings is much bigger than the rest of the sentence, almost as though the intention is to draw attention to the Group. In others however, the proportions are inverted in favour of the words (datasheet nos. 225 and 436).

A special mention must go to the epigraph (datasheet no. 872) of the military labourers serving under the Military Engineers, which features a very interesting stylisation of tools (pick, shovel, hammer, chisel and compass) in terms of the strength of the image represented. It tells a story of hard work, fatigue and technical skill, of which they were obviously proud, so much so that they left it sculpted into the rock, in a symmetrical composition, striving to achieve a formal balance, seeing this as a sort of challenge with the fighting divisions, emblazoned with a representative armorial bearing that they lacked, despite the fact that their work was of equal importance.

The image has to compete in terms of beauty with the others.

A separate mention is reserved for the epigraphs in which the decorative element consists of an oak branch (datasheet no. 739 leaves and an acorn), together with a sprig of laurel (datasheet no. 797), a combination which is found in heraldic elements. Oak and laurel are plants to which man has attributed a high symbolic value since ancient times.

During the renaissance, they were portrayed in pictures, sculptures and frescoes, representing strength, resistance, loyalty and heroic virtues.

Now we don't know whether the creator of the epigraph intended to allegorically portray the high symbolic values described or simply to present formal elegance. However, in both cases, it is impossible to miss the presence of an action performed and a fine artistic mentality which has brought us all "the earthly and spiritual identity" of the men who lived and military epigraphy, there are also stylised portrayals of other flowers that, often due to lack of detail, aren't easy to identify. On datasheet no. 485, it is, for example, possible to catch a glimpse of a lily, while on no. 619 there seems to be a daisy. On no. 838, there is an olive branch with a small flower.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF EPIGRAPHS

(dott.sa Sara Bonato)

The photographic material in this book offers an opportunity for some brief reflections on the reasons that encourage man to write, taking into particular consideration the psychological and emotional aspects.

In relation to the history of mankind, writing is a fairly recent development, dating back to around 3500 BC, and the fact that the distinction between prehistory and history is connected to the use of writing proves its impotence for man and for his culture. It is possible to define writing as "the graphic representation of language using letters and signs" which, regardless of its communicative power, presents psychological aspects. Therefore, as well as being a voluntary action that starts from the brain, it is also an expression of an emotional condition.

Those who write transfer to the action a series of thoughts and sensations that make writing strongly communicative but also exclusive to the individual.

From a psychological viewpoint, we could say that writing gives man the illusion of being able to leave a mark and make sure that his thoughts outlive him. Writing something can change our mood, help us reorganise our thoughts and even change our inner condition.

In this sense, writing seems to be a complex neurological, psychological and physical act which express and particular and distinctive phenomenon distinctive of every single individual, because everyone elaborates their own way of writing which is unique. Consequently the marks we leave represent us, they are part of us, of our identity and our history because only we have been able to create that gesture, in that way and at that time, making it unique and freezing it in time.

Looking at those names engraved into the rock, we cannot remain indifferent and are encouraged to ask ourselves what it is that encourages man to leave a mark of his existence.

Let's consider prehistoric figurative art: it can be defined as an expression of the relationship between mankind and the world. So, in a highly emotional context like that of the front, where there is an evident sense of uncertainty, solitude and fear, leaving a trace of one's presence becomes a liberating gesture in which to concentrate the painful mechanisms that accompany that particular moment of life.

Writing intensifies the sense of SELF because it nourishes the mental space where ideas, pictures and concept are formed, simplifying the relationship with the outside world.

The fact that they are engraved into rocks guarantees their duration in time, as though they were addressed to “another imagery”, conveying them a sense of hope that enables the soldier-man to survive that situation and imagine himself as simply a man having returned to the life he lived before the war.

In that extremely stressful situation so detached “from normal existence” in which the soldier feels like he’s alone in the middle of all his companions, being able to voice his inner world in the form of a sign or a signature, helps restore a sense of value, blocking the feeling of uncertainty that pervades everything.

The simplest gesture remains that of the signature, one of main expressions of the identity of an individual, being able to replace his presence.

According to leading graphologist Max Pulver, it is also the mark of a person, which can be briefly defined as his biography being the expression of the individual’s quality of life.

All the vestiges found could make us think of the need to leave an unmistakable trace of the presence of the soldier-man and his existence in relation to the moment and the world around him. In this way he abandons, just for a moment, those painful mechanisms that marked time, regaining the value of being a person, with an identity, as opposed to being just a number, a body that passed through that place, to become an individual once again, rich in his complexity.

I like to think that the hope of surviving the moment, embodied in the action of engraving a name on a rock, was in some way satisfied by the search carried out by the author. Those signs that were inexorably destined to be cancelled by time, which would take away the fatigue and the experiences endured by those men, have been meticulously recovered and restored forever.



Graffiti at Villa Roberti di Rosà (VI)



Memorial stone about a french Sappers Company of 339° Reggiment Infantry. The Military Epigraphs, besides being an important source of historical information, are interesting also for their artistic value. The epigraphs pictured here are the last discovered on "Massiccio del Grappa" (October 2010) which are in the stage of cataloguing.



Memorial stone about a mountain artillery battery

Ch. 3

CATALOGUED HERITAGE IN BRENTA, GRAPPA AND PIAVE
THEMATIC CARTOGRAPHY: MILITARY EPIGRAPHS
DATA GATHERING
DATA ORGANISATION
CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM ADOPTED
ANALYSIS OF DATA GATHERED



THE HERITAGE CATALOGUED BETWEEN BRENTA, GRAPPA AND PIAVE

Eight years on from that 2002, when the research began, we can trace the first results of the data collected.

As already mentioned, this data cannot be considered as complete, but only a first step on the road to making everyone aware of what has been found. Numerous sectors of the territory under investigation deserve more attention, also on the basis of documents which have emerged from the various archives, but also because they still haven't been sufficiently explored. It is therefore utopistic to think of when the research can be considered complete, as it isn't possible to establish how much has still to be catalogued.

The examination of the historical sources has not clearly brought any documentation that speaks specifically of these vestiges to light, so it is unthinkable that we will find any documentation which identifies them.

The only possible road to finding others continues to be meticulous field research, supported by adequate planning carried out with the study and comparison of historical documents pertinent to the period.

At the moment, the aim of this work, as already mentioned, besides learning about the historical heritage hidden between the Brenta and the Piave, is to defend it.

A series of instruments has been used to simplify the collection of data in the field and its subsequent processing and inclusion in a thematic cartography.

On the basis of this motivation, the personal IT archive created is structured in such a way as to be user-friendly and easy to update with new finds, thefts or destruction of the elements catalogued.

Therefore, this publication represents a summary of the archive formed.



...Pause during measurements

THEMATIC CARTOGRAPHY

The need to precisely localise the epigraphs found in an area is of fundamental importance.

This is why satellite positioning systems are used (GPS: Global Position System), giving very good results to adequately reconstruct the positioning and distribution of the findings throughout the area.

In relation to the systems of coordinates, the decision was made to use the following geodetic parameters:

Coordinate system projection: Monte_Mario_Italy_1

Projection: Transverse_Mercator
 False_Easting: 1500000.00000000
 False_Northing: 0.00000000
 Central_Meridian: 9.00000000
 Scale_Factor: 0.99960000
 Latitude_Of_Origin: 0.00000000
 Linear Unit: Metre

Geographic coordinate system: GCS_Monte_Mario

Datum: D_Monte_Mario
Prime Meridian: Greenwich
Angular Unit: Degree

For the development of the work and the management of the data collected, the use of specific programs (open source software used: gvSIG 1.9 and gvSIG mobile pilot 0.2) that belong to the family of software known as GIS (Geographic Information System) has been fundamental.

They allow the association of data that identifies a geographic point on the territory (in the discovery of a plaque for instance, associating the dimensions, year of cataloguing, construction material, altitude, mountain community of reference, municipality, province, etc.).

It is therefore easy to understand how GPS/GIS is the best possible system for collecting and managing data.

Thanks to these programs it is possible to consult the existing data to find immediate answers in terms of numbers: for instance, how many epigraphs were catalogues in 2008, and how many of these are Italian, or which was the province that suffered most thefts during the year in question, and so on.

They are instruments that offer precise answers and equally precise questions.

If the questions are asked to offer solutions to problems regarding the defence of the epigraphic heritage, the potential of the system is even easier to understand.

The collection of data is carried out in two phases: searches or evidence on files, ground researches.

During ground researches, a GPS antenna connected to a handheld computer is used, a system similar to that of the car navigator. Appropriate programs (software for GIS) have made it possible to add and subsequently register new information. This information regards both the route to take during the research (e.g.: route suggested after choosing the destination), and the points that are important to it

(e.g.: military datum points, encampments, water tanks), but also data acquired from on-site observation.

Obviously, exploiting this phase on the ground, an active role has been taken in the orientation, comparing and relating the instrumental person with the morphology of the terrain.

In other cases even the barometric altimeter has been taken into consideration, comparing it to improve the uncertainties of satellite reception.

The handheld computer equipped in this way has made it possible to display very precise topographical maps, such as IGM on a scale of 1:25000 or CTR 1:10000 or 5000.

So, having reached a point of interest (e.g. frieze, tunnel), this is recorded in the digital archive, obviously together with the coordinates and any other information available or subsequently attributable.

During this phase it was also possible to display the previously uploaded and geo-referenced military cartography of the time, taken from the museums of Trento, Rovereto, Rome, Vienna and Budapest, on the handheld computer.

An original military map has been practically placed over a current map, thus making it possible to identify the works created at the time and display them on the territory. In this way, many important works which would otherwise have been impossible to register have been rediscovered.



Italian emplacement at Croce dei Lebi

ORGANISATION OF DATA

Subsequently the data collected during the on-site inspections was transferred from the handheld computer to a more powerful computer, to be filed on simple monographic datasheets divided by epigraphic finding, containing coordinates, descriptions, photos and everything else possible.

GIS software was preferred because this kind of program is designed specifically to operate with data collected on site (as mentioned earlier) to manage it dynamically (actively) and geographically.

Dynamic: to make use of the possibility to add new data or update existing data and relate different data items, launching other specific researches, from the most targeted to the most banal.

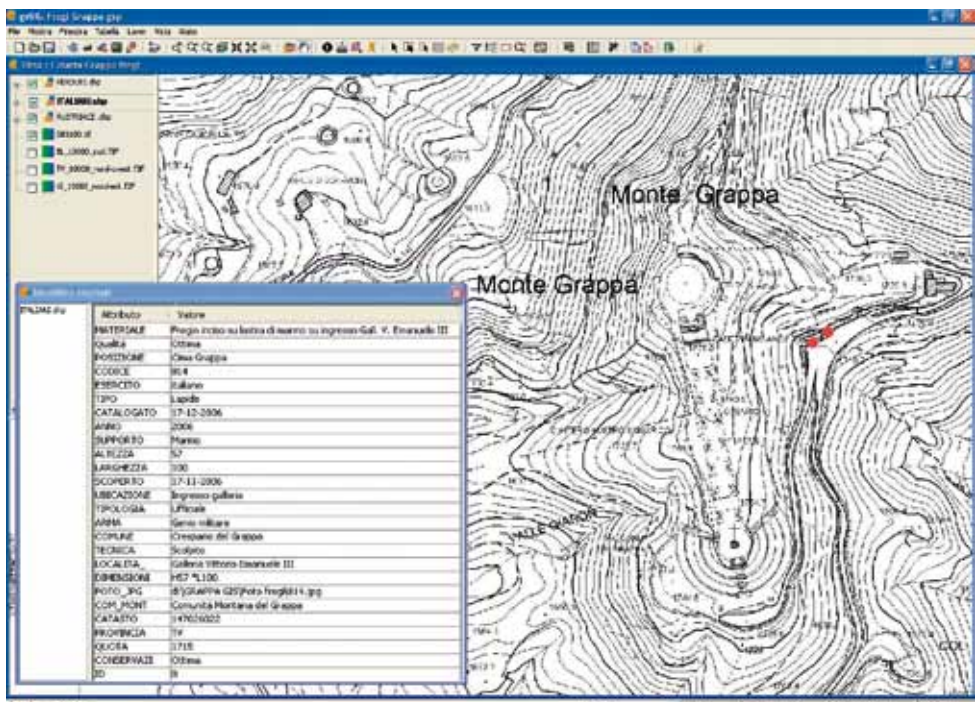
Basic geographic: for the possibility to attribute all the information collected (descriptions, photos, archives) to a specific point of the territory using its coordinates.

This system, known as “geodatabase”, gathers all the news attributed as the basic element of every epigraphic find, recorded by localisation coordinates and by an individual code comparable to the tax code of every person.

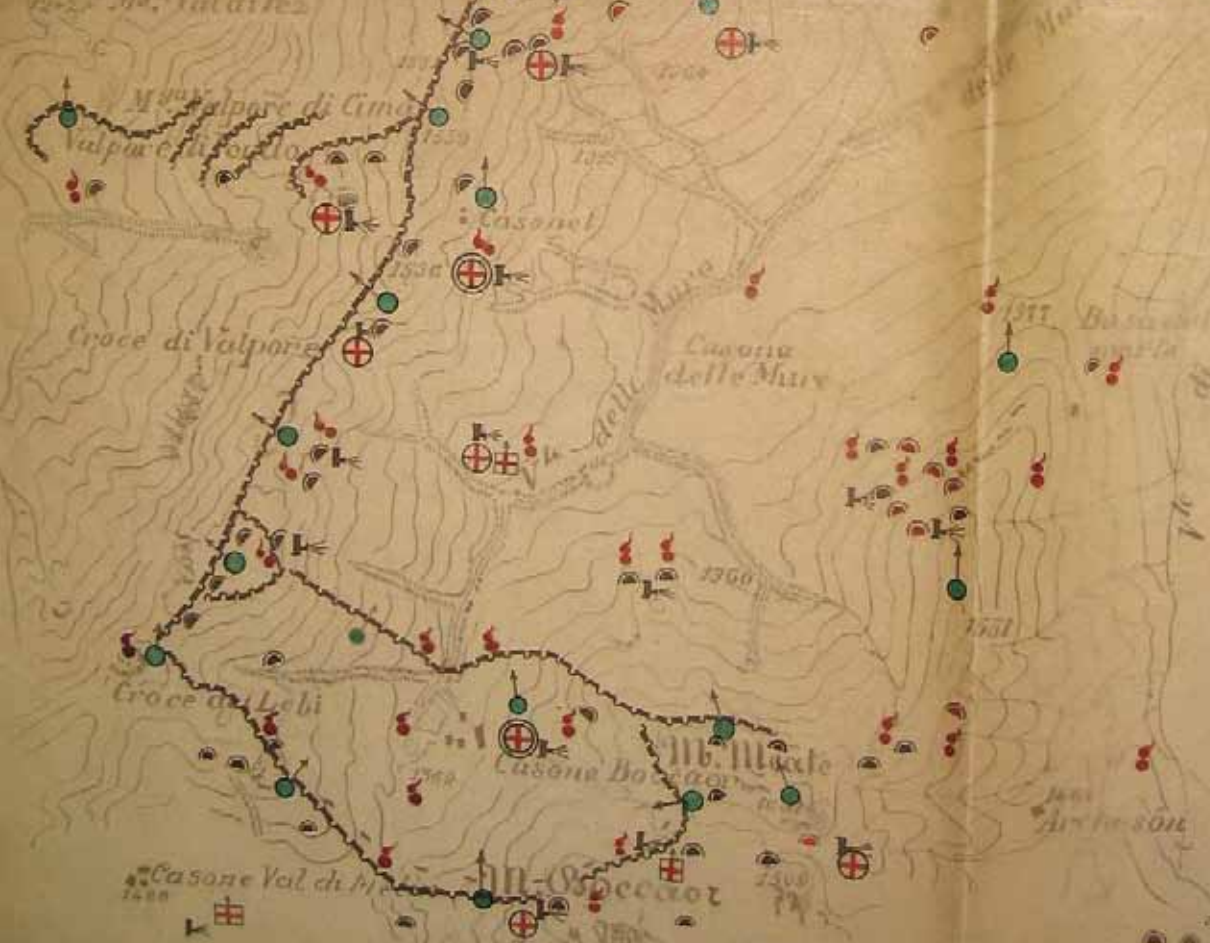
All this is developed to form the system memory.... or the basis.

So a list was created, to which other, secondary tables containing further information collected or added, often linked to different factors, like a photo, an anecdote or something similar, were associated as it grew. The lynchpin of this system is the individual code of every find.

In this way, as new finds gradually emerge, they can be analytically added to the list, subsequently incorporating further information which can come from a whole range of sources.



Cartography of reference for datasheet no. 117 with relative data



Italian military map of the anti-gas defence on the sector of the Solaroli-Val delle Mure (SME Rome)

This system, explained but, most importantly **DIVULGED** and **COMMONLY USED**, would allow important triangulations among many of the studies underway, of any kind, not just in relation to epigraphs, but also aimed at the presences of finds, their movements or whatever else might be of interest. When faced with such a huge amount of work, one realises just how much commitment has been required, involving considerable economic resources and time on one hand and offering immense satisfaction on the other, allowing the collection of a number of written and cartographic documents such as to allow the thorough study of the various military aspects directly on the territory.

Shedding light, for example, on the network of aqueducts built, on the cableways, on the dislocations of the artilleries, on the defence plans and on those actions with relative objectives, has enabled sometimes unthinkable results and aspects both due to the size of the discoveries and their value.

Relationships have been interwoven between the signs of war present on the territory, reading them on the maps of the time; a far from easy job but which, in the long run, has given fantastic results. History has been create and relived... almost live.

There were no lack of surprises, condensed into a series of epigraphic discoveries, in relation to which (partly thanks to historical documents) we can now trace some considerations, details of which are found on the annexed datasheets.

Rare, but of fundamental importance to the present, were the attentive readings of photos of the time (see also page 74, 99), which show, either directly or indirectly, military epigraphs on trenches or other constructions. These represent the most important of all, because they bear certain witness to the presence of memorial stones, inscriptions or graffiti, exactly the things we're searching for today.

Obviously a considerable amount of time was dedicated to viewing photographic archives during the research carried out for this study. Despite our attention and patience, very few photos are actually helpful in this sense, portraying some of the areas studied, and when this happens, it doesn't mean that research in the field will result in finding exactly the spot where the element or the find of interest was located. And even when the result is positive, the item we're interested in isn't always still there.

The example shown, which is one of very few to be honest – and which we consider to be a real “treasure” – is a photo which came to us directly from the Kriegsmuseum of Vienna: it is a water tank on the back of the Col Caprile, taken in 1918, which portrays a company drinking.

Austro-Hungarian epigraph on a water tank





The same place today: the tank has gone

See the close-up of the wording: RESERVOIR NO. VIII.

The construction must have been of outstanding importance, as it was guarded by an armed guard (right).

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM USED

The classification system used divides the finds as follows:

- Italian
- Austro-Hungarian
- French
- Unidentified

All these, excluding the “Unidentified” category, have been divided into:

- Official
- Unofficial

As regards the “Unidentified” category, it is necessary to highlight that, while we can obtain little from the point of view of the historical data that might be available, it is vital to catalogue it, because it provides information which, when used together with that from the other categories (Italian and Austrian) makes it possible to understand the potential volume of epigraphs on the territory discovered up to date, and also bears witness to another reference point.

Currently there are just a few dozen of them (unfortunately) and they highlight how the heritage is constantly diminishing, taking with it the loss of historical information linked to the event on the territory.

Besides the data collected in relation to the type, army and fact that they are considered official or otherwise, every epigraph found has been flanked by other data and, together, they create a sort of “epigraphic identity card”. They are:

- Location of discovery
- Geographic coordinates (Monte Mario Italy¹ and GCS Monte Mario)
- Altitude
- Municipality
- Province
- Mountain Community
- Cataloguing data
- Dimensions (height and width)
- Construction material
- Conditions
- Army
- Division
- Photography
- Notes (where appropriate)

ANALYSIS OF DATA COLLECTED

To date 254 military epigraphs have been catalogued, broken down as follows:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------|------------|
| • Italian | no. 189 | (74.40 %) |
| • Austro-Hungarian | no. 33 | (13.00%) |
| • unidentified | no. 31 | (12.20 %) |
| • French | no. 1 | (0.40 %) |

Among the results that could be displayed, we would like to briefly illustrate just some which offer an overview of the main features of the heritage, such as the breakdown by province for example, and then the belonging to the various armies.

Province of Treviso: no. 98

epigraphs registered, accounting for 38,58 % of the data catalogued

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------|---------------------|-------|
| • Italian | no. 79 | • Austro-Hungarian. | no. 4 |
| • unidentified | no. 14 | • French | no. 1 |

Province of Vicenza: no. 91

epigraphs registered, accounting for 35,82 % of the data catalogued

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|-------|
| • Italian | no. 74 | • Austro-Hungarian | no. 7 |
| • unidentified | no. 10 | • French | no. 0 |

Province of Belluno: no. 65

epigraphs registered, accounting for 25,60 % of the data catalogued

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| • Italian | no. 36 | • Austro-Hungarian | no. 22 |
| • unidentified | no. 7 | • French | no. 0 |

From the data mentioned for the study in progress, it is obvious that the province of Treviso is that with the highest number of military epigraphs catalogued, but I believe that this figure is linked to the higher number of outings in this area.

More specifically, Vicenza has a high number of epigraphs, while of lesser size but greater interest is the heritage of Belluno, inasmuch as it home to the majority of the epigraphs of the Austro-Hungarians, who spent a short period of time here. With the first defence on the Grappa and on the Piave after the retreat of Caporetto, (November - December 1917) the Italians began reorganising themselves (thanks partly to aid from their allies) launching an extensive campaign of propaganda on the troop, which led to the rebirth of a fighting spirit and pride in a national rescue. This will obviously have helped to increase and, in part, justify the more proliferous production of epigraphs. On the opposite side, the Austrians, blocked after the powerful advance on the new lines, found themselves fighting in a completely different from that where they started, without adequate logistic structures, which was a bit like beginning the war all over again...and the same goes for their epigraphs. In addition to this, there were numerous problems within the Hapsburg army, all linked mainly to supplies, partly attributable to reduced wartime production and also to the growing internal political crisis in the multi-ethnic empire. The consequence was a direct repercussion on supplies to the front, but also on the morale of the troops who, despite everything, still had a good offensive capacity.

So, at the same time, there were two opposing reason for the production of epigraphs: for the Italian army, it was the situation that stimulated their production, while the Austro-Hungarian armies, and the individual soldiers, were bothered by other problems and thoughts, although the effort that went into creating the military works was outstanding. As regards the breakdown between the various corps, we have added the Italian and Austrian categories together where possible (e.g.: infantry, artillery, engineers and unidentified Italians) with the corresponding elements of the Austro-Hungarian army. This calculation includes some "unidentified" epigraphs, which were (fortunately) photographed before disappearing and from which it is possible to trace the categories indicated below. The "unidentified" epigraphs are those for which it is impossible to attribute the exact belonging to a specific military unit.

This category often includes the signatures or soldiers, drawings and dates.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| • unknown | no. 85 | • military engineers | no. 46 |
| • infantry | no. 43 | • artillery | no. 38 |
| • bersaglieri | no. 6 | • medical | no. 6 |
| • alpine troops | no. 7 | | |

Ch. 4

*EPIGRAPHIC ATLAS
ZONES SURVEYED
CATALOGUED MILITARY EPIGRAPHS (at July 2010)
MAPS*



EPIGRAPHIC ATLAS

The area investigated is extremely vast and, from an historical point of view, comprises a small part of **Veneto**, the region in the north-eastern border area of Italy.



The researches were initially addressed only on the Massiccio del Grappa, between the Vicentino–Trevigiana foothills located between the town of Bassano del Grappa and Fener, to the south, and Conca Feltrina to the north. Subsequently, thanks to the evolution of the research method, they were also extended to the Canal di Brenta, on the eastern edge of the Altopiano di Asiago and Valle del Piave. Today the study covers about 800 km² of the Veneto foothill and mountain territory, in a sector with nothing, or almost, has been done at institutional level to catalogue them. The only information present remains fragmentary and based upon sporadic reports, mostly in tourist publications, which present the element as an “historical sign of military interest”, while the only work which has been useful in the research and planning was a campaign for the registration of military elements on the Massiccio del Grappa promoted by the Veneto Region on the basis of Regional Law 43/1997.

The study touches five Mountain Communities: **Spettabile Reggenza Sette Comuni, Brenta, Grappa, Feltrina** and **Prealpi Trevigiane**, and the relative **provinces of Treviso, Vicenza and Belluno**.

The cartographic registration of the regional work and its online consultation, together with historical documents kept in various military and civil archives has made it possible to structure and coordinate the annual research campaigns undertaken. In short, I have gathered the information available, implementing it and relating the various data items to one another to achieve the present summary, illustrated with in-depth results on the territory.

The terrain was awkward, making research hard, if we exclude certain areas of

Conca Feltrina and the Grappa foothills, requiring typically mountaineering and speleological techniques to complete the operations, due to the difficult access to certain areas where wartime actions took place, which obviously made it impossible to complete the in-depth study of some and completely excluded others. The numerous outings that were necessary in the area investigated have often highlighted that the firing line was hard to monitor, creating strong similarities to the situation in the Dolomites, where things were handled at varying altitudes.

Together with volunteers, experts on the territory, -who gave me an enormous amount of help without which it would not have been possible to carry out the research in the way I did- impervious, hazardous paths were travelled, many of which now forgotten but, at the time of the events, the main routes used to send supplies to the front lines.

We walked on tracks which were exactly the same as they were way back then, discovering tunnels, gaps, water deposits, the remains of cableways, huts, encampments, epigraphs and constructions on the verge of oblivion, accentuated by the present-day abandon of the territory. Every new discovery renewed the enthusiasm to keep on working, specialising the general understanding not only of the wartime events that took place in these places, but also the human vicissitudes that generated them, of which evident traces remain... And it is these traces that are the subject matter of the present research.

AREAS INVESTIGATED

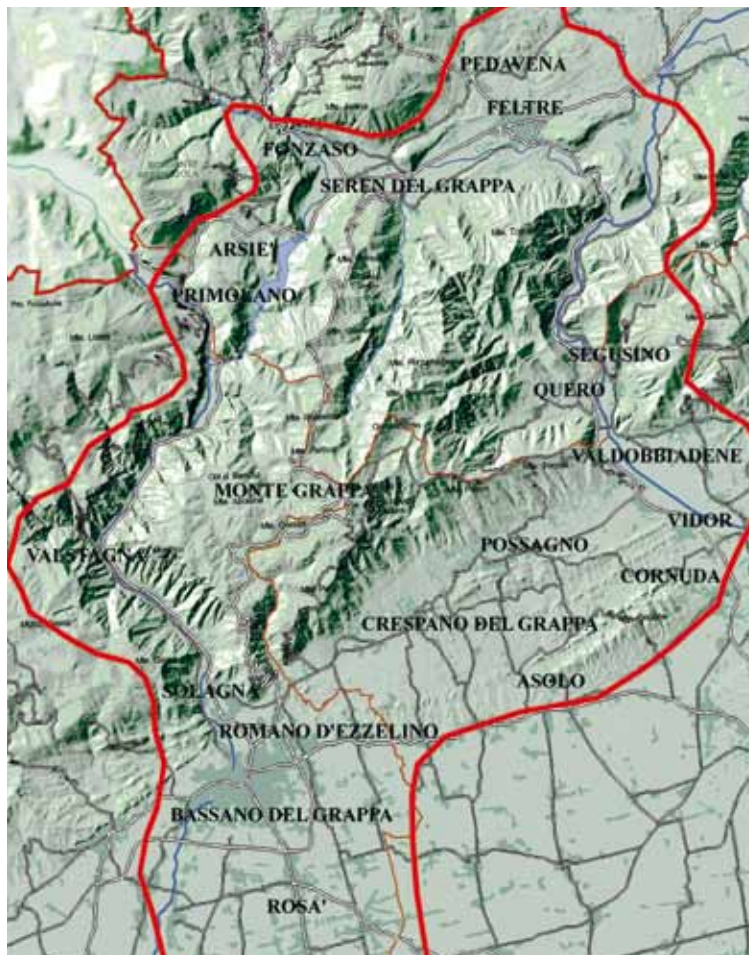
The entire research territory has been broken down into five micro-areas:

- Canal del Brenta microarea
- Massiccio del Grappa microarea
- Pedemontana del Grappa microarea
- Conca Feltrina microarea
- Valle del Piave microarea

“Canal del Brenta” and “Valle del Piave” identify the valley of the River Brenta from Primolano to Pove del Grappa and that of the Piave from Feltre to Vidor.

As regards the Feltrino reference is made to the homonymous basin, while the central study area corresponds to the Massiccio del Grappa.

Lastly, the Pedemontana touches the partly hilly territory and part plain between Bassano del Grappa and Cornuda.



*Macroarea
of the territory studied*

CARTOGRAPHIC TABLES

Distribution of military epigraphs on the territory studied

The 5 tables displayed contain some of the data processed, which enables a quicker reading of that catalogued.

● ITALIAN ● AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ● UNIDENTIFIED ● FRENCH

Microarea of CANAL DEL BRENTA

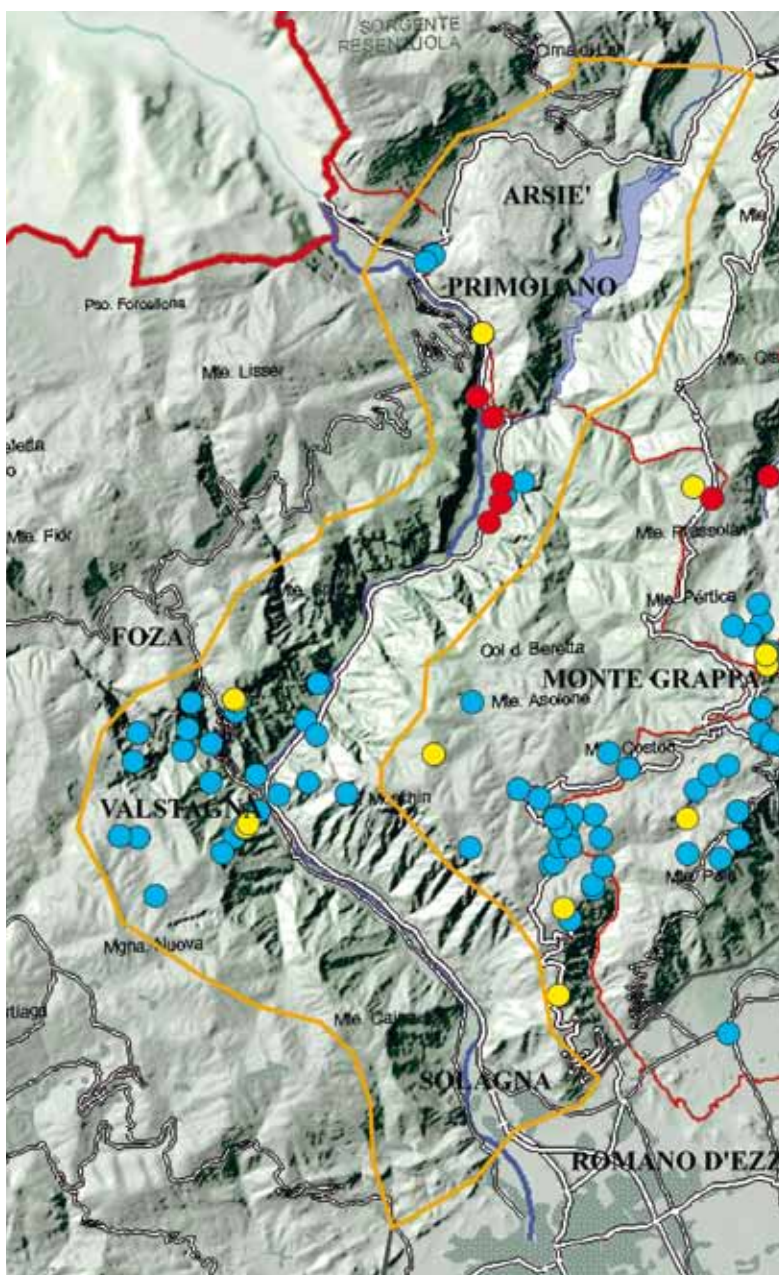
Microarea of MASSICCIO DEL GRAPPA

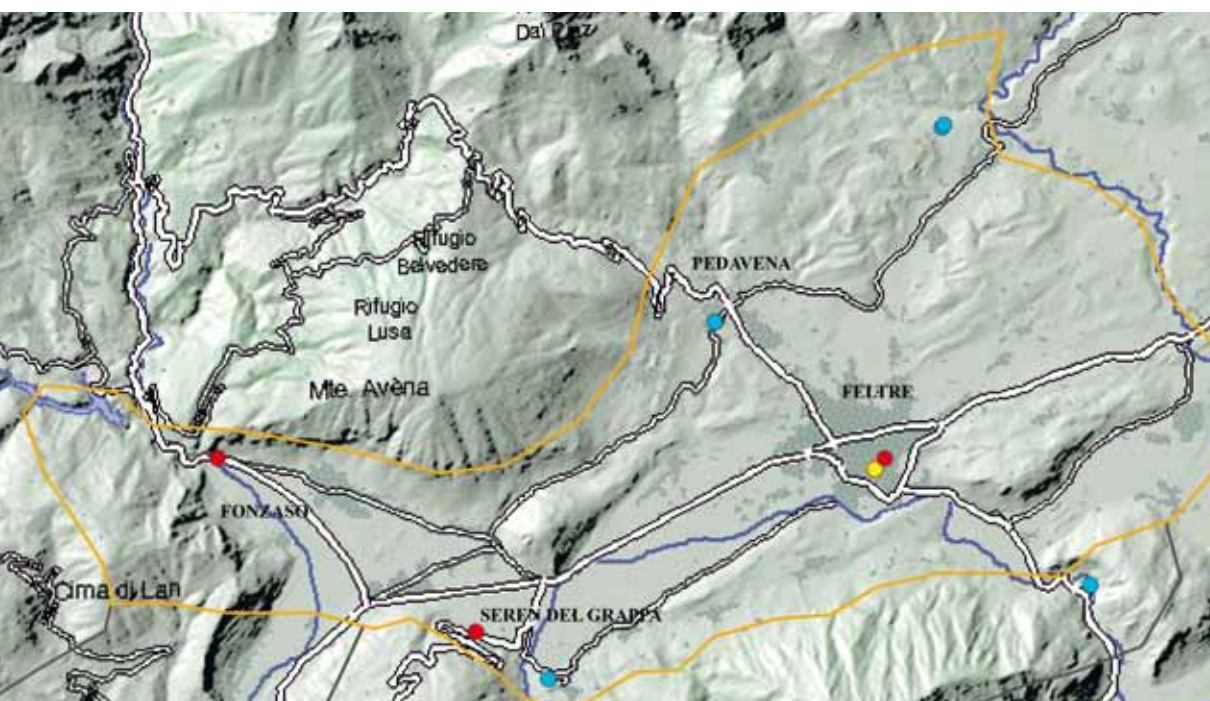
Microarea of PEDEMONTANA DEL GRAPPA

Microarea of CONCA FELTRINA

Microarea of VALLE DEL PIAVE

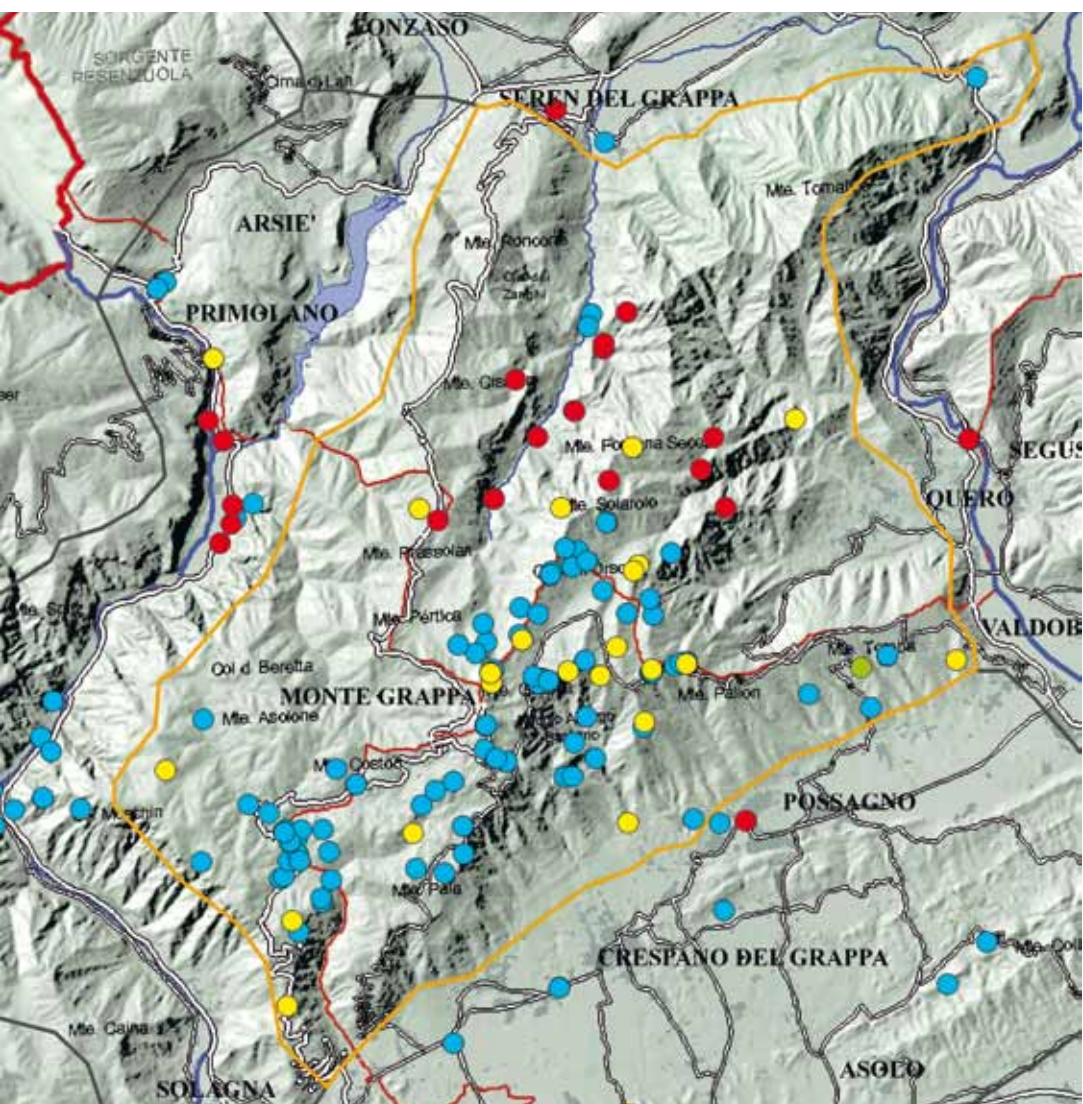
Microarea of Canal del Brenta

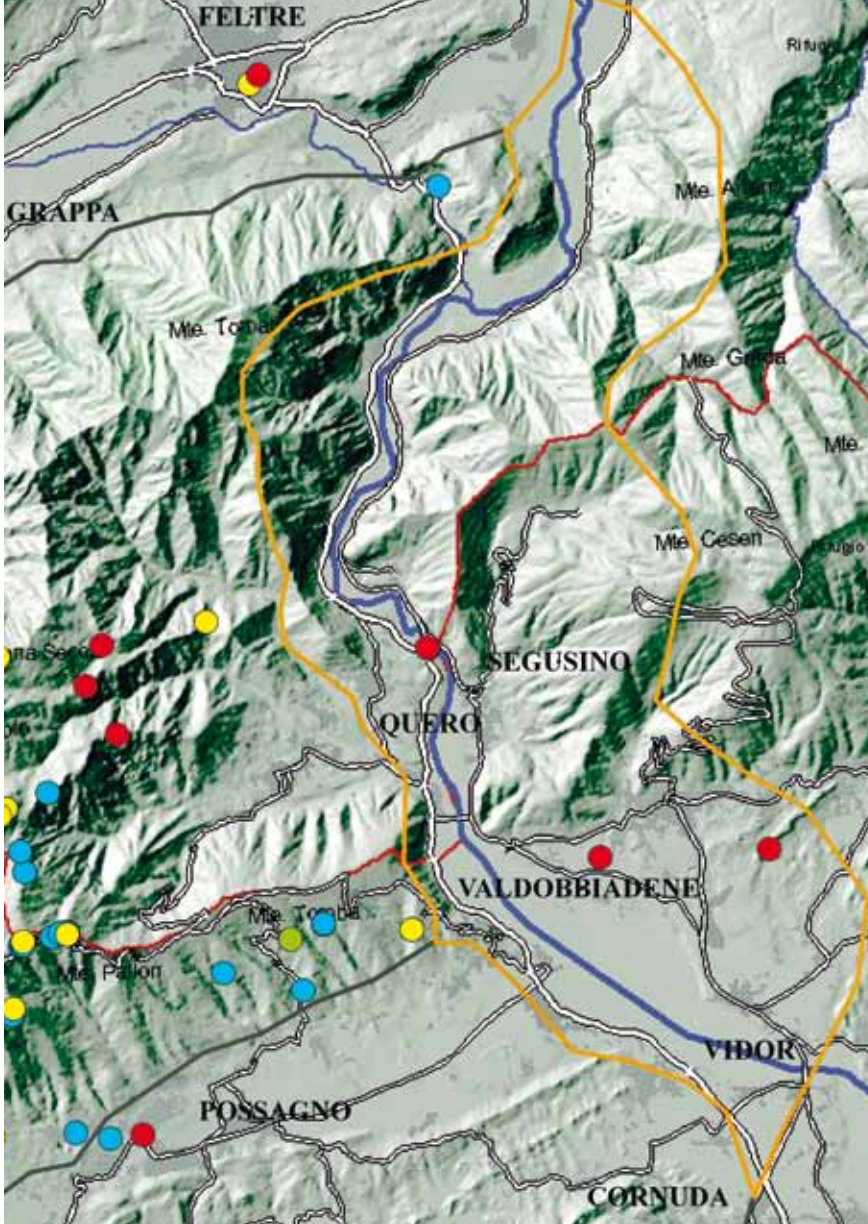




Microarea of Conca Feltrina

Microarea of Massiccio del Grappa





Microarea of Valle del Piave

MILITARY EPIGRAPHS CATALOGUED

(no. 254 at July 2010)

ITALIAN (ITA): no. 189

Vicenza: no. 74

Treviso: no. 79

Belluno: no. 36

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN (AU): no. 33

Vicenza: no. 7

Treviso: no. 4

Belluno: no. 22

UNIDENTIFIED (UN): no. 31

Vicenza: no. 10

Treviso: no. 14

Belluno: no. 7

FRENCH (FR): no. 1

Vicenza: no. 0

Treviso: no. 1

Belluno: no. 0

Mountain Community Brenta no. 62

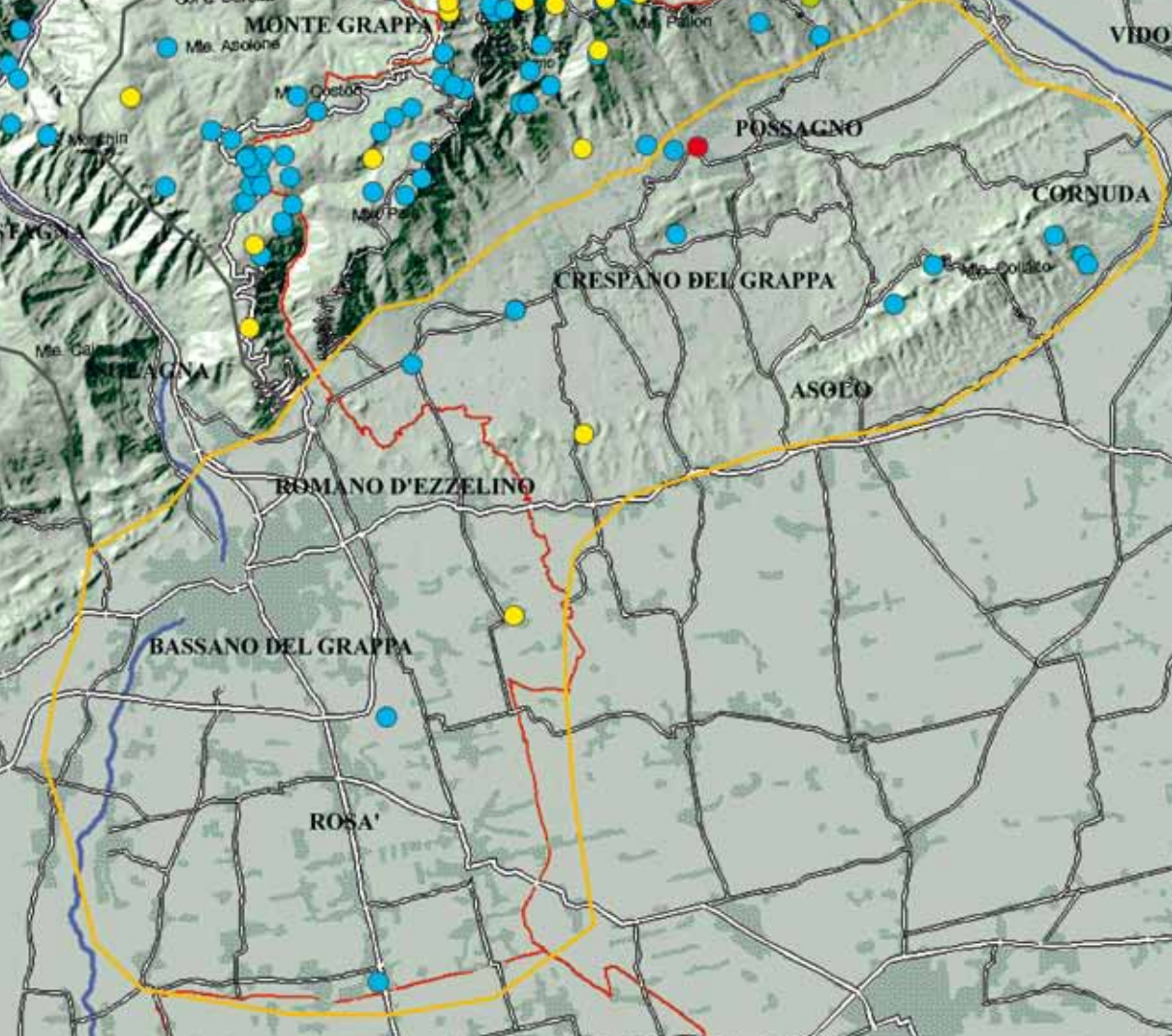
Mountain Community Feltrina no. 64

Mountain Community Grappa no. 92

Settabile Reggenza Sette Comuni no. 14

Mountain Community Prealpi Trevigiane no. 1

Outside the Mountain Communities no. 21



Microarea of Pedemontana del Grappa

PROVINCE OF BELLUNO TOTAL 65:

SEREN DEL GRAPPA:	Ita: 16	Au: 14	Un: 2	Fre: 0	Tot: 32
ALANO DI PIAVE:	Ita: 15	Au: 3	Un: 4	Fre: 0	Tot: 22
FELTRE:	Ita: 3	Au: 1	Un: 1	Fre: 0	Tot: 5
QUERO:	Ita: 0	Au: 2	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 2
FONZASO:	Ita: 0	Au: 2	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 2
PEDAVERA:	Ita: 1	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 1
ARSIE':	Ita: 1	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 1

PROVINCE OF TREVISO TOTAL 98:

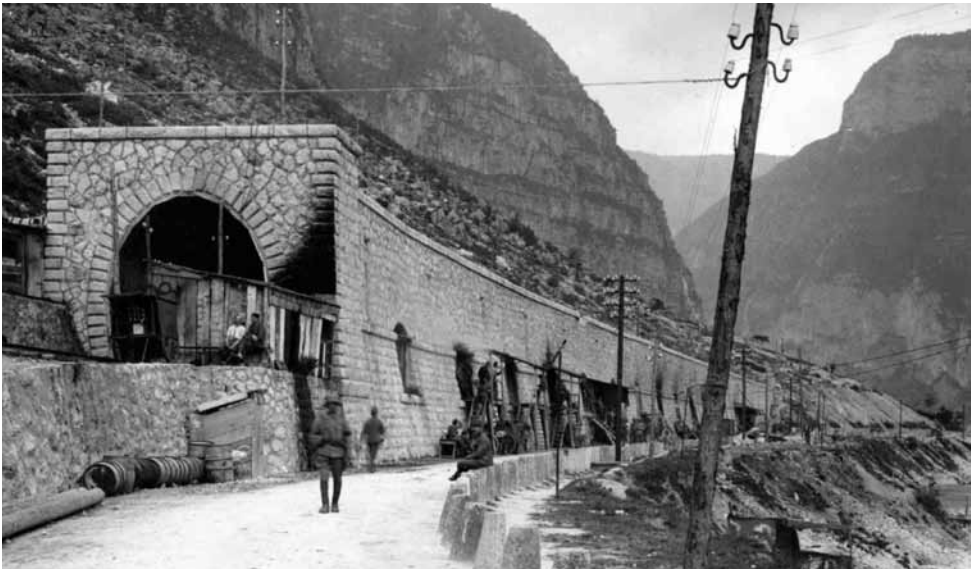
PADERNO DEL GRAPPA:	Ita: 20	Au: 0	Un: 7	Fre: 0	Tot: 27
BORSO DEL GRAPPA:	Ita: 26	Au: 0	Un: 1	Fre: 0	Tot: 27
POSSAGNO:	Ita: 9	Au: 2	Un: 4	Fre: 0	Tot: 15
CRESPANO DEL GRAPPA:	Ita: 11	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 11
CAVASO DEL TOMBA	Ita: 4	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 1	Tot: 5
CORNUDA:	Ita: 4	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 4
MONFUMO:	Ita: 3	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 3
PEDEROBBA:	Ita: 1	Au: 0	Un: 1	Fre: 0	Tot: 2
VALDOBBIADENE:	Ita: 0	Au: 2	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 2
S. ZENONE D. EZZELINI:	Ita: 0	Au: 0	Un: 1	Fre: 0	Tot: 1
CASTELCUCCO:	Ita: 1	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 1

PROVINCE OF VICENZA TOTAL 91:

VALSTAGNA:	Ita: 17	Au: 0	Un: 2	Fre: 0	Tot: 19
POVE DEL GRAPPA:	Ita: 17	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 17
ROSA':	Ita: 14	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 14
CISMON DEL GRAPPA:	Ita: 5	Au: 6	Un: 2	Fre: 0	Tot: 13
FOZA:	Ita: 7	Au: 0	Un: 2	Fre: 0	Tot: 9
ROMANO D'EZZELINO:	Ita: 4	Au: 0	Un: 2	Fre: 0	Tot: 6
SAN NAZARIO:	Ita: 6	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fra: 0	Tot: 6
SOLAGNA:	Ita: 2	Au: 0	Un: 1	Fre: 0	Tot: 3
ASIAGO:	Ita: 1	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 1
ENEGO:	Ita: 0	Au: 1	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 1
MUSSOLENTI:	Ita: 0	Au: 0	Un: 1	Fre: 0	Tot: 1
TEZZE SUL BRENTA:	Ita: 1	Au: 0	Un: 0	Fre: 0	Tot: 1



Austro-Hungarian ovens for baking bread near Vannini 1918



Austro-Hungarian Valley Command on the railway tunnel of the Lupa 1918



Austro-Hungarian hospital at the Tombion fort, Brenta Canal 1918

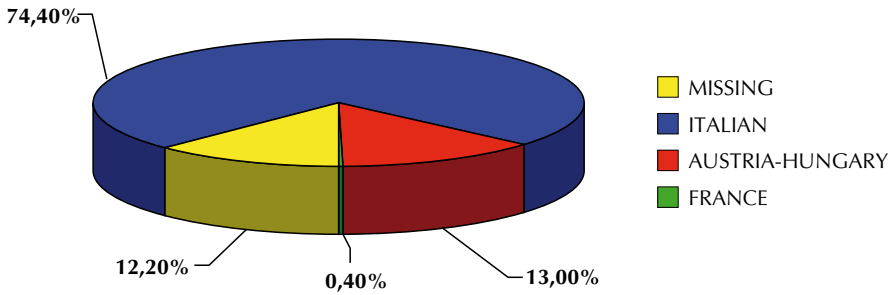
Ch. 5

*STATISTICAL GRAPHS
INDEX OF EPIGRAPHS
CONCLUSIONS
BIBLIOGRAPHY
THANKS TO EVERYONE
KEY TO ENTRIES*

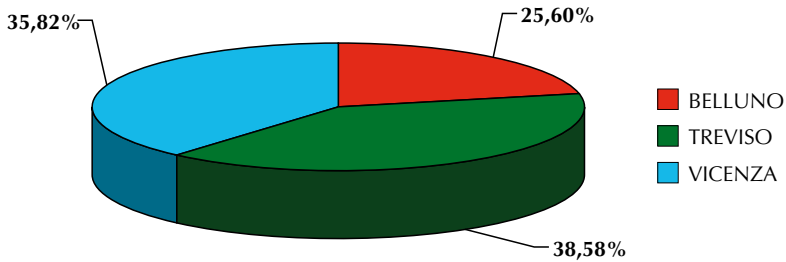


STATISTICAL GRAPHS

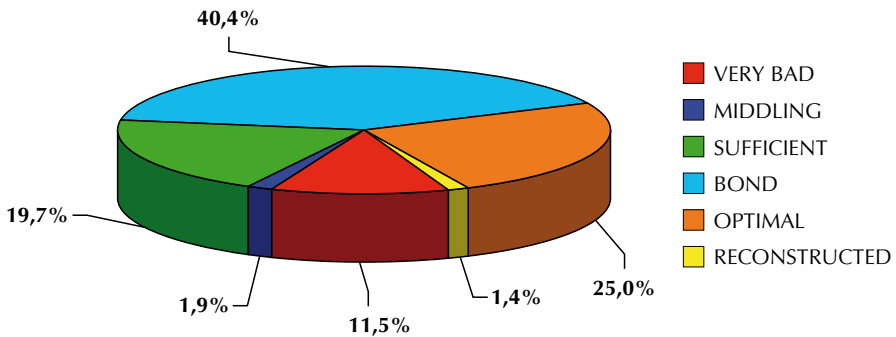
BREAKDOWN OF MILITARY EPIGRAPHS



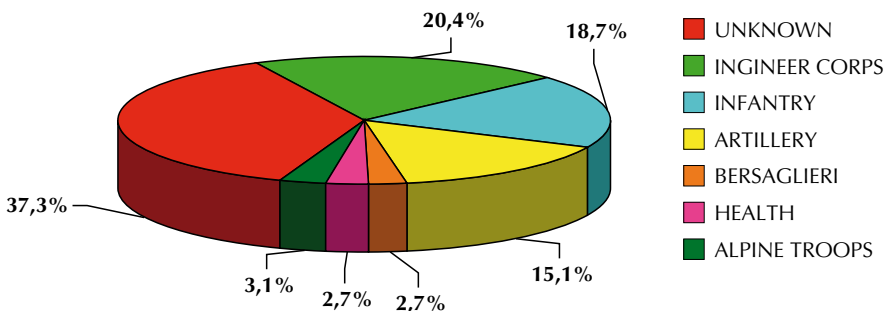
MILITARY EPIGRAPHS IN THE THREE PROVINCES



QUALITY OF THE MILITARY EPIGRAPHS



MILITARY EPIGRAPHS DIVIDED BY DIVISION



INDEX OF EPIGRAPHS

To simplify the consultation of the epigraphs catalogued, see this short index of the relative datasheets.

The list comprises only those that are legible and bear clear details.

Italian

Military engineers

1 st engineering regiment	datasheet no. 174
1 st engineering regiment 5 th sappers	datasheet no. 150
1 st engineering regiment 17 th sappers	datasheet no. 815
1 st engineering regiment 28 th sappers	datasheet no. 760
1 st engineering regiment 74 th sappers	datasheet no. 734
1 st engineering regiment 250 th sappers	datasheet no. 920
116 th engineering company	datasheet no. 348
118 th engineering company	datasheet no. 792
2 nd engineering regiment	datasheet no. 840
2 nd engineering regiment 120 th sappers	datasheets no. 795, 797
2 nd engineering regiment 160 th sappers	datasheets no. 730, 731
2 nd engineering regiment 186 th sappers	datasheet no. 206
2 nd engineering regiment 214 th sappers	datasheet no. 264
5 th engineering regiment miners	datasheet no. 521
5 th engineering regiment 7 th miners	datasheet no. 70
5 th engineering regiment 8 th miners	datasheet no. 108
5 th engineering regiment 19 th miners	datasheets no. 112, 122, 266
Gavotti Labouring Group	datasheets no. 192, 814
Military engineers 18 th area 11 th site	datasheets no. 429, 436, 444
192 nd company	datasheet no. 588
Labouring company	datasheet no. 872

Infantry

2 nd infantry regiment Re Brigade	datasheet no. 882
21 st infantry regiment Cremona Brigade	datasheet no. 753
23 th and 24 th infantry regiment Como Brigade	datasheet no. 343
33 rd infantry regiment Livorno Brigade	datasheet no. 555
34 th infantry regiment Livorno Brigade	datasheet no. 714
37 th inf. reg. Ravenna Brigade 3 rd batt. sappers	datasheet no. 424
42 nd infantry regiment Modena Brigade	datasheet no. 749
52 nd infantry regiment Alpi Brigade	datasheet no. 905
53 rd infantry regiment Umbria Brigade	datasheet no. 184
56 th infantry regiment Marche Brigade	datasheet no. 527
60 th infantry regiment Calabria Brigade	datasheets no. 746, 748
69 th infantry regiment Ancona Brigade	datasheet no. 806
74 th infantry regiment Lombardia Brigade	datasheet no. 937
119 th and 120 th infantry regiment Emilia Brigade	datasheet no. 312
139 th Bari Brigade infantry regiment	datasheet no. 746
143 rd infantry regiment Brigade Taranto	datasheets no. 516, 517
239 th infantry regiment Brigade Pesaro	datasheets no. 209, 211, 212
254 th infantry regiment Brigade Porto Maurizio	datasheet no. 783
259 th infantry regiment Brigade Murge	datasheet no. 781

Alpini Corps

251 st company Valcamonica battalion	datasheets no. 271, 279
10 th Alpini Corps	datasheet no. 879
Batt. Antelao	datasheet no. 923

Bersaglieri

3 rd Bersaglieri regiment	datasheet no. 593
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Artillery

II field artillery	datasheet no. 61
II heavy field group	datasheet no. 39
38 th Obici Heavy Field Group	datasheets no. 71 73
614 th heavy battery	datasheet no. 485
II group 33 rd artillery	datasheet no. 76
2 nd mountain battery command	datasheet no. 133
130 th siege battery	datasheet no. 453
450 th siege battery 19 th Group	datasheet no. 140
464 th siege battery	datasheet no. 837
848 th A siege battery	datasheet no. 927
936 th siege battery	datasheets no. 506, 710
305 th bombard battery	datasheet no. 225
32 nd bombardiers	datasheet no. 319
117 th bombard section	datasheet no. 116
81 st battery	datasheet no. 823
636 th battery	datasheet no. 785
23 rd artillery regiment	datasheet no. 520
Marocco Observatory	datasheet no. 870
24 th PC Group	datasheet no. 90
4 th Autocannoni Group calibre 102	datasheet no. 945
13 th Heavy Artillery Group	datasheet no. 945

Medical

Field hospital no. 011	datasheet no. 534
Field hospital no. 036	datasheet no. 723
Field hospital no. 324	datasheet no. 772

Machine-gunner Companies

176 th machine-gunner company	datasheet no. 768
217 th machine-gunner company	datasheet no. 905
591 st machine-gunner company	datasheet no. 354
663 rd machine-gunner company	datasheet no. 775
1118 th Bersaglieri machine-gunner company	datasheetsno. 258,817,399,406
1949 th Bersaglieri machine-gunner company	datasheet no. 732
1637 th Alpini machine-gunner company	datasheet no. 51
2038 th machine-gunner company	datasheet no. 718
2192 nd machine-gunner company	datasheets no. 535, 585

Armies - Commands - Various Services

IIV Army Road Office	datasheet no. 504
VI Army	datasheet no. 80
Milan Barracks	datasheet no. 807
Water office	datasheet no. 869

Austrian

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36 th drilling engineering company	datasheet no. 246
3 rd (?) sappers	datasheet no. 231
5 th Company of the 9 th sappers battalion	datasheet no. 20
1 st Magyar technical regiment	datasheets no. 548, 549

Infantry

3 rd infantry regiment	datasheet no. 819
9 th infantry regiment	datasheet no. 771
14 th infantry regiment	datasheet no. 568
43 rd infantry regiment	datasheet no. 308
1 st sappers of the 48 th infantry regiment	566 datasheets no. 159, 566

Artillery

5 th (?) heavy battery 305 mm	datasheet no. 243
3 rd mine launching battery of the 7 th regiment	datasheet no. 585

Various

Piazza Feltre Denomination	datasheet no. 55
“G.M. TREIB” Engineers Group	datasheet no. 237
1/11 electric company	datasheets no. 656, 657
3 rd Schutzen regiment	datasheets no. 305, 501, 508, 511

French

Alpine Infantrymen

46 th French division Chasseurs Alpains	datasheet no. 881
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CONCLUSIONS

HOW MUCH IS LEFT TO DISCOVER?

Wanting to trace a quick picture of what has been discovered so far, the epigraphic situation on the Massiccio del Grappa doesn't look too good. While some of the epigraphs are still fairly solid and the materials still in good condition, most of them are badly damaged, leading us to assume that those which aren't stolen could soon be lost altogether, unless precise defence and recovery programmes are implemented to save them.

On several occasions I have repeated that the publication of this research does not mark its end, but is just a part of it, condensing and illustrating how much is still present on the territory. I have stopped to divulge these results, in order to convey a multiple connotation to this commitment.

Firstly, I would like to remind you that these assets are brought to the knowledge

of everyone with the aim of creating awareness among those who frequent the areas, so that they can appreciate and respect these signs of war, but also to remind you that:

the data collected represents an exclusive job which had never been done before in these terms and which shows how many war epigraphs are still present on the territory investigated;

the discovery of this heritage conveys greater historical-cultural value to the locations;

this research (which considers a particular “sign of man”) flanks the initiatives under study for the defence and enhancement of value of the territory (e.g. Terre Alte);

this is the only document that bears witness to their presence on the territory, in the case that tangible initiatives to limit their loss fail to arrive soon;

the study flanks other initiatives present on the national and European territory, which propose the knowledge and defence of war epigraphs and, more in general, the recovery and enhancement of the historical-cultural heritage of the First World War;

the dissemination of the data can be a way to stimulate new researches on the territory investigated and to collect new reports of sites which have not yet been catalogued (e.g.: Montello, Quartiere del Piave, Vittorio Veneto, etc.).

This study must be linked to similar studies as soon as possible, creating a single Military Epigraph Register, given the just recognition and also involving Austria and Slovenia.

The initial question posed in the title is obviously provocative, almost a challenge (which is hope) to understand how much material can still be found on the field, because the only certainty is that some sectors of the territory are only beginning to be studied today, which allows us to hope in new discoveries.

We must however emphasise that it is unthinkable to hope that these initiatives will always weigh exclusively on volunteers.

Research must be planned to give its fruits, coordinated and supported by instruments and technology capable of helping researchers. Often however, access to this equipment is restricted due to the high costs involved. Besides this, the difficulty also lies in obtaining permits and authorisations to transit on forestry roads or gain access to documents kept in collections and archives.

Participation by the public authorities in the project is fundamental, insofar as they should undertake responsibility for the defence of the historical heritage, aided by this research which provides the inspirational foundations, also envisaging the enhancement of the value of their territory.

At national and regional legislative level, there are laws capable of defending the above, but it is often impossible to proceed due to a lack of adequate dedicated financial resources. This doesn't happen maybe at European level.

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Great War Photography Museum - Seren del Grappa (BL)

Museum of the battle of the "Tre Monti" in Sasso di Asiago (VI)

"Piccolo Museo Roberto Favero 1915-1918" at the Hotel San Giovanni (VI)

Museum of the Great War 1914/1918 Baita Monte Asolone (VI)

Civic museum of Cison del Grappa (VI)

Civic museum of Bassano del Grappa (VI)

Civic library of Crespano del Grappa (TV)

Museum of the Battle of Vittorio Veneto (TV)

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The photographic representations of the Austro-Hungarian armorial bearings on the datasheets come from a private collection.

The thematic cartographies reproduced here are taken from the DVD "Sistema Informativo del Territorio Rurale Regionale" by Unione Veneta Bonifiche - Veneto Region.

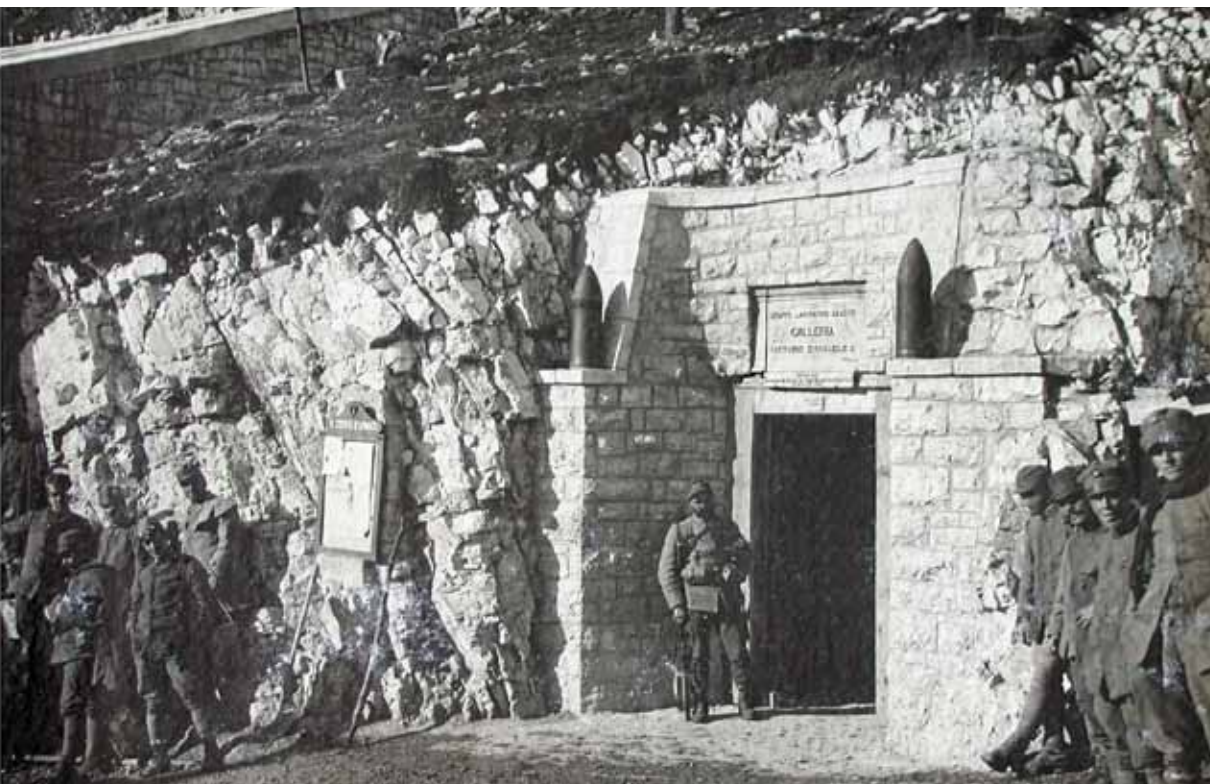
The “franked” postcards reproduced on some datasheets are taken from: “Le cartoline delle Brigate e dei Reggimenti di fanteria nella guerra del 1915 – 1918” by Luigi Amedeo de Biase – Army Chief of Staff – Historical Office – Rome 1994, under the authorisation of the latter (Prot. n° 6348 Cod. id. STOR1 ind. cl. 12.4) with prohibition of further copy of the photo or military maps from other peoples.

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Austro-Hungarian military map of the Canal del Brenta-Monte Asolone sector

Entrance to the Vittorio Emanuele III tunnel at Cima Grappa

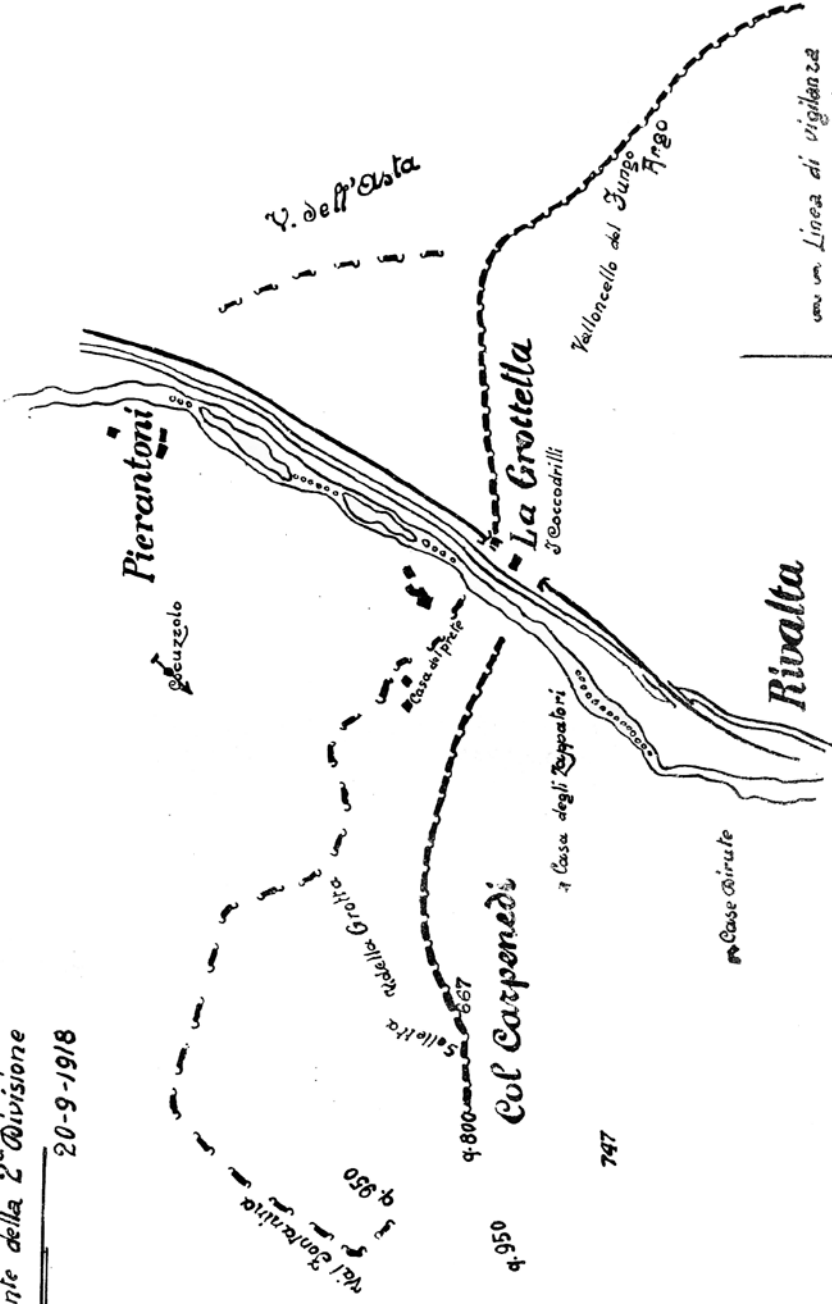


Schizzo indicante l'andamento della linea di resistenza e di

vigilanza sul fronte della 2^a Divisione

20-9-1918

Scala 1:10'000



una Linea di vigilanza
 99 resistenza
 4-9-18 Mitragliatrice nemica
 Quasi tutti i nomi e le quote sono convenzionali,
 ma già adottati dalle truppe in linea.



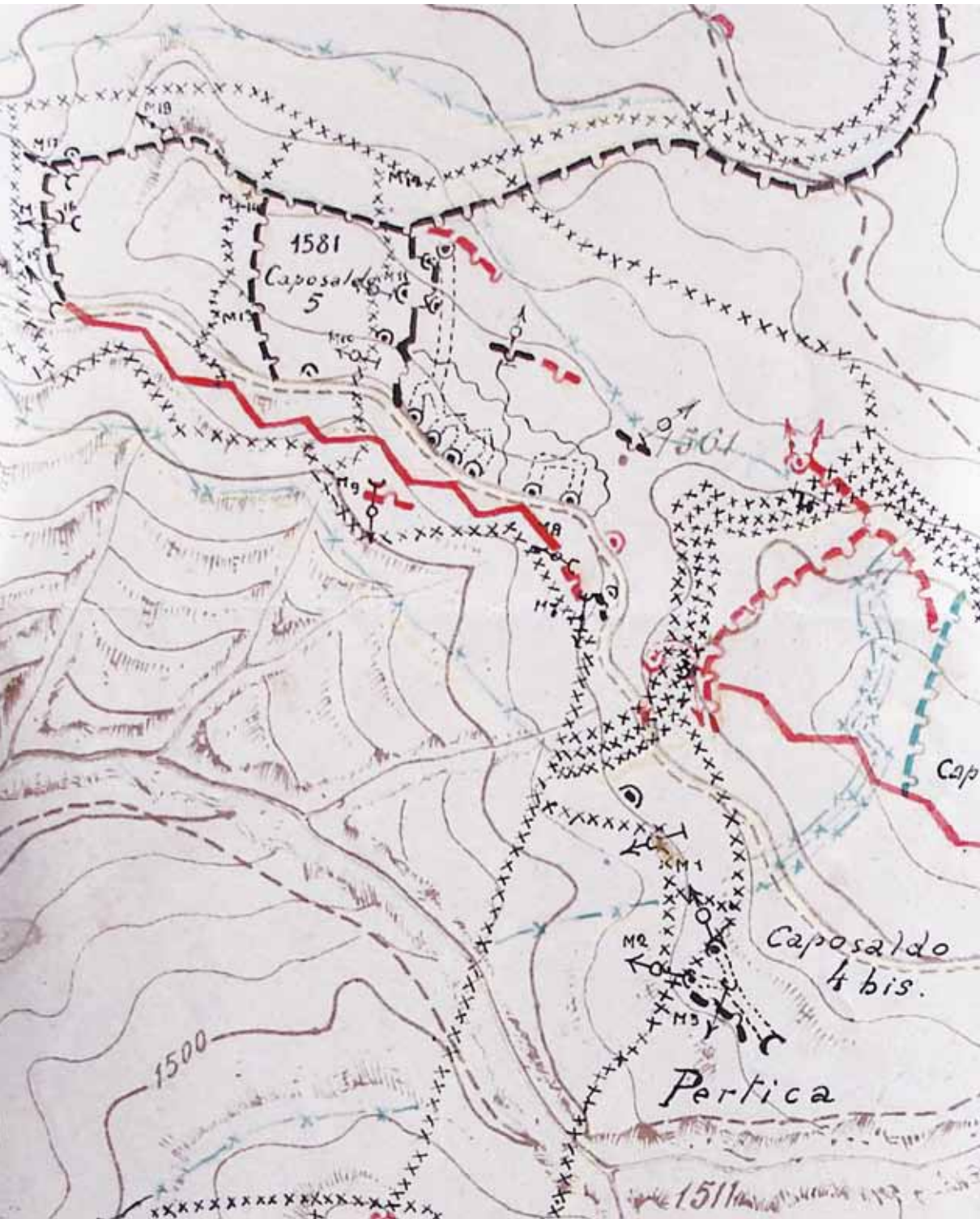
Military map of the Italian Monte Grappa defences 1918 (SME)

Left: Military map of the Italian front lines, Brenta Canal 1918 (SME)



Military paper of the defense and the water network of the city of Bassano del Grappa 1918 (SME)

Sketch of bench mark n°4 Second and n° 5 to defense of the side the West of Mt Grappa 1918 (SME)





DATASHEETS DELLE EPIGRAPHS

In addition to the photo, every datasheet bears the transcription of the text with the most likely interpretation. Where there was any uncertainty, nothing has been written.

The frequent difficulty in interpretation caused no end of uncertainty, so, despite being as objective as possible, with the aid of historical documents, errors cannot be excluded with regard to attribution to the right division or the real meaning of the text. Only the most representative of the datasheets of the “unidentified” category have been included and they, having been found and photographed, are used to make up the statistical data that enables an understanding of what has been lost up to date.

The datasheet also indicates the year of cataloguing, the municipality where the epigraph is located, the micro area in question, the type of epigraph and the army unit that created it.

Nationality Army	Weapon Army	Inquired zone	Type of epigraph	Number of catalogue
		Crespano del Grappa	Lapide	020
		Grappa	<i>Memorial stone</i>	2002
				Year of catalogue

No further data has been added to avoid weighing down the atlas and, above all, to avoid providing too many details, which could be of help to those intending to steal the epigraphs.

Unfortunately this risk exists and is highly likely.

To shed light on the fighting divisions, some brief historical information has been given (with difficulty considering that it was not always possible to trace the necessary documents), on the understanding that these do not always offer a valid historical reconstruction.

In the end this turned out to be a very taxing job, due to the various historical sources consulted and the triangulations that took place on site.

For the same reason, reliable historical information on the Austro-Hungarian epigraphs was even more difficult to find and we were unable to create a detailed reconstruction of the divisions.

Lastly, the atlas intends to offer propositions to all historians and enthusiasts of the territory, who can report any discoveries that they feel deserve registration via e-mail (alberto.burbello@libero.it). The registration process will continue after the publication of this research.

KEY

208 datasheets, of the 254 epigraphs registered, are indicated below, insofar as some of the sites catalogued as “Unidentified” have been left out, being photographically insignificant. The numeric succession is casual and respects no particular logic, other than my one, dictated by the need to organise the work.

ITALY



Italy



Missing



Command



Artillery



Engineer Corps



Alpine Troops



Health



Infantry



Bersaglieri



Various Corps

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



Austria-Hungary



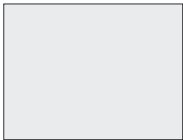
Missing



Honvéd
Hungarian Infantry



Austrian Infantry



Minelayers



Engineer Corps



Mining Corps



Artillery

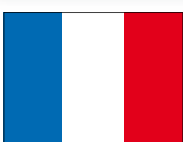


Electricians



Railway
Engineer Corps

FRANCE



France

UNCERTAIN



Doubt



Pederobba
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

011
2002

..A PRO..
..OSL F..

Questo frammento di lapide, posta all'entrata di una galleria nella zona del Monfenera, oggi non dà la possibilità di capire quale arma dell'esercito e quale esercito (italiano o francese) l'abbia collocata ed il suo significato.

Interessanti i particolari decorativi posti in alto a destra e sinistra dell'ingresso della galleria.

This stone fragment set at the entrance to a tunnel in the Monfenera zone no longer tells us what it means or which branch of which army (Italian or French) placed it here.

There are interesting details on the upper right and left of the tunnel entrance.



ERBA..
von
K.u.K. 30 cm K.. 5/S9.
Bault Fhnr G..
Btt. Kmdt. Hpt ..itschek
1918

COSTRUITO
dalla
Imperiale e Regia Cannoni 30 cm
5 compagnia del 9 Battaglione
Zappatori
Direttore costruzione Aspirante
G...
Comandante di Batteria Capitano
..itschek
1918.

BUILT
by the
Imperial and Royal 30 cm
Cannons, 5th Company of the 9th
Sapper Battalion
Director of Works Aspirante
G...
Battery Commander Captain
...itschek
1918.

Nell'agosto del 1918, presso il centro logistico austroungarico di Cison del Grappa a ridosso delle prime linee, l'Ufficio Informazioni dell'esercito italiano segnalava la presenza di mortai da 305 mm.

Questi rappresentavano il miglior compromesso tra potenza di fuoco e possibilità di movimento da una zona all'altra. I proiettili pesavano da 280 a 380 kg ed avevano una gittata che andava dai 9 agli 11 km circa a seconda dell'inclinazione di sparo del pezzo e peso della granata. Da ricerche effettuate in campo è stata ritrovata questa lapide che attesta la presenza di una batteria di mortai Škoda 30.5 cm Mörser.

Da questa posizione si potevano colpire gli abitati del Canal del Brenta fino a Pove del Grappa compreso. Testimonianze dell'epoca fatte dai giornalisti riportano più volte la conferma di colpi da 305 mm austriaci esplosi in vallata.

Il 9° Battaglione Zappatori che approntò la piazzola di sparo fu istituito nel 1912, la guarnigione era dislocata a Riva del Garda ed era formata dal 66% da cecoslovacchi, 31% austriaci ed il restante 3% da nazionalità varie.

In August 1918 at the Austro-Hungarian logistics centre of Cison del Grappa, just behind the front lines, the Italian army Information Office recorded the presence of 305 mm mortars.

These were the best compromise between fire power and possibility of movement from one zone to another.

The shells weighed from 280 to 380 kg with a range from 9 to about 11 km, depending on the firing inclination of the piece and the weight of the shell. From research carried out in the field this stone inscription was found, bearing witness to the presence of a battery of Skoda 30.5 cm Mörser mortars.

From this position they could strike the built-up areas of the Brenta Canal as far as Pove del Grappa.

Newspaper reports refer often to 305 mm Austrian fire exploding in the valley. The 9th Sapper Battalion which prepared the firing emplacement was established in 1912, with the garrison in Riva del Garda, and was formed by 66% Czechoslovakians, 31% Austrians and the remaining 3% of various nationalities.



Cison del Grappa
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

020
2002



Romano
d'Ezzelino
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

039
2003

..RVA..ORIO
II RAGGRUPPO P.

OSSERVATORIO
2° RAGGRUPPAMENTO
PESANTE CAMPALE

OBSERVATORY
2nd UNIT HEAVY FIELD
ARTILLERY

Il 1° maggio 1917 furono istituiti i Raggruppamenti di Artiglieria, ognuno era formato da 2 gruppi di artiglieria, ogni Corpo d'Armata disponeva così di un raggruppamento. Essendo un Corpo d'Armata formato solitamente da due Divisioni di linea risultava che ognuna di queste aveva a disposizione un gruppo d'artiglieria. In questo caso abbiamo la lapide dell'osservatorio del II Raggruppamento che comprendeva il 38° e 25° Gruppo a servizio della 17^a e 18^a Divisione del IX Corpo d'Armata. Dall'osservatorio si possono osservare gli obiettivi dei due gruppi che erano le diverse quote della dorsale del Monte Asolone.

The Artillery Units were set up on 1st May 1917, each one formed of 2 groups of artillery; so each Army Corps had a unit. Since an Army Corps was usually formed by two line Divisions, each one of those had an artillery group available. In this case we have the inscription of the 2nd Unit which comprised the 38th and 25th Group under the 17th and 18th Division of the 9th Army Corps. From the observatory you can see the two groups' objectives, which were the various levels of the Monte Asolone ridge.



1637 M°
ALPINI
1 - 28 - 2 - 18

1637 M°
ALPINI
1 - 28 - febbraio - 1918

1637 M°
ALPINI
1 - 28 - February - 1918

Non è chiaro il significato di questa lapide, si potrebbe attribuirle, vista l'alta numerazione riportata (che le caratterizzava), ad una compagnia mitraglieri alpina grazie anche alla presenza dell'aquila e della lettera M (Mitraglieri). Da ricerche fatte risulta in effetti una compagnia mitraglieri alpina che per tutto il 1918 è inquadrata nella 17^a Divisione del IX Corpo d'Armata che opera nel Massiccio del Grappa nei settori del Col del Miglio, Val Manara, Capitello, Valle San Lorenzo e Col del Fagheron.

Anche se poco visibile in basso a destra è riportato il periodo di permanenza della compagnia nella località di ritrovamento della lapide.

The meaning of this inscription is not clear, but given the high number characterizing it we may attribute it to a company of Alpine machine-gunners, due to the eagle and the letter M (Machine-Gunners). In fact research shows that a company of Alpine machine-gunners was formed in cadres for the whole of 1918 in the 17th Division of the 9th Army Corps which was operational on the Grappa Massif in the sectors Col del Miglio, Val Manara, Capitello, Valle San Lorenzo and Col del Fagheron.

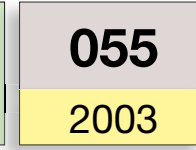
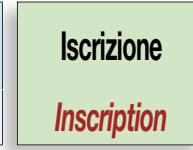
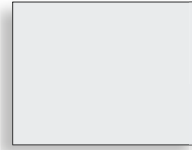
Though not very clear, at the bottom right the inscription shows the length of their stay in the place where the inscription was found.



San
Nazario
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

051
2003



KARLS PLATZ

PIAZZA CARLO

PIAZZA CARLO

Feltre fu sede del comando di settore (Heeresgruppe Krauss) per le operazioni sul Massiccio del Grappa, che era ubicato presso palazzo Guarnieri nella parte rinascimentale di Feltre. La piazza, dove si affaccia il palazzo, fu dedicata durante l'occupazione austriaca all'imperatore Carlo I salito al trono dopo la morte di Francesco Giuseppe avvenuta nel 1916. Carlo I è stato beatificato nel 2004. Recentemente questa iscrizione è stata sottoposta a restauro al fine di non disperdere questa importante testimonianza. Il 25 novembre 1917, alla chiusura della prima fase della battaglia di "arresto", la città di Feltre ebbe la visita dell'Imperatore Carlo I, che venne accolto da un grande schieramento di truppe nella piana di Foen. Il pernottamento a Feltre richiese anche di ribattezzare vie e piazze della cittadina: Piazza Maggiore, allora Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, diventò Karlsplatz e Campo Giorgio l'amena Zita-Promenade.

Feltre was the headquarters of sector command (Heeresgruppe Krauss) which was operational on the Grappa Massif. They were housed in palazzo Guarnieri in the renaissance part of Feltre. The piazza overlooked by the building was dedicated, during the Austrian occupation, to emperor Karl I who took the throne after the death of Franz Josef in 1916. Karl I was beatified in 2004. This inscription was recently restored with view to maintaining an important testimony.

On 25th November 1917, after the first phase of the battle of "arresto", the city of Feltre was visited by emperor Karl I who was welcomed by great ranks of troops on the Foen plain. His stay in Feltre also led to the renaming of streets and squares: Piazza Maggiore, then Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, became Karlsplatz and Campo Giorgio became the agreeable Zita-Promenade.



W LA
II AC 3-6-18
FERRARI
OTTAVIANI

VIVA LA
2^a ARTIGLIERIA CAMPALE
FERRARI
OTTAVIANI

LONG LIVE THE
2nd FIELD ARTILLERY
FERRARI
OTTAVIANI

Presso l'entrata di una galleria, un artigiere ha lasciato traccia del suo reparto. Probabilmente questa era la 2^a Batteria dell'Artiglieria campale armata con cannoni da 105 mm inquadrata nel 1° Gruppo che assieme al 34° Gruppo Obici pesanti campali erano a servizio del XVIII Corpo d'Armata.

Queste notizie storiche sono state trovate nel "Fascicolo di formazione dell'Armata alla data del 1° maggio 1918" negli archivi dell'Istituto Storico e di Cultura dell'Arma del Genio (Roma).

At the entrance to a tunnel a gunner left a trace of his unit. This was probably the 2nd Field Artillery Battery, armed with 105 mm cannons and formed in cadres in the 1st Group which, together with the 34th Howitzer Group of heavy field artillery, were under the 18th Army Corps.

This historical information was found in the "File on formation of the Army on 1st May 1918" in the archives of the Engineer Corps History and Culture Institute (Rome).



Borso del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

061
2003



5° REGGIMENTO GENIO MINATORI
7^a COMPAGNIA
1915

5th REGGIMENT ENGINEERS CORPS
7th COMPANY
1915

La 7^a Compagnia apparteneva al 5° Reggimento Genio Minatori, era costituito da tredici compagnie, che disponevano di speciali dotazioni di mezzi per svolgere gra-

vosi lavori di scavo. Si hanno notizie della 7^a Compagnia nel 1915 per la costruzione della polveriera a servizio dello sbarramento di Forte Tombion. Nel 1916 si distingue



Cismon
del Grappa
Brenta

Graffito
Graffito

070
2003

durante l'offensiva austroungarica, nota come "Spedizione Punitiva", facendo rallentare le avanguardie, distruggendo ponti e strade nelle zone della Valsugana, Val Vanoi e Val Cismon. Nel 1916 è a stretto contatto con il "Nucleo Ferrari" costituito per meglio operare in ambienti montani. Questo nucleo il 23 - 24 agosto 1916 conquista il Monte Cauriol con la 7^a Compagnia che dà supporto logistico. Successivamente il monte viene trasformato in un caposaldo. Partecipa attivamente ai combattimenti per la difesa del Cauriol. Alla ritirata di Caporetto anche la IV Armata deve ritirarsi verso le nuove linee del Grappa e Piave, anche in quest'occasione la 7^a Compagnia Minatori si prodiga, metà è spedita sul Montello per approntare le prime difese, l'altra metà opera in zona per far brillare le strade in Val Cia e Val Vanoi per poi scendere verso la conca di Feltre.

The 7th Company belonged to the 5th Sappers Regiment which consisted of thirteen companies with special equipment for tough excavation work. The 7th Company was

mentioned in 1915 with regard to the construction of the powder-magazine serving the barrage of Fort Tombion.

In 1916 it distinguished itself during the Austro-Hungarian offensive, known as the "Punitive Expedition", slowing down the vanguards by destroying bridges and roads in the Valsugana, Val Vanoi and Val Cismon zones. In 1916 it was in close contact with the "Ferrari Squad", set up to operate better in mountainous terrain. On 23rd-24th August 1916 this squad took Monte Cauriol with the 7th Company which supplied logistic support.

Subsequently the mountain was transformed into a stronghold. It took an active part in the fighting to defend Mount Cauriol. At the retreat from Caporetto the 4th Army too had to withdraw towards the new lines of Grappa and Piave, and also on this occasion the 7th Sappers Company did its utmost: half of the company was sent to Montello to prepare the advance defences while the other half was operational in the zone, blowing up roads in Val Cia and Val Vanoi before descending to the Feltre basin.



38° GRUPPO
- O. P. C. -

38° GRUPPO
- OBICI PESANTI CAMPALI -

38th GROUP
- HOWITZER HEAVY
FIELD ARTILLERY -

Questa iscrizione identifica il Comando del 38° Gruppo Obici Pesanti Campali, inquadrato nella 17^a Divisione di Fanteria, che assieme alla 18^a costituivano il IX Corpo d'Armata che operò nel settore Monte Asolone - Valle San Lorenzo. Secondo l'organizzazione militare ad ogni Corpo d'Armata era assegnato un Raggruppamento (ovvero formato da due gruppi), per il IX fu assegnato il 38° Gruppo per la 17^a Divisione ed il 25° Gruppo per la 18^a Divisione. È stata trovata anche la lapide dell'osservatorio del II Raggruppamento (scheda n° 39) che inglobava i due gruppi citati. L'armamento del 38° Gruppo furono principalmente obici da 149 mm.

This inscription identifies the Command of the 38th Howitzer Heavy Field Artillery Group, formed in cadres in the 17th Infantry Division which, together with the 18th, constituted the 9th Army Corps that was operational in the Monte Asolone-Valle San Lorenzo sector. To each Army Corps the military organisation assigned a Unit (formed of two groups): the 9th was assigned to the 38th Group for the 17th Division and the 25th Group for the 18th Division. The stone inscription of the 2nd Unit Observatory was also found (entry N° 39) which incorporated the two groups in question. The 38th Group's weapons were mainly 149 mm Howitzers.



Pove del
Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

071
2003



Pove del
Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

073
2003

38° GRUPPO
- O. P. C. -
COMANDO - TELEFONO

38° GRUPPO
- O. P. C. -
COMANDO - TELEFONO

38th GROUP
- O. P. C. -
COMMAND - TELEPHONE

Questa iscrizione è posizionata sulla galleria a doppia entrata, dall'altro lato vi è una seconda iscrizione (scheda n° 71). Questo gruppo operò con tiri diretti sul settore Monte Asolone, Monte Coston, Col della Berretta. Il gruppo era costituito da tre batterie, ognuna delle quali comprendeva quattro obici per un totale di 12 pezzi. Gli obici erano il modello 149/14 Krupp e poi successivamente 149/1916 Ansaldo, anche i 102/35 e 105 Ansaldo Schneider furono presenti, ma in numero limitato.

This inscription is on the double-entrance tunnel while there is a second inscription (entry N° 71) on the other side. This Group had their guns aimed at the Monte Asolone, Monte Coston and Col della Berretta sector. The Group comprised three batteries, each with four Howitzers for a total of 12 pieces. The Howitzers were the Krupp 149/14 model and subsequently the Ansaldo 149/1916. There was also a limited number of Ansaldo Schneider 102/35 and 105 models.



33 ART^a 1918 II° GRUPPO

Il 33° Reggimento di Artiglieria da Campagna fu fondato il 1° gennaio del 1915 ed era composto dal 1°, 2° e 3° Gruppo. Tra aprile e maggio del 1915 prende posizione sull'alta Valle del Cordevole e vi rimane fino all'ottobre del 1917. Tra il 1915 e 1917 opera nel settore Marmolada - Col di Lana. Deve ritirarsi a seguito di Caporetto verso il Piave e poi Monte Grappa. Fu quasi sempre inquadrato nella 18^a Divisione del IX Corpo d'Armata della IV Armata. Il 3 novembre del 1917 inizia la ritirata e dopo pochi giorni il 1° Gruppo è sul Monfenera ed il 2° Gruppo è posizionato a Bigolino a difendere la testa di ponte di Vidor. Partecipa valorosamente alla battaglia "d'arresto" sia sul Piave che sul Monfenera. Ad inizio dicembre 1917 il 33° viene mandato a riposo, il 2° Gruppo è a Bessica, ma quasi subito è chiamato a costruire postazioni di artiglieria sull'Asolone e Valle San Lorenzo. Il 5 gennaio 1918 partecipa alla battaglia del Monte Asolone, il 2° Gruppo ha come obiettivo di tiro il Col Caprile. Per tutto il 1918 operò con tiri diretti nel settore Monte Asolone, Val delle Saline, Col della Berretta e Col Caprile. Il 1° Gruppo posizionò i suoi pezzi a Cima Grappa mentre quelli del 2° Gruppo erano operativi sul Monte Oro.

33 ART^a 1918 II° GRUPPO

33rd ART. 1918 2nd GROUP

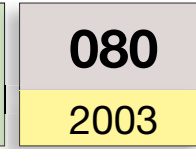
The 33rd Regiment of Field Artillery was founded on 1st January 1915 and comprised the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Groups. Between April and May 1915 it took up position in the upper Valle del Cordevole, remaining there until October 1917. Between 1915 and 1917 it was operational in the Marmolada-Col di Lana sector. After Caporetto it had to retreat towards the Piave and then Monte Grappa. It was almost always formed in cadres in the 18th Division of the 9th Army Corps of the 4th Army. On 3rd November 1917 it began the retreat and after a few days the 1st Group was on Monfenera and the 2nd Group positioned in Bigolino to defend the bridgehead of Vidor. It fought bravely at the battle of "arresto", both on the Piave and Monfenera. At the beginning of December 1917 the 33rd was sent to rest. The second Group was in Bessica but almost immediately was called on to build artillery emplacements on the Asolone and in Valle San Lorenzo. On 5th January 1918, at the battle of Monte Asolone, the 2nd Group's target was Col Caprile. Throughout 1918 it was firing on the Monte Asolone, Val delle Saline, Col della Berretta and Col Caprile sector. The 1st Group positioned its guns in Cima Grappa while those of the 2nd Group were operational on Monte Oro.



**Borso del
Grappa**
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

076
2002



GENIO CIVILE

VIª ARMATA

STRADA

ROMANO - GRAPPA

novembre 1916 - agosto 1917

ENGINEER CORPS

6th ARMY

ROMANO – GRAPPA ROAD

November 1916 - August 1917

Importante testimonianza della realizzazione dell'arteria stradale Romano d'Ezzelino - Cima Grappa.

Questa strada, assieme ad altre opere logistiche, fu realizzata per posizionare batterie con tiro in direzione nord-ovest verso l'Altopiano dei Sette Comuni, dato che le maggiori minacce austriache per arrivare alla pianura vicentina erano partite proprio nella zona dei combattimenti sull'Altopiano. Interessante notare la dicitura "Genio Civile" in quanto i lavori logistici posti ad una certa distanza (non sempre) dalle zone di combattimento, erano affidati a ditte civili in collaborazione con il Genio Militare. Questi lavori oltre a realizzare strade, teleferiche ed acquedotti si caratterizzarono anche per la costruzione di postazioni di artiglieria e fortificazione delle principali cime del Massiccio del Grappa nella parte nord occidentale. Queste opere furono vitali per evitare la totale perdita del Monte Grappa durante l'avanzata austro-tedesca di Caporetto (ottobre 1917). Su questa chiave di volta è riprodotta la testa di una persona di cui non si conosce l'esatta identità.

Important testimony of the building of the arterial road Romano d'Ezzelino-Cima Grappa.

Together with other logistical works this road was built to position batteries targeting the north-west towards the Plateau of the Sette Comuni, since the main Austrian threats to reach the Vicenza plain had set out precisely from the war zone on the Plateau.

It is interesting to note the words "Engineer Corps" inasmuch as logistic work sites at a certain distance from the fighting zones were usually (although not always) contracted out to civilian companies in collaboration with the Military Engineers. As well as roads, cableways and reservoirs these works also concerned artillery emplacements and fortification of the main peaks of the Grappa Massif in the north-west. They were vital in avoiding total loss of Monte Grappa during the Austro-German advance of Caporetto (October 1917).

On this keystone there is a depiction of the head of someone whose precise identity is unknown.



..QU..

..ON..

Vicino ad un serbatoio idrico realizzato dalla 19^a Compagnia minatori è presente questa testimonianza ormai in grave stato di degrado, le poche lettere ancora decifrabili non permettono interpretazioni certe sul significato della lapide. Probabile che riportasse l'indicazione del nome del serbatoio militare. Pregevole la presenza della cornice che la abbelliva.

Close to a water tank built by the 19th Sappers Company, this testimony is in an advanced stage of deterioration. The few still decipherable letters offer no certain interpretation of the meaning of the inscription. It probably gave the name of the military reservoir. It was embellished by a fine cornice.



Possagno

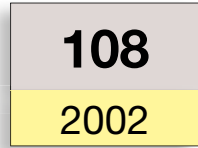
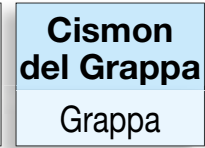
Grappa

Lapide

Memorial stone

091

2002



5° REGGIMENTO GENIO
8 COMPAGNIA
MINATORI

5th REGIMENT ENGINEERS
8th COMPANY
MINERS

Si distingue per aver partecipato nel 1916 a lavori di opere logistiche ed offensive nella preparazione della battaglia per la conquista del Monte Sabotino che costituiva il principale caposaldo austriaco per la difesa della testa di ponte di Gorizia. La sera del 6 agosto 1916 il Sabotino viene conquistato e l'8ª Compagnia minatori è tra le prime a salire per fortificare la vetta appena conquistata. Qui il sottotenente Cardillo Salvatore merita la medaglia di bronzo al valore per aver indotto, da solo e con abile stratagemma la resa di un manipolo di austriaci asserragliati in una galleria durante le operazioni di fortificazione del monte. Nei giorni successivi opera attorno alla città di Gorizia nella costruzione di opere difensive, strade ed osservatori, lavori resi difficili dal continuo disturbo dell'artiglieria austroungarica. Successivamente, prima dello sfondamento austriaco di Caporetto, è presente in Canal del Brenta per la realizzazione di una serie di lavori di fortificazione con lo scopo di evitare che la valle possa essere una facile via di sfondamento da parte austriaca per arrivare alla pianura vicentina.

Distinguished for having taken part in logistic and offensive works during preparation for the battle to take Monte Sabotino, the main Austrian stronghold for defence of the bridgehead of Gorizia. Sabotino was taken in the evening of 6th August 1916 and the 8th Miners Company was among the first to go up and fortify the newly conquered peak.

Here sub-lieutenant Salvatore Cardillo was awarded the bronze medal for bravery, having compelled the surrender, alone and with a skilful stratagem, of a band of Austrians barricaded in a tunnel during fortification of the mountain.

Over the following days the company was operational around the city of Gorizia, building defensive works – roads and observatories – a task made difficult by continual Austro-Hungarian artillery fire.

Subsequently, prior to the Austrian breakthrough at Caporetto, it was in the Brenta Canal area to carry out a series of fortification works to make sure the valley would not be an easy breakthrough point for the Austrians aiming at reaching the Vicenza plain.



5° REGGIMENTO GENIO
XIX COMPa MM
1917

5° REGGIMENTO GENIO
XIX COMPAGNIA
MILIZIA MOBILE
1917

5th REGIMENT ENGINEERS
19th MOBILE TROOPS
COMPANY
1917



Arsiè
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

112
2002

Nel maggio del 1916 assieme alla 7ª Compagnia minatori opera con fermezza nel brillamento di varie interruzioni stradali per ostacolare l'avanzata degli austro-ungarici durante la "Spedizione Punitiva" nella zona della Val Sugana, in particolare si cita la medaglia d'argento per il minatore Martin Guerrino di Cavarzere (VE): "Incaricato del brillamento di una interruzione stradale e non riuscendovi con i mezzi regolamentari, mentre gli altri uomini tenevano a distanza grossa pattuglia nemica, si collocava a circa otto metri dal fornello di mina carico di 75 kg di gelatina esplosiva, e vi sparava contro varie fucilate, fino a provocarne l'esplosione, per la quale rimaneva egli stesso ferito in varie parti del corpo". Ponte tra Telve di Sotto e Borgo, 22 maggio 1916. Nel 1917 questa compagnia lavora alacremente per realizzare fortificazioni accessorie presso Primolano. Successivamente nel 1918 opera sul Massiccio del Grappa dove si ritrovano altre testimonianze epigrafiche lasciate da questa compagnia genio minatori. Si veda scheda n° 122 e 266.

In May 1916, together with the 7th Sappers Company, it worked staunchly in blowing up various roads to impede the Austro-Hungarian advance during the "Punitive Expedition" in the Val Sugana area. Special mention should be made of the silver medal awarded to sapper Martin Guerrino of Cavarzere (VE): "Ordered to blow up the road and unable to do so by normal means, while the men covered him against a large enemy patrol he took up position about eight metres from the blast-hole, containing 75 kg of nitrogelatine, and fired several rounds until it exploded. He himself was wounded in various parts of the body". Bridge between Telve di Sotto and Borgo, 22nd May 1916. In 1917 this company worked fast to build accessory fortifications near Primolano. Subsequently in 1918 it was operational on the Grappa Massif where other epigraphic testimonies left by this sapper company have been found.

See entries N° 122 and 266.



Alano di
Piave

Grappa

Iscrizione

Inscription

116

2003

117ª SEZIONE BOMBARDE

117th MORTAR SECTION

In stile gotico è presente questa testimonianza della 117ª Sezione Bombarde, il cemento su cui è stata lasciata questa traccia è in parte deteriorato, si era incerti sull'esatta numerazione della sezione, poi successivamente sempre sulla stessa galleria è stato scoperto un piccolo graffito, che dava l'esatta numerazione (scheda n° 491).

Svolgendo ricerche in merito si è scoperto che sul Grappa nel maggio del 1918 era presente il 7° Raggruppamento Bombarde dove tra le innumerevoli sezioni era presente anche la 117ª sezione del 103° Gruppo. Questa era armata con bombarde da 58 B ed era direttamente dipendente dal Comando di Artiglieria della 4ª Armata. La 117ª sezione operò nel settore del XVIII Corpo d'Armata (settore Val delle Mure - Archeson), la sua riserva era dislocata a Paderno del Grappa (TV) e la zona di riposo a Rossano Veneto (VI).

In gothic style, this testimony from the 117th Mortar Section. The concrete on which this trace was left has in part deteriorated. The exact number of the section was uncertain, but subsequently in the same tunnel a small graffito was found giving the precise number (entry N° 491).

Research on the subject revealed that the 7th Mortar Unit was on Grappa in May 1918 together with innumerable sections including the 117th section of the 103rd Group.

The latter was armed with 58 B mortars and was directly under the Artillery Command of the 4th Army.

The 117th section was operational in the sector of the 18th Army Corps (Val delle Mure-Archeson sector). Its reserve was billeted in Paderno del Grappa (TV) and the rest area was Rossano Veneto (VI).



5° REGGIMENTO GENIO
19 COMPAGNIA

5th REGIMENT ENGINEERS
19th COMPANY

La 19^a Compagnia si distingue nel 1916 nel settore della Val Sugana in opere di brillamento di diverse interruzioni stradali per rallentare l'avanzata delle truppe austriache durante l'offensiva del maggio 1916. Nel 1917 opera nel Canal del Brenta con opere di fortificazione. Al maggio del 1918 è inquadrata nel XXX Corpo d'Armata e svolge numerosi lavori di fortificazione, osservatori, serbatoi idrici e strade. Questa lapide come altre catalogate testimoniano l'operato di questa compagnia sul Massiccio del Grappa.

The 19th Company distinguished itself in 1916 in the Val Sugana sector, blowing up roads to slow down the advance of Austrian troops during the May offensive. In 1917 it was operational on the Brenta Canal, building fortifications. By May 1918 it was formed in cadres in the 30th Army Corps and carried out various works including fortifications, observatories, water tanks and roads. This memorial tablet, like others catalogued, bears witness to the company's operations on the Grappa Massif.



Possagno
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

122
2002



Possagno
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

127
2003

..P ZAPP 7 - 19..

COMPAGNIA ZAPPATORI
LUGLIO 1918 (?)

SAPPER COMPANY
JULY 1918 (?)

La lapide è in parte rovinata, non è possibile risalire con certezza a quale compagnia zappatori l'ha realizzata. Testimonia i lavori di una compagnia nella realizzazione di lavori di fortificazione nella zona dell'Archeson.

Le due cifre potrebbero significare il mese e l'anno di realizzo ovvero luglio 1918.

The memorial tablet is partially ruined so there is no certainty about which Sapper Company left it. It bears witness to the work of a company building fortifications in the Archeson zone.

The two numbers may refer to the month and year of the work, i.e. July 1918.



COM.DO 2ª BATTERIA
MONTAGNA

COMANDO 2ª BATTERIA
MONTAGNA

2nd MOUNTAIN BATTERY
COMMAND

Questa testimonianza non esiste più in quanto la casa è stata demolita per la costruzione di un nuovo edificio. Pregevole lo stemma dell'artiglieria da montagna con i due cannoni incrociati (ormai scomparsi) sormontati dall'aquila.

This testimony no longer exists because the house was demolished to make room for a new building. The insignia of the Mountain Artillery is very fine, with two crossed cannons (now disappeared) surmounted by an eagle.



Mussolente
Pedemontana

Iscrizione
Inscription

133
2003



**Borso
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

138
2002

1918 30 Ottobre

1918 30 October

Per le note storiche vedere scheda n° 143

For historical notes see entry N° 143



450ª Batteria
Ass.io 19 Gru

450ª Batteria
Assedio 19° Gruppo

450th Battery
19th Siege Group



**Borso
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

140
2002



MENTRE
FUGGONO

WHILE
THEY FLEE



Borso
del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

143
2002

Questo graffito assieme ad altri due (schede n° 138 e 140) rappresentano una testimonianza tra le più significative tra quelle censite fino ad oggi. Sono state scritte da un artigliere con una particolare vernice che veniva applicata sulle granate per evitare che l'umidità potesse comprometterne l'efficienza detonante dell'esplosivo. Dopo sei giorni dall'inizio della battaglia di Vittorio Veneto il 24 ottobre 1918, le truppe austroungariche iniziano a ritirarsi dalle prime linee del Grappa. La notizia giunta alle batterie che sparavano a supporto dei reparti che combattevano suscitò gioia ed entusiasmo.

Qui l'ignoto artigliere consapevole del tracollo militare asburgico e quindi del preciso momento storico lo volle fissare sui muri di questa galleria riportando la data "30 ottobre 1918", gli estremi della sua batteria e la frase "Mentre Fuggono". La 450^a Batteria apparteneva al 19° Gruppo Assedio ed era inquadrata nel VI Corpo d'Armata. Era armata con cannoni da 120 mm.

This graffito, together with another two (entries N° 138 and 140), represents one of the most significant testimonies recorded to date. They were written by a gunner who used a special paint that was applied to shells to protect their detonators from the damp.

Six days after the battle of Vittorio Veneto on 24th October 1918, the Austro-Hungarian troops began to withdraw from the Grappa front lines.

When the news reached the batteries that were supporting the fighting units it aroused joy and enthusiasm. Here the unknown gunner, aware of the collapse of the Habsburg army, and therefore the precise historic moment, set it down on the wall of this tunnel with the date "30 October 1918", the details of his Battery and the words "While They Flee". The 450th Battery belonged to the 19th Siege Group and was formed in cadres in the 6th Army Corps. It was armed with 120 mm cannons.



1° Reggimento Genio
5ª Comp Zapp.ri

1° Reggimento Genio
5ª Compagnia Zappatori

1st Regiment Engineers
5th Sapper Company

Nel 1915 questa compagnia opera nella zona del Col di Lana, Sief e Valparola dove si distingue per le capacità di operare in ambienti montani difficili, nel 1916 è ancora

In 1915 this company was operational in the Col di Lana, Sief and Valparola zone where it distinguished itself for its ability to operate on tough mountain terrain. In

operativa sul Col di Lana e poi sicuramente fino a fine 1916 presso la zona Colbricon - Cima Bocche dove opera sotto il fuoco nemico per la battaglia della conquista di Cima Bocche. Partecipa alla costruzione delle difese del settore Monte Tomba - Monfenera a novembre 1917. A maggio del 1918 è segnalata alle dipendenze del IX Corpo d'Armata, dove è impegnata nella costruzione delle linee di massima resistenza Pra Fiolo - Ponte San Lorenzo - Osteria Cibara - Monte Grappa. Subisce perdite durante l'offensiva austriaca del giugno 1918. Si distingue ad ottobre 1918 nel partecipare alla conquista del Col del Miglio riportando numerose perdite. Fu data la medaglia d'argento al sottotenente Fenu Lorenzo di Sassari che cadeva il 24 ottobre 1918 nella località sopra citata. Presso un vecchio casolare è presente questa lapide che testimonia i lavori svolti dalla 5ª Compagnia Zappatori sul Massiccio del Grappa, questa assieme 67ª e 78ª Compagnia costituivano il XIV Battaglione Zappatori che era alla dipendenze dalla 17ª Divisione del IX Corpo d'Armata.

1916 it was still operational on Col di Lana and certainly later, until the end of 1916, in the Colbricon-Cima Bocche zone where it operated under enemy fire during the battle to take Cima Bocche. It took part in building the defences of the Monte Tomba-Monfenera sector in November 1917. In May 1918 it was under the 9th Army Corps, building the maximum resistance line Pra Fiolo-Ponte San Lorenzo-Osteria Cibara-Monte Grappa. It suffered losses during the Austrian offensive of June 1918. It distinguished itself in October 1918 in the taking of Col del Miglio where it also suffered great losses. The silver medal was awarded to sub-lieutenant Lorenzo Fenu of Sassari who fell on 24th October 1918 in the abovementioned locality.

This memorial tablet is at an old farmhouse, bearing witness to the works carried out by the 5th Sapper Company on the Grappa Massif, together with the 67th and 78th Companies, constituting the 14th Sapper Battalion which came under the 17th Division of the 9th Army Corps.



Solagna
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

150
2002



Cismon
del Grappa

Grappa

Lapide

Memorial stone

159

2003

1918

Presso questa galleria è stata catalogata (fino ad oggi) la lapide più grande.

Si è rovesciata dalla sede originaria incastrandosi sui muri di accesso.

Questo è il motivo per cui in foto la si vede rovesciata. Nella parte inferiore della lapide era presente la dicitura della compagnia genio che costruì questo manufatto, ma durante la caduta si è staccata e frantumata. La parte inferiore è stata raccolta e ricomposta in modo tale da non perdere questa importante testimonianza.

Ora la parte inferiore (che riporta la scritta: KUK – SAPP – KOMP -1/48 visibile alla scheda n° 566) è custodita presso il Piccolo Museo 1915 -1918 Roberto Favero a San Giovanni sul Massiccio del Grappa.

Recentemente la lapide in foto si è ulteriormente rotta ed ora giace a terra in frantumi.

The largest memorial tablet catalogued to date was found in this tunnel. It had fallen from its original place and remained stuck in the access walls.

This is why the inscription is upside down in the photo. In the lower part there were some words about the company of Engineers that built the tunnel but these words were crushed and detached by the fall. The lower part was recovered and put together in such a way that this important testimony has not been lost.

Now the lower part (bearing the words: KUK – SAPP – KOMP - 1/48 see entry N° 566) is in the Roberto Favero Piccolo Museo 1915-1918, in San Giovanni on the Grappa Massif. Recently the memorial tablet in the photo has undergone further damage and is in fragments on the ground.



1 GENIO
26 5 91..°

1° REGGIMENTO GENIO
26 maggio 1918

1st REGIMENT ENGINEERS
26 May 1918

Presso questo serbatoio idrico è presente la testimonianza di una sconosciuta compagnia zappatori che ha lasciato solo l'appartenenza al proprio reggimento genio zappatori. Interessante la data di realizzazione del manufatto che permette di datare il serbatoio ed i lavori di fortificazione del caposaldo.

This water tank bears the testimony of an unknown Sapper Company that left only the name of its Sapper Engineers regiment. The building date is interesting inasmuch as it dates both the tank and the fortification of the stronghold.



Paderno
del Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

174
2003



BRI..
53°
REGG TO

BRIGATA UMBRIA
53°
REGGIMENTO

UMBRIA BRIGADE
53rd
REGIMENT

Il 53° Reggimento di Fanteria assieme al 54° costituirono la Brigata Umbria che opera allo scoppio della guerra nel settore Monte Piana - Carbonin. Nell'agosto del 1917 viene spostata nella zona di Monte Cadin - Col Rosà - sbocco Val Travenanzes.

The 53rd Infantry Regiment, together with the 54th, made up the Umbria Brigade which at the outbreak of war was operational in the Monte Piana-Carbonin sector. In August 1917 it was transferred to the Monte Cadin-Col Rosà-Val Travenanzes zone.



Paderno
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

184
2003

Pochi giorni prima della grande offensiva austro- tedesca di Caporetto le linee tenute dalla Brigata Umbria vengono interessate da una serie di violenti attacchi che hanno lo scopo di distrarre gli alti comandi italiani dalla zona di Caporetto dove è imminente lo sfondamento.

Dopo pochi giorni per il precipitare degli eventi anche la Brigata Umbria deve ritirarsi. Già il 10 novembre 1917 è schierata sulle prime linee di Nervesa - Croda della Spia. Dopo un breve riposo a Paderno d'Asolo è chiamata nella mischia a dicembre 1917 nelle zone di Val Calcino - Monte Spinoncia sul Massiccio del Grappa.

Difende in modo esemplare i capisaldi avanzati verso la Conca di Alano il 15 e 16 giugno 1918 dove fa infrangere la poderosa offensiva austroungarica in questa zona, segue poi un meritato riposo a Cittadella. Torna a fine agosto 1918 sulle prime linee del Grappa presidiando le posizioni di Col dell'Orso - Monte Solarolo per poi essere sostituita dalla Brigata di Fanteria Lombardia il 6 ottobre. Alla battaglia di Vittorio Veneto viene impiegata come truppa di riserva nella zona tra Venegazzù e Volpago.

A few days before the great Austro-German offensive at Caporetto, the lines held by the Umbria Brigade suffered a violent series of attacks whose purpose was to distract the Italian high commands from the zone of Caporetto where a breakthrough was imminent. After a few days a series of events led to the withdrawal of the Umbria Brigade. As early as 10th November 1917 it was at the front lines of Nervesa-Croda della Spia. After a brief period of rest at Paderno d'Asolo it was called to action in December 1917, in the Val Calcino-Monte Spinoncia zones on the Grappa Massif.

It put up an exemplary defence of the forward strongholds towards the Alano Basin on 15th and 16th June 1918 where it broke up the heavy Austro-Hungarian advance in this area, subsequently taking a well deserved rest in Cittadella. At the end of August 1918 it returned to the Grappa front lines, holding the positions of Col dell'Orso-Monte Solarolo before being relieved by the Lombardy Infantry Brigade on 6th October. At the battle of Vittorio Veneto it was employed as reserve in the area between Venegazzù and Volpago.



GALLERIA
BOLOGNA

BOLOGNA
TUNNEL

Iscrizione lasciata dalla Brigata Bologna che comprendeva il 39° e 40° Reggimento di Fanteria. Nel 1915 opera nel settore del Carso, partecipa alla battaglia per la conquista del Monte San Michele, e suc-

Inscription left by the Bologna Brigade which comprised the 39th and 40th Infantry Regiment. In 1915 it was operational in the Carso sector, taking part in the battle for the conquest of Monte San Michele, and

cessivamente sul Monte Sei Busi, è un anno durissimo e le perdite sono spaventose. Nel 1916 opera sul fronte della 1ª Armata tra lo Stelvio ed il Tonale. Verso la fine del 1916 ritorna sul fronte Carsico nella zone di Oppacchiesella - Castagnevizza e poi settore Hudi Log. Ad ottobre 1917 deve ritirarsi e si distingue per la tenace difesa il ponte di Pinzano sul fiume Tagliamento, solo 800 uomini riescono a mettersi in salvo. Nella zona dove è stata trovata questa galleria era operativa anche la Brigata di Fanteria Bologna. La Brigata Bologna operò quasi tutto il 1918 sul Massiccio del Grappa alle dipendenze della 47ª Divisione del XXX Corpo d'Armata ed opera nel settore di Valpore di Fondo e di Cima fino al Col dell'Orso. A giugno del 1918 opera sul Montello pagando un alto numero di perdite, poi ritorna sul Grappa. Nella battaglia di Vittorio Veneto si distinse per i cruenti combattimenti per la presa del Monte Forcelletta e del Col del Cuc. La Bologna assieme ad alcuni reparti della Brigata di Fanteria Umbria e Battaglioni Alpini Exilles, Pieve di Cadore, Val Toce, Levanna e Monte Antelao furono i primi a liberare Feltre.

subsequently on Monte Sei Busi, a very tough year with terrifying losses. In 1916 it was operational on the 1st Army front between the Stelvio and the Tonale. Towards the end of 1916 it returned to the Carsico front in the Oppacchiesella-Castagnevizza zones and then the Hudi Log sector. In October 1917 it had to withdraw, distinguishing itself for the tenacious defence of the Pinzano bridge on the river Tagliamento. Only 800 men survived. In the area where this tunnel was found the Bologna Infantry Brigade was also operational. The Bologna Brigade was operational almost throughout 1918, on the Grappa Massif under the 47th Division of the 30th Army Corps and in the sector of Valpore di Fondo and Cima as far as Col dell'Orso. In June 1918 it was operational on Montello, at the cost of a great number of lives, before returning to Grappa. In the battle of Vittorio Veneto it distinguished itself in the bloody fighting to take Monte Forcelletta and the Col del Cuc. The Bologna Brigade, together with some units of the Umbria Infantry Brigade and the Alpine Battalions Exilles, Pieve di Cadore, Val Toce, Levanna and Monte Antelao, were the first to liberate Feltre.



**Paderno
del Grappa**
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

188
2003



**Crespano
del Grappa**
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

192
2003

GRUPPO LAVORATORI GAVOTTI
GALLERIA
VITTORIO EMANUELE III - 1918
Collocata durante la visita di
S.M. Vittorio Emanuele III

GAVOTTI WORKERS' GROUP
VITTORIO EMANUELE III TUNNEL
1918
Placed during the visit of
H.M. Vittorio Emanuele III

Lapide posta all'ingresso principale della Galleria Vittorio Emanuele III a Cima Grappa. Il tenente colonnello Gavotti Nicolò fu comandante del "Gruppo Lavoratori" per le sue instancabili attività di coordinamento nella realizzazione di manufatti militari fu insignito a "Cavaliere dell'ordine militare di Savoia" con la seguente motivazione: "Come già sul Sabotino dapprima, sul Vodice e sul San Gabriele poi, anche sul baluardo del Grappa, insensibile ai disagi, sprezzante del pericolo cui era sottoposta ogni sua manifestazione e superando difficoltà d'ogni natura, animato soltanto da alto senso del dovere e da fede illimitata, con vera opera di apostolo, sottoponendo sé e gli affezionati lavoratori del suo gruppo a fatiche e privazioni di ogni genere, progettava e dirigeva opere titaniche di difesa cavernata che riducevano la posizione ad un caposaldo di primo ordine, con inestimabile vantaggio per la difesa della fronte di tutta l'armata. - Monte Grappa, dicembre '17 - luglio '18". Fu anche decorato con medaglia d'argento al valor militare nel settembre del '17 sul Monte San Gabriele. Del "Gruppo Lavoratori" è presente altra testimonianza riportata alla scheda n° 814.

Memorial tablet at the main entrance to the Vittorio Emanuele III Tunnel at Cima Grappa. Lieutenant-Colonel Nicolò Gavotti, who headed the "Workers' Group" with his tireless coordination activities in building military items, was created "Chevalier of the Military Order of Savoy" for the following reason: "As on Sabotino and later on Vodice and San Gabriele, and even on the bastion of Grappa, indifferent to discomfort, disparaging of the danger he faced each time he showed himself, and overcoming difficulties of every kind, driven only by a high sense of duty and limitless faith, with true apostolic labour, submitting himself and his affectionate workers to all manner of fatigue and privation, he planned and directed titanic defensive tunnel works which rendered the position a stronghold of the first order, with inestimable value for defence of the entire Army front. - Monte Grappa, December 1917-July 1918". He was also decorated with the silver medal for bravery in September 1917 on Monte San Gabriele. Other testimony of the "Workers' Group" is found in entry N° 814.



2° Reggimento Genio
186^a COMPAGNIA

2nd Regiment Engineers
186th COMPANY

All'ingresso di un ricovero in roccia con all'interno un serbatoio idrico è presente questa lapide della 186^a Compagnia Zappatori. Questa, assieme 122^a e 169^a Compagnia, costituiva il 53° Battaglione Zappatori alle dipendenze del VI Corpo d'Armata che ha operato nel settore tra Monte Asolone e Monte Meate, toccando anche Monte Pertica e la Conca delle Bocchette sul Massiccio del Grappa.

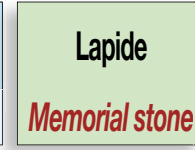
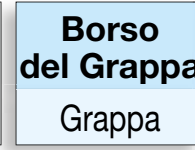
At the entrance to a rock shelter containing a water tank, this memorial tablet from the 186th Sapper Company which, together with the 122nd and the 169th Company, comprised the 53rd Sapper Battalion under the 6th Army Corps which was operational in the sector between Monte Asolone and Monte Meate, also touching on Monte Pertica and the Bocchette Basin on the Grappa Massif.



Crespano
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

206
2003



239 REGG FANT
M
XXIV - VI - MCMXVIII

239° REGGIMENTO DI FANteria
M
24 - GIUGNO - 1918

239th INFANTRY REGIMENT
M
24 - JUNE - 1918

Tra il gennaio e febbraio del 1917 si costituisce nelle colline asolane la Brigata di Fanteria Pesaro data dal 239° e 240° Reggimento. A maggio è sull'Altopiano dei Sette Comuni nella zona di Passo Stretto-Valle di Campomulo. Partecipa all'offensiva italiana del giugno 1917 con il compito di conquistare Monte Zebio, lasciando sul campo 23 ufficiali e 555 militari di truppa. Viene inviata sul Carso in luglio ed alla battaglia della Bainsizza dell'agosto del 1917 si distingue per il raggiungimento degli obiettivi dati. All'offensiva di Caporetto è in retrolinea per la difesa della linea Monte Fortin - Medea per permettere il ripiegamento della 3^a Armata. Qui viene decimata dall'irruenza nemica. I resti della Pesaro si ritirano e passano il Piave il 30 novembre, riposandosi presso la zona di San Zenone degli Ezzelini e Casoni di Mussolente. Viene mandata in Val Poise come riserva del VI Corpo d'Armata. Il 239° tra il 20 e 22 dicembre riconquista il Monte Asolone. Nei primi mesi del 1918 il 239° opera nella zona della Bocchette, Val dei Pez, Cà Tasson.

Subisce perdite spaventose tra il 15 e 16 giugno 1918 per difendere le prime linee sul Monte Asolone. Alla battaglia di Vittorio Veneto opera contro le difficili posizioni di Monte Pertica - Casera Cima pagando un alto numero di caduti. Il monumento qui mostrato assieme ad altri catalogati fanno parte dell'ex cimitero militare della Brigata Pesaro presso l'Asolone.

Between January and February 1917 the Pesaro Infantry Brigade was set up in the Asolo hills, comprising the 239th and 240th Regiments. In May it was on the Plateau of the Sette Comuni in the Passo Stretto-Valle di Campomulo zone. It took part in the Italian offensive of June 1917 with the task of taking Monte Zebio, leaving 23 officers and 555 men dead on the battlefield. It was sent to the Carso in July, and at the battle of Bainsizza in August 1917 it distinguished itself by achieving given objectives. At the Caporetto offensive it was in the rearguard for defence of the Monte Fortin-Medea line to permit the retreat of the 3rd Army. Here it was decimated by enemy violence. The survivors of the Pesaro Brigade withdrew and crossed the Piave on 30th November, resting in the area of San Zenone degli Ezzelini and Casoni di Mussolente. It was sent to Val Poise as reserve for the 6th Army Corps. Between 20th and 22nd December the 239th retook Monte Asolone. In the early months of 1918 the 239th was operational in the Bocchette, Val dei Pez and Cà Tasson area. It suffered terrible losses between 15th and 16th June 1918 while defending the front lines on Monte Asolone. At the battle of Vittorio Veneto it combated the difficult positions of Monte Pertica-Casera Cima, paying with a high number of deaths. The monument shown here, together with other catalogue entries, is in the former military cemetery of the Pesaro Brigade at Monte Asolone.

BRIGATA "PESARO"

239° 240° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA "PESARO"

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1917 1°GM MONTE ZEBIO, SOBER, MORTEGLIANO,
MONTE ASOLONE, CÀ D'ANNA

1918 MONTE GRAPPA, MONTE PERTICA

239° RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

ALLA BANDIERA: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA - 1 MED. ARGENTO

240° RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

ALLA BANDIERA: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA - 1 MED. ARGENTO

CITAZIONI NEI BOLLETTINI DI GUERRA

DEL COMANDO SUPREMO

N° 939 del 19.12.1917 e N°1125 del 23.06.1918

e N° 1252 del 26.10.1918

Costituta nel gennaio 1917:

il comando di brigata ed il 239° dal deposito del 59°,

il 240° dal deposito del 60°.

Note storiche si veda quanto riportato in scheda.



"PESARO" BRIGADE

239th 240th INFANTRY REGIMENT "PESARO"

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1917 1ST GM MONTE ZEBIO, SOBER, MORTEGLIANO,
MONTE ASOLONE, CÀ D'ANNA

1918 MONTE GRAPPA, MONTE PERTICA

239TH AWARDS FOR BRAVERY

TO THE FLAG: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY - 1 SILVER MED.

240TH AWARDS FOR BRAVERY

TO THE FLAG: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY - 1 SILVER MED.

MENTIONED IN DESPACHES

FROM SUPREME COMMAND

N° 939 OF 19.12.1917, N°1125 OF 23.06.1918

AND N° 1252 OF 26.10.1918

Established in January 1917:

the brigade command and the 239th from the depot of the 59th,

the 240th from the depot of the 60th.

Historical notes: see the entry.



**Borso
del Grappa**
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

209
2003

239° Reggimento Fanteria

Per le note storiche vedere scheda n° 211

239th Infantry Regiment

For historical notes see entry N° 211



Soldato
LANZA GIOVANNI
9^a COMPAGNIA

Soldato
BONETTO GIOVAN.
1536 COMPAGNIA MITRAGLIERI

239 FANTERIA

Trooper
GIOVANNI LANZA
9th COMPANY

Trooper
GIOVAN. BONETTO
1536 COMPANY MACHINE-GUNNERS

239 INFANTRY

Per i cenni storici si veda la scheda codice 211, croce funebre sulla tomba di due militari caduti della Brigata Pesaro, le salme ora riposano presso il Sacrario di Cima Grappa.

For historical notes see entry code 211, funeral cross on the grave of two Pesaro Brigade soldiers. Their remains are now in the memorial chapel of Cima Grappa.



**Borso
del Grappa**
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

212
2003



**Borso del
Grappa**
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

225
2003

7° Raggruppamento
Bombardieri
305 B.ria Bom

7° Raggruppamento
Bombardieri
305^a Batteria Bombarde

7th Unit
Bombardiers
305th Mortar Battery

Questa iscrizione è tra le più belle censite sul Massiccio del Grappa, su di un masso è stato scolpito questo ferro di cavallo ornato da un nastro che entra ed esce dove è riportato il numero della batteria bombarde. Al centro il fregio del 7° Raggruppamento Bombardieri. La 305^a Batteria Bombarde era inquadrata nel 102° Gruppo ed operava per il XXX Corpo d'Armata. Il suo armamento era costituito da bombarde da 240 L.A.. Il settore di tiro erano le linee austriache dei Solaroli, Monte Valderoa e Val Calcino.

This inscription is one of the finest recorded on the Grappa Massif. The horseshoe is sculpted on a rock and decorated with an entwining ribbon that bears the number of the mortar battery. In the centre, the insignia of the 7th Unit Bombardiers. The 305th Mortar Battery was formed in cadres in the 102nd Group and was operational with the 30th Army Corps. Its weapons consisted of 240 L.A. mortars and its target was the Austrian lines of the Solaroli, Monte Valderoa and Val Calcino.



Tomba di uno zappatore austroungarico. *Grave of an austro-hungarian sapper.*

Hier Na (?)
KORPWEN ..LKRIZ
K..3 SAPPK
BCI 1891 Gef 30 MO

Qui riposa
CAPORALE ..LKRIZ
3^a COMPAGNIA ZAPPATORI
CLASSE 1891 Caduto 30 (?)

Here lies
CORPORAL ..LKRIZ
3rd SAPPER COMPANY
CLASS OF 1891 Fell 30 (?)



**Alano di
Piave**

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

231

2003



..AUT
 ..I. WKRIEG
 ..1.V - 4.VI.18.
 DURCH DIE
 JNG.GRUPPE "G. M.
 TREIB"
 K. PFEIFER

COSTRUITA
 GUERRA MONDIALE
 ..1.V - 4.VI.18.
 dal
 GRUPPO INGEGNERI "G.
 M. TREIB"
 K. PFEIFER

BUILT
 WORLD WAR
 ..1.V - 4.VI.18.
 by the
 "G. M. TREIB" ENGINEERS
 GROUP
 K. PFEIFER



Seren
 del Grappa
 Grappa

Lapide
 Memorial stone

237
 2002

Il Generale Joseph Trieb (nato 19.10.1862 e morto nel 1939) venne promosso maggior generale il 1° agosto del 1917 e andò in pensione il 1° gennaio 1919.

Durante la guerra, essendo ingegnere, svolgeva mansioni di progettazione, coordinamento e direzione lavori nell'esecuzione di opere militari necessarie per l'approvvigionamento e il munizionamento delle truppe di prima linea.

Attivo nella zona del Massiccio del Grappa con la costruzione dell'acquedotto nella Valle dello Stizzone, contribuì, con il gruppo Ing. Hora, alla costruzione di grandi acquedotti. Curiosità nella vita di questo generale austriaco fu il fatto di essere stato docente di volo in pallone al primo corso di volo tenuto presso l'Arsenal a Vienna, nella prima sede del Militär-Aeronautischen Institut, il 20 agosto 1893. Morì nel 1939 a Vienna. Assieme al Colonnello Franz Hinterstoisser, viene considerato il fondatore dell'arte aviatoria militare in Austria.

General Joseph Trieb (born 19.10.1862, died 1939) was promoted to Major-General on 1st August 1917 and retired on 1st January 1919.

During the war, being an engineer, he planned, coordinated and directed military works necessary for provisioning and supplying munitions to the front line troops. Active in the area of the Grappa Massif with construction of the reservoir in the Stizzone Valley, he contributed with the Engineering Group Hora to the building of large reservoirs.

A curiosity in the life of this Austrian general is the fact that he had been a ballooning instructor on the first flying course held at the Arsenal in Vienna, the first headquarters of the Militär-Aeronautischen Institut, on 20th August 1893.

He died in Vienna (1939). With Colonel Franz Hinterstoisser he is considered the founder of Austrian military aviation.



1918 30,5 cm

1918 30,5 cm

1918 30,5 cm

... Btt. 5/..

... batteria 5/..

... battery 5/..

Il mortaio Skoda M 11 venne prodotto anche in versione migliorata M16 per un totale di 72 pezzi, trasportabili singolarmente con trattoria tipo M 12 o M 12/16 a doppia motorizzazione, progettata assieme ai tre rimorchi (rispettivamente per la canna, per l'affusto e per la base) dall'ing. Karl Por-

The Skoda M11 mortar was also produced in an improved M16 version for a total of 72 pieces, transportable individually with M12 or M 12/16 twin-engine tractors designed, together with three trailers (for the barrel, the gun-carriage and the base respectively), by the engineer Karl Porsche.

sche. Il traino completo poteva muoversi ad una velocità media di 6 km/h. Mortai del tipo M11 distrussero i forti italiani del Verena e di Campolongo nel giugno 1915. Il calibro era appunto di 305 mm; il pezzo aveva un alzo tra i +40/+70°, con un brandeggio di 120°, migliorati nella versione M16 a 360°. Il peso in batteria raggiungeva i 20.830 Kg ed una granata pesava dai 287 ai 385 Kg. La velocità iniziale del proietto alla volata era di 340 m/s e la gittata raggiungeva nell'M11 gli 11,3 Km. La versione M16, oltre all'infinita possibilità di brandeggio, raggiunse migliori anche per quanto riguarda la velocità alla volata (450 m/s) e la gittata (12,3 km). I due mortai da 305 mm schierati nella valle dell'Avien (quota 433) appartenevano probabilmente al Festungsartilleriebataillon Nr. 9 (Battaglione da fortezza n. 9) che incorporava tra le sue file artiglieri di lingua tedesca al 35%, il 60% di cechi e 5% di altre etnie. Le Mörserbatterien attive al mese di giugno del 1918 risultavano essere 36 con 72 mortai complessivi.

The complete rig could move at an average speed of 6 kph. Mortars of the M11 type destroyed the Italian forts at Verena and Campolongo in June 1915.

The calibre was 305 mm; the piece had a sight between +40/+70° with a traverse of 120°, improved in the M16 to 360°. The weight in battery was 20,830 Kg and a shell weighed from 287 to 385 Kg. The initial muzzle velocity of the shell was 340 m/s and in the M11 the range was as much as 11.3 Km. The M16 version, over and above the infinite possibilities of traverse, also achieved improvements in muzzle velocity (450 m/s) and range (12.3 Km)

The two 305 mm mortars deployed in the Avien valley (altitude 433 m) probably belonged to the Festungsartilleriebataillon Nr. 9 (Fort N° 9 Battalion) which incorporated among its ranks 35% German speaking gunners, 60% Czechs and 5% other ethnic groups.

The Mörserbatterien, active in June 1918, numbered 36 with 72 mortars overall.



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

243
2003



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

246
2003

..RBAUT
BOHRZUG 36
918

COSTRUITA
DALLA 36^a COMPAGNIA
PERFORATICI
1918

BUILT
BY THE 36th DRILLERS
COMPANY
1918

I plotoni perforatrici, appartenenti al genio pionieri o, in parte ai battaglioni zappatori, costituirono per l'esercito austroungarico e per i due eserciti nazionali, quello ungherese e quello austriaco, un valido aiuto per l'apprestamento di ricoveri e difese specialmente quando la guerra diventava di posizione. Sul Grappa simili unità vennero utilizzate per costruire nuove strade, arroccate su pendii anche strapiombanti, caverne, ricoveri, gallerie, opere di captazione per l'acqua da pompare in quota con acquedotti funambolici.

The drilling platoons, which belonged to the pioneer engineers or in part to the sapper battalions, were a vital aid in preparing shelters and defences, especially when the war became a question of holding positions.

Similar units were used on Grappa for building new roads, also on sheer slopes, together with caves, shelters, tunnels and catchment works for water that was pumped up to reservoirs at higher altitudes.



..ersagli..
1118 Compagn
Mitraglieri
Fiat

Bersaglieri
1118 Compagnia
Mitraglieri
Fiat

Bersaglieri
1118th Company
Machine-Gunners
Fiat

Si veda scheda n° 817 per i cenni storici. Questa lapide è stata recuperata durante i lavori di ripristino dei manufatti militari sul Monte Pallone nel Massiccio del Grappa.

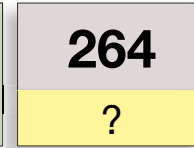
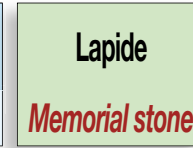
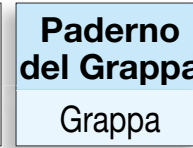
See entry N° 817 for historical data. This memorial tablet was recovered during rehabilitation works on military constructions on Monte Pallone in the Grappa Massif.



Alano di
Pieve
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

258
2005



2° REGGIMENTO GENIO

214^a

COMPAGNIA

1918

2nd REGIMENT ENGINEER CORPS

214th

COMPANY

1918

Questa testimonianza è stata fotografata in Valle San Liberale, era collocata sui resti di un vecchio ponte costruito dalla 214^a Compagnia per attraversare il Torrente Lastego. **OGGI LA LAPIDE È SCOMPARSA.**

Questa lapide deve essere stata collocata nei primi mesi del 1918 in quanto a maggio la 214^a assieme alla 153^a, 158^a e 161^a Compagnia erano inquadrata nel LIV Battaglione Zappatori del VI Corpo d'Armata. Operò nel settore del Monte Pertica. Il 24 ottobre inizia la battaglia di Vittorio Veneto, la 214^a Compagnia partecipò all'assalto ed alla fortificazione delle posizioni appena conquistate del Monte Pertica e poi verso l'Osteria del Forcelletto. In questi giorni il LIV Battaglione Zappatori accusò numerosi feriti e caduti.

*This testimony was photographed in Valle San Liberale. It stood on the remains of an old bridge built by the 214th Company to cross the Lastego torrent. **THE MEMORIAL TABLET HAS SINCE DISAPPEARED.***

This memorial tablet must have been placed in the early months of 1918, since in May the 214th, with the 153rd, 158th and 161st Companies, was formed in cadres in the 54th Sapper Battalion of the 6th Army Corps. It was operational in the Monte Pertica sector. The battle of Vittorio Veneto began on 24th October, where the 214th Company took part in the assault and in fortification of the positions taken on Monte Pertica, and subsequently towards Osteria del Forcelletto. Over these days the 54th Sapper Battalion suffered many dead and wounded.



5° REGGIMENTO GENIO
XIX COMPAGNIA
OSSERVATORIO CENGELLO

5th REGIMENT ENGINEER CORPS
19th COMPANY
CENGELLO OBSERVATORY

OGGI QUESTA LAPIDE È STATA TRAFUGATA, al suo posto vi è una replica. Era tra le meglio conservate sul Massiccio del Grappa ma l'inciviltà di alcune persone è tale che oggi queste testimonianze sono oggetto di becero collezionismo. L'osservatorio Cengello, costruito dalla 19^a Compagnia minatori, aveva compiti di osservazione per guidare il tiro delle nostre artiglierie sulle linee austriache nella conca di Alano di Piave e Valdobbiadene. Questo osservatorio, assieme a Cauriol (Col d'Astiago), Moschettiere (Col Moschin), Sauro (Col Fagheron), Battisti (Monte Grappa) e Carlo (Collalto - Fagarè) costituivano gli osservatori principali alle dipendenze dirette della 4^a Armata. Il 25 gennaio 1918 era già operativa e fu assegnata al Comando d'Artiglieria d'Armata. Della stessa compagnia è la lapide alla scheda n° 122.

THIS MEMORIAL TABLET HAS BEEN STOLEN and substituted by a replica. It was one of the best preserved on the Grappa Massif but the antisocial attitude of certain people is such that these testimonies risk theft by vulgar collectors. The Cengello observatory, built by the 19th Sappers Company, had the purpose of guiding Italian artillery fire on the Austrian lines in the basin of Alano di Piave and Valdobbiadene. This observatory, with Mount Cauriol (Col d'Astiago), Moschettiere (Col Moschin), Sauro (Col Fagheron), Battisti (Monte Grappa) and Carlo (Collalto-Fagarè) were the main ones under the 4th Army. On 25th January 1918 it was already operational and was assigned to Army Artillery Command. The memorial tablet at entry N° 122 refers to the same company.



Possagno
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

266
2003



5° REGGIMENTO ALPINI
251 COMPAGNIA
BATT. VALCAMONICA
ERMENS

Il Battaglione Alpini Val Camonica era costituito dalla 250^a, 251^a e 252^a Compagnia. Inquadrate nel 5° Reggimento Alpini. Nel 1915 è operativo nel settore Valtellina - Val Camonica, partecipa ai combattimenti nella zona del Montozzo, Punta Albiolo, Ercavallo. Nel 1916 viene comandato il tra-

The Val Camonica Alpine Battalion comprised the 250th, 251st and 252nd Companies. Formed in cadres in the 5th Alpine Regiment, in 1915 it went operational in the Valtellina-Val Camonica sector, seeing combat in the Montozzo, Punta Albiolo and Ercavallo zone. In 1916 the battalion

5th ALPINE REGIMENT
251 COMPANY
VALCAMONICA BATTALION
ERMENS



Alano di Piave
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

271
2003

sferimento del battaglione sul Monte Cukla inquadrato nella 36^a Divisione che opera nel settore del Rombon.

Nel febbraio del 1917 è trasferito a Canal San Bovo e difende le posizioni di Col San Giovanni dove si distingue per audaci colpi di mano. Le posizioni vengono poi abbandonate per l'offensiva austriaca di Caporetto, si ritira in fretta partecipando alla prima difesa del Grappa attestandosi tra Monte Prassolan, Roncone e Fredina, poi poco dopo è sulla cresta dei Solaroli, Val Cinespa, Monte Fontanel.

Agli inizi del 1918 dopo un periodo di riposo nella pedemontana trevigiana è richiamato nella regione Solaroli, Valderoa e Val Calcino. Resta in quota fino quasi alla fine di maggio 1918, poi viene radunato nella zona di San Zenone degli Ezzelini - Liedolo per essere trasferito nuovamente nella regione della Valtellina presso Cima di Cady e Monte Tonale fino alla fine del conflitto. Il Battaglione Val Camonica era inquadrato nell'XI Gruppo che assieme al III costituivano il 5° Raggruppamento Alpino alla dipendenza del XXX Corpo d'Armata.

was transferred to Monte Cukla, formed in cadres in the 36th Division which was operational in the Rombon sector. In February 1917 it was transferred to Canal San Bovo to defend the positions of Col San Giovanni, distinguishing itself with audacious surprise attacks. The positions were then abandoned due to the Austrian offensive at Caporetto. The company withdrew hurriedly and took part in the first defences of Grappa, between Monte Prassolan, Roncone and Fredina, and shortly afterwards it was operational on the ridge of the Solaroli, Val Cinespa, and Monte Fontanel. At the beginning of 1918, after a rest period in the Treviso foothills, it was recalled to the Solaroli, Valderoa and Val Calcino region. It remained on high ground until almost the end of May 1918 when it was summoned to the San Zenone degli Ezzelini-Liedolo zone for further transfer to the Valtellina region, at Cima di Cady and Monte Tonale, where it remained until the end of the conflict. The Val Camonica Battalion was formed in cadres in the 11th Group which, with the 3rd, made up the 5th Alpine Unit under the 30th Army Corps.



5° REGGIMENTO ALPINI
251 COMPAGNIA
BATTAGLIONE VALCAMONICA

5th ALPINE REGIMENT
251 COMPANY
VALCAMONICA BATTALION

Per i cenni storici del Battaglione Alpini Val Camonica si rimanda alla scheda n° 271. *For historical notes on the Val Camonica Alpine Battalion, see entry N° 271.*



Alano
di Piave
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

279
2003



Valstagna
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

283
2003

TEN. MED. A.G.
OSPEDALE
DA
CAMPO
1917

TENENTE MEDICO A. G.
OSPEDALE
DA
CAMPO
1917

MEDICAL OFFICER A. G.
FIELD
HOSPITAL
1917



23 / 8 / 1918

Presso le difese di Col Campeggia è presente questo graffito che riporta una data. Questa zona era molto importante perché vi erano dislocati numerosi osservatori di artiglieria, arrivi di teleferiche e sede di importanti comandi. La presenza di numerosi manufatti militari ancora visibili fanno capire come il Col Campeggia fosse un caposaldo molto importante per l'esercito italiano nel 1918.

Discovered at the Col Campeggia defenses, this graffito gives a date. The zone was highly important because there were numerous artillery observatories, cable-way stations and important command headquarters.

The presence of numerous still visible military installations demonstrates that Col Campeggia was a highly important stronghold for the Italian army in 1918.



?

Romano
d'Ezzelino

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

287

2003



919 Compagnia Mitraglieri
Fiat
GALLERIA BRANCACCIO
XXIII IX MCMXVIII

919th Machine-Gunner Company
Fiat
BRANCACCIO TUNNEL
XXIII IX MCMXVIII



Seren del
Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

294
2009

Questa compagnia mitraglieri era dislocata nel giugno del 1917 nella località di San Vito al Torre (Udine) alle dipendenze della Brigata Salerno inquadrata nella 28^a Divisione del 14° Corpo d'Armata. In agosto era a difesa del fiume Natisone presso il Mulino della Roggia n° 5 e 6 alle dipendenze della Brigata di Fanteria Modena. Dopo Caporetto fu dislocata temporaneamente nel Canal del Brenta in località Merlo, poi a gennaio 1918 a riposo a Villa Negri, poi a Sant'Eulalia e San Andrea.

Da aprile a settembre comincia un lungo periodo di linea (intervallato da piccoli periodi di riposo in pedemontana) sul Massiccio del Grappa tenendo le posizioni dello sbarramento della Val Cesilla, a riposo nella Conca Ardosà, poi posizioni di Cà Tasson, punto appoggio A. Torna a novembre 1918 definitivamente in pianura a Sant'Eulalia a guerra terminata.

Per tutto il periodo sul Grappa questa compagnia mitraglieri fu alle dipendenze del Reggimento di Fanteria Modena inquadrato nella 59^a Divisione del VI Corpo d'Armata. Collezione privata.

In June 1917 this machine-gunner company was in San Vito al Torre (Udine) under the Salerno Brigade formed in cadres in the 28th Division of the 14th Army Corps. In August it defended the river Natisone at the Mulino della Roggia N° 5 and 6 under the Modena Infantry Brigade.

After Caporetto it was temporarily deployed at the Brenta Canal in the Merlo locality, then in January 1918 it was resting in Villa Negri and subsequently in Sant'Eulalia and San Andrea. From April to September it began a long period in the line (with short rest periods in the foothills) on the Grappa Massif, holding the barrage positions of Val Cesilla.

Then it rested in the Ardosà Basin before taking up positions at Cà Tasson, support point A. In November 1918 it returned definitively to the plain at Sant'Eulalia when the war was over.

Throughout its period on Grappa this machine-gunner company was under the Modena Infantry Regiment, formed in cadres in the 59th Division of the 6th Army Corps. Private collection.



R. BSTEH.
12 IV 1918

R. BSTEH.
12 aprile 1918

R. BSTEH.
12 april 1918

Sul Massiccio del Grappa, a più riprese, operarono reggimenti degli Schützen.

In particolare, ricordiamo il 3° Reggimento Schützen di Graz che combatté per l'intero periodo novembre 1917 – ottobre 1918 sulle dorsali del Grappa, dai Solaroli al Pertica.

Qui si tratta appunto con molta probabilità di uno Schütze di Graz. Questo graffito è posto vicino ad altri catalogati nelle schede n° 501 e 511.

The Schützen regiments were repeatedly operational on the Grappa Massif.

In particular we point out the 3rd Schützen Regiment of Graz that fought throughout the period November 1917-October 1918 on the Grappa ridges, from the Solaroli to the Pertica.

Here in all probability it is a Graz Schütze. This graffito is set near others catalogued at entries N° 501 and 511.



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

305
2003



Alano di
Piave

Grappa

Iscrizione

Inscription

308

2003

K U K

I.R. 43

1918

Esercito Imperiale e Regio

43° Reggimento Fanteria

1918

Imperial and Royal Army

43rd Infantry Regiment

1918

Probabile comando di settore delle operazioni nel Massiccio del Grappa da parte del 43° Reggimento di Fanteria "Rupprecht principe ereditario di Baviera". Questo reggimento si formava nel 1814, la festa era il 24 giugno anniversario della battaglia di Custoza del 1866. Il distretto di reclutamento era Karánsebes. Era formato per il 5% da militari di lingua magiare, l'80% rumena ed il restante 15% di lingua tedesca.

Probable sector command of operations on the Grappa Massif by the 43rd Infantry Regiment "Rupprecht hereditary prince of Bavaria".

This regiment was formed in 1814 and celebrated the 24th June anniversary of the battle of Custoza (1866). The recruiting district was Karánsebes. It comprised 5% Hungarian speakers, 80% Romanian and the remaining 15% German.



LA BRIGATA EMILIA
QUI FERMO'
L'AQUILA GRIFAGNA
15 GIUGNO 1918

HERE THE EMILIA BRIGADE
STOPPED
THE PREDATORY EAGLE
15th JUNE 1918

Presso una postazione in galleria è presente questa lapide che dimostra quanto la Brigata Emilia si oppose all'offensiva austriaca del 15 giugno 1918. La Brigata Emilia era formata dal 119° e 120° Reggimento di Fanteria, nel 1915 operò sull'Isonzo tra il Monte Nero ed il Monte Rosso, nel 1916 ritorna nella zona di Caporetto ed il 3 agosto sul Mrzli dove alcuni reparti dell'Emilia sono colpiti dall'esplosione di una mina e

This memorial tablet in a tunnel position bears witness to the Emilia Brigade's resistance to the Austrian offensive of 15th June 1918. The Brigade was formed from the 119th and 120th Infantry Regiment and in 1915 was operational on the Isonzo between Monte Nero and Monte Rosso. In 1916 it returned to the zone of Caporetto and on 3rd August was on Mt. Mrzli where several units of the Emilia Brigade were hit by the explosion of a mine and a

successivo attacco austriaco, ma la prontezza di reazione, malgrado le perdite subite, fece fallire l'attacco. Nella prima parte del 1917 opera nella zona di Gorizia ed anche al Monte San Gabriele. Alla battaglia di Caporetto inizia la sua ritirata con lo scopo di ritardare l'avanzata austro-tedesca scontrandosi sul Podgora e al ponte di Madrisio sul Tagliamento. Dopo essersi riordinata presso Loreggia, transita per Vardanega e Possagno per arrivare, inquadrata con la 1^a Divisione, il 24 novembre 1917 nel settore Cima dei Lebi - Cima Schiarer. Rimane in linea con compiti di fortificazione e difesa fino a febbraio 1918 per poi passare in riposo. Ritorna nella zona di Val Calcino - Monte Medata - Porte di Salton. Qui respinge tutti gli attacchi austriaci del 15 e 16 giugno 1918; le poche posizioni perse sono riprese agli inizi di luglio. Il 16 settembre partecipa alla conquista delle posizioni di Fossa dei Confini e Malga Val dei Pez ma non riesce ad occupare il Col del Cuc. Tali posizioni vengono perse all'inizio di ottobre e malgrado un pronto contrattacco l'esito non è favorevole e lascia sul campo 8 ufficiali e 240 soldati. Alla battaglia di Vittorio Veneto è dislocata come riserva tra Basco e Ciano, all'armistizio è a Sernaglia e Farra di Soligo.

subsequent Austrian attack. But their prompt reaction repulsed the attack, in spite of losses. In early 1917 it was operational in the Gorizia area and also at Monte San Gabriele. At the battle of Caporetto it began its withdrawal with the aim of delaying the Austro-German advance, clashing on the Podgora and the Madrisio bridge on the Tagliamento. Having regrouped at Loreggia, it passed by way of Vardanega and Possagno to form in cadres, on 24th November 1917, in the 1st Division, in the Cima dei Lebi - Cima Schiarer sector. It remained in the line with duties of fortification and defence until February 1918 when it was then rested before returning to the Val Calcino - Monte Medata - Porte di Salton zone. Here it repulsed all the Austrian attacks of 15th and 16th June 1918 and the few positions lost were retaken at the beginning of July. On 16th September it took part in the capture of the positions Fossa dei Confini and Malga Val dei Pez but didn't manage to occupy Col del Cuc. These positions were lost at the beginning of October, and notwithstanding a prompt counterattack the outcome was not favourable, leaving 8 officers and 240 men dead in the field. At the battle of Vittorio Veneto it was deployed as reserve between Basco and Ciano, and at the armistice it was stationed at Sernaglia and Farra di Soligo.



Alano di
Pieve
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

312
2003



**Paderno
del Grappa**
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

319
2003

1918
32° GRUPPO
BOMBARDIERI

1918
32nd GROUP
BOMBARDIERS

Sebbene la parte inferiore dell'iscrizione sia rovinata questa è ancora comprensibile. Sul Massiccio del Grappa il 32° Gruppo Bombardieri era inquadrato nel 7° Raggruppamento Bombarde e comprendeva le Batterie 31^a, 116^a, 125^a, e 162^a.

Erano armate con bombarde tipo 58 A con gittata utile che andava dai 100 fino ai 650 m. Il 32° Gruppo era assegnato al XXX Corpo d'Armata ma era alle dirette dipendenze del Comando di Artiglieria della IV Armata.

Probabile che questa galleria fosse all'epoca a servizio del 32° Gruppo.

Though the lower part of the inscription is ruined, it is still legible.

On the Grappa Massif the 32nd Group Bombardiers was formed in cadres in the 7th Mortar Unit and comprised the 31st, 116th, 125th and 162nd Batteries.

They were armed with 58A type mortars with a working range of 100 to 650 metres. The 32nd Group was assigned to the 30th Army Corps but came directly under the Artillery Command of the 4th Army.

At the time, this tunnel was probably used by the 32nd Group.



GOMASOTTI
GAUDENZIO

Interessante firma di un artigliere con relativo fregio dell'arma. Questo graffito è collocato sulla galleria con l'iscrizione del 32° Gruppo bombardieri presente alla scheda n° 319.

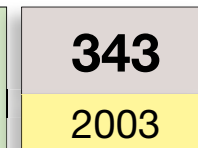
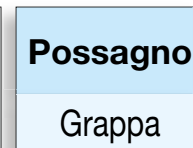
The interesting signature of a gunner with the regimental insignia. This graffito is in the tunnel with the inscription of the 32nd Group Bombardiers (entry N° 319).



**Paderno
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

327
2003



Brigata Como
R.to Se
1° R° S R e

Brigata Como
Reparto ?
1° Reparto ?

Como Brigade
Unit ?
1st Unit ?

La Brigata Como comprendeva il 23° e 24° Reggimento di Fanteria. Nel 1915 è nel settore della IV Armata ed in particolare nella zona Valle del Boite, conquista Cortina d'Ampezzo e si distingue per l'occupazione di Col Rosà. Partecipa ad azioni sul Forame, Cristallo e Tofane. Nel 1916, dopo una breve presenza sul Col di Lana - Sief si porta nella zona del Cristallo e partecipa ad assalti nel settore del Rauchkofl e poi sulla linea Monte Cadini - Croda dell'Ancona - Ruffreddo. Nel giugno 1916 passa alle dipendenze del Nucleo Ferrari ed è impegnata nelle azioni di Forcella Ceremana. Ad agosto conquista Cima di Cece. Nel 1917 ritorna nell'ampio settore Cima di Lavaredo - Croda Rossa - Colle di Montecroce Comelico. Dopo Caporetto, l'11 è già a Quero inquadrata nella 17^a Divisione del IX Corpo d'Armata. Gli viene affidato il compito di sbarrare l'avanzata austriaca nel settore Monte Fontanasecca - Rocca Cisa. La Brigata Como si difende tenacemente dai ripetuti assalti dei reparti bosniaci ma deve poi ritirarsi verso Monte Tomba e Monfenera. Il 5 dicembre è in riposo a Bassano poi in linea nel settore di Val Calcino - Solaroli fino a luglio del 1918. Nel giugno in questo settore viene messa a dura prova, perde alcune posizioni ma impedisce agli austriaci di raggiungere la Valle delle Mure. Prima di lasciare il Grappa partecipa alla conquista del "Trincerone dell'Abete" che costituiva una spina nel fianco per le truppe italiane. Tra agosto e novembre opera nel medio Piave partecipando in quelle zone alla battaglia di Vittorio Veneto.

The Como Brigade comprised the 23rd and 24th Infantry Regiment. In 1915 it was in the 4th Army sector, and in particular in the Valle del Boite zone. It took Cortina d'Ampezzo and distinguished itself for the occupation of Col Rosà. It took part in actions on Forame, Cristallo and Tofane. In 1916, after a brief period on Col di Lana-Sief it moved to the Cristallo area and took part in assaults in the Rauchkofl sector and subsequently on the Monte Cadini-Croda dell'Ancona-Ruffreddo line. In June 1916, under the Ferrari Squad, it took part in the actions at Forcella Ceremana. In August it took Cima di Cece. In 1917 it returned to the broad Cima di Lavaredo-Croda Rossa-Colle di Montecroce Comelico sector. After Caporetto, on the 11th it was already at Quero, formed in cadres in the 17th Division of the 9th Army Corps. It was given the task of blocking the Austrian advance in the Monte Fontanasecca-Rocca Cisa sector. The Como Brigade tenaciously repulsed repeated assaults by Bosnian units but then had to retreat towards Monte Tomba and Monfenera. On 5th December it was resting in Bassano and subsequently returned to the line in the Val Calcino-Solaroli sector, remaining until July 1918. In June it was put severely to the test in this sector, losing some positions, but it prevented the Austrians from reaching Valle delle Mure. Before leaving Grappa it participated in taking the "Trincerone dell'Abete", a thorn in the flesh for the Italian troops. Between August and November it was operational in the middle Piave zone, taking part in the battle of Vittorio Veneto.

24° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA “COMO”

“VIRTUTE DUCE, COMITE GLORIA”

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1848 1ª GUERRA D'INDIPENDENZA

1860/61 MARCHE-UMBRIA-BASSA ITALIA

1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO

1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

ALLA BANDIERA: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA - 2 MED. ARGENTO

UFF. e TRUPPA: 2 CAV ORD. MIL. SAVOIA - 267 MED. ARGENTO

85 MED. BRONZO - 9 CROCI DI GUERRA

PERDITE IN COMBATTIMENTO

UFFICIALI: MORTI 16 - FERITI 56 - DISPERSI 44

TRUPPA: MORTI 269 - FERITI 1204 - DISPERSI 2673

Si formò con elementi del 23ª regg. Nel novembre 1859.

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté come riportato in scheda.

Festa del reggimento 28 Ottobre.



24TH INFANTRY REGIMENT “COMO”

“VIRTUTE DUCE, COMITE GLORIA”

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1848 1ST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

1860/61 MARCHE-UMBRIA-SOUTHERN ITALY

1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO

1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY

TO THE FLAG: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY - 2 SILVER MED.
OFF. and MEN: 2 CAV ORD. MIL. SAVOY - 267 SILVER MED.

85 BRONZE MED. - 9 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION

OFFICERS: 16 DEAD – 56 WOUNDED – 44 MISSING
MEN: 269 DEAD - 1204 WOUNDED - 2673 MISSING

Formed with elements of the 23rd regiment in November 1859.

During the 1st World War it fought as described in the entry.

Regimental Day: 28th October.



Paderno
del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

331
2003

GASLINI

Sempre sulla galleria dove è presente l'iscrizione del 32° Gruppo bombardieri visibile alla scheda n° 319 è presente anche questo graffito con il cognome dell'artigliere Gaslini.

In the same tunnel with the inscription of the 32nd Bombardiers Group (entry N° 319), this graffito with the surname of gunner Gaslini.



La 116ª Compagnia Zappatori assieme alla 101ª e 214ª costituivano il 67° Battaglione Zappatori del 2° Reggimento Genio ed era in forza alla 15ª Divisione di Fanteria. La 116ª viene ricordata in particolare per i fatti d'arme avvenuti in Val Sugana nel maggio del 1916 dove assieme alla Brigata Jonio difese e attaccò reparti austriaci presso Bagni Sella in Val Maggia dove, venuto a mancare l'effetto sorpresa dell'assalto, attaccò frontalmente le posizioni avversarie per dare maggiore consistenza all'assalto della fanteria. Gli zappatori attaccarono accompagnati dal capitano Zumino Romeo, decorato medaglia d'argento al valore, che gravemente ferito continuò a coordinare l'assalto. A gennaio del 1918 è operativa sul Massiccio del Grappa sempre inquadrata nella 15ª Divisione. Viene ricordata ancora nei fatti d'arme dell'ottobre 1918 dove cooperò all'assalto delle postazioni austriache dell'Osteria del Forcelletto, ed una volta conquistate le difese attivamente dai numerosi ritorni offensivi austriaci. In questa occasione fu assegnata la medaglia d'argento al tenete Manfredi - Frattarelli Virginio.

The 116th Sappers Company together with the 101st and the 214th constituted the 67th Sappers Battalion of the 2nd Engineers Regiment and was under the 15th Infantry Division. The 116th is especially remembered for the fighting in Val Sugana in May 1916 where, with the Jonio Brigade, it defended positions and attacked Austrian units at Bagni Sella in Val Maggia. With no possibility of a surprise assault they attacked the enemy positions frontally to give greater force to the infantry assault. The sappers' attack was led by captain Romeo Zumino, decorated with the silver medal for bravery: seriously wounded he continued to coordinate the assault. In January 1918 the battalion was operational on the Grappa Massif, still formed in cadres in the 15th Division. It should also be remembered for the fighting in October 1918 where it cooperated in the assault on the Austrian emplacements at Osteria del Forcelletto and, having taken them, in defending them from numerous enemy counterattacks. On this occasion the silver medal was awarded to lieutenant Virginio Manfredi-Frattarelli.

BATTAGLIONE GENIO
116ª COMPAGNIA

BATTAGLIONE GENIO
116ª COMPAGNIA

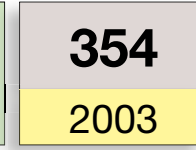
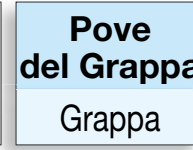
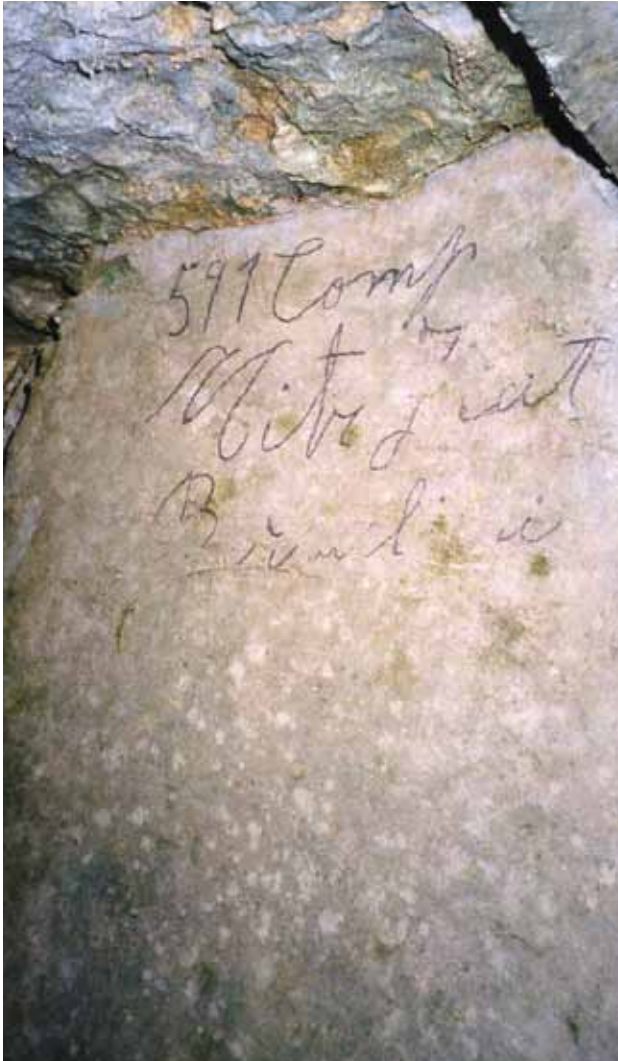
ENGINEERS BATTALION
116th COMPANY



Pove
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

348
2003



591 Comp
Mitr Fiat
Brind..i..i

591^a Compagnia
Mitraglieri Fiat
Brindisi (?)

591st Company
Fiat Machine-Gunners
Brindisi (?)

Presso l'ingresso di una galleria di un grosso caposaldo nella Valle di San Lorenzo è presente questo graffito fatto con il lapis da parte di un mitragliere.

A gennaio del 1918 la compagnia mitraglieri è alle dipendenze del 140° Reggimento di Fanteria Brigata Bari inquadrata nella 18^a e poi 17^a Divisione del IX Corpo d'Armata che operò dal Col del Miglio alla testata della Val Manara. Poi operò in Val San Lorenzo in località Capitello per poi tenere nell'ottobre del 1918 il Col Fagheron.

Alla fine della guerra è a riposo presso Campese a nord-ovest di Bassano del Grappa.

Near the entrance to the tunnel of a large stronghold in Valle di San Lorenzo, this graffito was written in pencil by a gunner.

In January 1918 the machine-gunner company was under the 140th Infantry Regiment Bari Brigade, formed in cadres in the 18th and then the 17th Division of the 9th Army Corps which was operational from Col del Miglio at the head of Val Manara. It then operated in Val San Lorenzo in the Capitello locality and subsequently, in October 1918, held the Col Fagheron. At the end of the war it rested in Campese, north-west of Bassano del Grappa.



MILANO

Presso l'ingresso di una galleria si trova inciso sul cemento il nome della città di Milano, probabile luogo di provenienza del militare che lo ha inciso.

At the entrance to a tunnel, the word "Milan" inscribed in the concrete, probably refers to the hometown of the soldier who wrote it.



?

Pove
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

369

2003



?

Pove
del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

373
2003

CROCE SCOLPITA SU INGRESSO RICOVERO

Presso l'ingresso di un ricovero in roccia a servizio di una trincea, di cui è in parte visibile il parapetto con il muschio, è presente questa croce scolpita. Incerto è il significato di questo simbolo sopra il ricovero. Questo controllava i pendii meridionali del Monte Asolone verso la Valle San Lorenzo.

CROSS SCULPTED AT SHELTER ENTRANCE

At the entrance to a shelter in the rock serving a trench (the parapet with musk is partially visible), this sculpted cross. The meaning of the symbol above the shelter is uncertain. From here they surveyed the southern slopes of Monte Asolone towards the Valle San Lorenzo.



..selesa 6/5 1918
..jeli i pomalo radili
Vukelic
Kokot Barac
Celic Sitaric

Presso un ricovero in roccia con portale in cemento alcuni soldati hanno lasciato il 6 maggio 1918 una frase (incompleta) ed i loro cognomi.

Dalle poche parole rimaste e dai cognomi, la provenienza dovrebbe essere stata dalla regione balcanica.

Near a shelter in the rock with entrance in concrete, some soldiers left a phrase (incomplete) together with their surnames on 6th May 1918.

From the few remaining words and the surnames they must have been from the Balkans.



?

Seren
del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

388
2003



**Alano di
Piave**
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

399
2003

1118 Comp.ia Bers.ri
Mitraglieri Fiat
2ª Sezione

1118 Compagnia Bersaglieri
Mitraglieri Fiat
2ª Sezione

1118 Bersaglieri Company
Fiat Machine-Gunners
2nd Section

Molto bella questa iscrizione sia per il motivo geometrico della cornice che per la rappresentazione grafica dell'arma in dotazione a questa compagnia mitraglieri. Nel 1917 era alle dipendenze del 59° Reggimento di Fanteria Calabria inquadrato nella 17ª Divisione del IX Corpo d'Armata ed opera nel settore del Colbricon (Paneveggio). A marzo del 1918 era con la 50ª Divisione del XXX Corpo d'Armata a difendere le posizioni del Monte Schiarer e Bocca di Forca (Massiccio del Grappa). Segue un periodo di riposo presso Villa Raspa (VI) ed Altivole (TV) per poi tornare sul Grappa sulle quote 1300 e 1308 di Bocca di Forca ed a Monte Medata. A novembre 1918 è segnalata a Feltre.

A very fine inscription due to the geometric motif of the frame and the graphic depiction of the weapon used by this machine-gunner company. In 1917 it was under the 59th Infantry Regiment Calabria, formed in cadres in the 17th Division of the 9th Army Corps, operational in the Colbricon (Paneveggio) sector. In March 1918 it was with the 50th Division of the 30th Army Corps, defending the positions of Monte Schiarer and Bocca di Forca (Grappa Massif). There followed a rest period at Villa Raspa (VI) and Altivole (TV) before the company returned to Grappa at the altitudes of 1300 and 1308 in Bocca di Forca and Monte Medata. In November 1918 it was in Feltre.



Caposaldo 1308
Compagnia Bers.
..traglieri

Caposaldo 1308
Compagnia Bersaglieri
Mitraglieri

Stronghold 1308
Bersaglieri Company
Machine-Gunners

Si veda scheda n° 399 per i cenni storici.
Questa lapide è stata recuperata durante i
lavori di restauro del caposaldo italiano di
Monte Palon nel 2003 dal Gruppo Alpini
Possagno (TV).

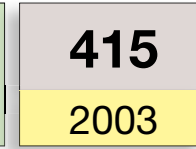
*See entry N° 399 for historical data. This
memorial tablet was recovered during re-
storation of the Italian stronghold on Monte
Palon in 2003 by the Alpine Group of Pos-
sagno (TV).*



Alano di
Piave
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

406
2003



14. 2. 1918
2° Genio 164 C
3 Plotone
Soldato
..telli

14 febbraio 1918
2° Reggimento Genio
164^a Compagnia
3° Plotone
Soldato
..telli

14 February 1918
2nd Engineers Regiment
164th Company
3rd Platoon
Trooper
..telli

Sopra una feritoia che controllava la Valle dei Lebi è presente questo graffito che è in parte incompleto, non si conosce il cognome del soldato ma è chiara l'arma a cui apparteneva. Il manufatto militare si caratterizza per una galleria che porta a tre feritoie in cemento, questa postazione all'epoca era chiamata "Occhio dei Lebi" per la funzione d'osservatorio che essa svolgeva nella sottostante omonima valle.

La 164^a Compagnia del 2° Reggimento Genio operò alle dipendenze della 44^a Divisione nel settore del Pasubio, all'offensiva austriaca del maggio 1916 opera con grandi disagi e perdite al rafforzamento delle difese del Dente Italiano, Panettone e Costone di Lora. Poi opera sul Grappa nella zona del Roccolo – Cà Tasson alle dipendenze del VI Corpo d'Armata.

Above an embrasure that controlled the Valle dei Lebi, this partially incomplete graffito no longer gives the soldier's name but only his regiment.

This military construction features a tunnel that leads to three concrete embrasures. At the time, this emplacement was called "The Lebi Eye" since it was an observatory for the valley of the same name below.

The 164th Company of the 2nd Engineers Regiment was operational under the 44th Division in the Pasubio sector during the Austrian offensive of May 1916, suffering great difficulties and losses while reinforcing the defence of the Dente Italiano, Panettone and Costone di Lora.

Subsequently it was operational on Grappa in the Roccolo-Cà Tasson zone under the 6th Army Corps.



GENIO MILITARE
18ª ZONA 3ª SEZIONE
11° CANTIERE
AGOSTO 1919

MILITARY ENGINEERS
18th AREA 3rd SECTION
11th SITE
AUGUST 1919

Terminata la guerra iniziò il periodo della ricostruzione, la popolazione civile sfollata rientrava nei loro paesi, ma si trovarono di fronte a situazioni drammatiche, i paesi (es. Alano, Quero, Valstagna, Pederobba, Seren del Grappa..) vicini alle vecchie prime linee erano mal ridotti, incapaci di dare ospitalità. Fu compito del genio militare con a capo il generale del Genio Antonio Dal Fabbro ad operare per la ricostruzione di strade, ponti, abitazioni e grandi baraccamenti per accogliere temporaneamente il ritorno degli sfollati. Fu istituito un ufficio chiamato "1. Ufficio - Provincia di Belluno - Sede Belluno" con quattro Direzioni di zona, quella di Belluno, Cadore, Agordo e Feltre. Queste a sua volta erano organizzate in modo tale da costituire poi sezioni e cantieri con il compito di ricostruzione dato che tutte le ditte civili e gli uffici del Genio Civile alla fine della guerra non erano in grado di operare. Questa è una testimonianza che ben descrive i difficili periodi della rinascita delle terre martorate dalla guerra.

With the war over the reconstruction period began and the evacuated civilian population returned home. But they found dramatic situations. Towns near the old front lines (e.g. Alano, Quero, Valstagna, Pederobba and Seren del Grappa..) were in very bad shape and uninhabitable. The Military Engineers under general Antonio Dal Fabbro had the task of rebuilding roads, bridges and houses, as well as constructing great encampments to provide temporary accommodation for the returning population. An office was set up called "1. Office – Province of Belluno - Headquarters Belluno" with four area Managements: Belluno, Cadore, Agordo and Feltre. These in turn were organised in such a way as to establish sections and sites with the task of reconstruction, since all the civilian building companies and the offices of the Engineer Corps were unable to operate at the end of the war. This testimony well describes the tough periods in which the lands martyred to the war were reborn.



Seren del Grappa
Conca Feltrina

Lapide
Memorial stone

429
2003



19 = 7 1918
37 FANTERIA
III° BATT.NE
REPARTO ZAPPRI



Seren
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

424
2003

19 LUGLIO 1918
37° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA
III° BATTAGLIONE
REPARTO ZAPPATORI

19 JULY 1918
37th INFANTRY REGIMENT
3rd BATTALION
SAPPERS UNIT

Questa lapide è stata realizzata dalla Brigata Ravenna che era composta dal 37° e 38° Reggimento di Fanteria.

Nel 1915 è operativa nei settori di Plava e Monte Sabotino, fino a giugno 1916, poi è trasferita per bloccare la “Spedizione Punitiva” nel settore vicentino del Monte Novegno - Monte Giove - Priaforà. A settembre 1916 ritorna presso Gorizia e sostiene la 9ª battaglia dell'Isonzo. Nel 1917 è ancora a Gorizia e poi sull'Altopiano della Bainsizza fino alla battaglia di Caporetto dell'ottobre 1917. Si ritira, prima al Tagliamento e poi sul Piave a Ponte della Priula. Il 25 novembre difende il Col dell'Orso, Solarolo, Valderoa ma perde la vetta del Monte Spinoncia.

Per quasi tutto il 1918, il 37° occupa le posizioni di cresta dei Solaroli e la Val Calcino. A luglio tenta di occupare le posizioni perdute dopo l'offensiva austriaca del giugno 1918 dei Solaroli, fallendo. Alla vigilia della battaglia di Vittorio Veneto è presso Treviso, passa il Piave il 29 ottobre durante i combattimenti sul ponte di barche presso Salettuol travolgendo le linee austriache e punta verso il fiume Monticano e poi raggiunge la linea Col del Fer – Castello di Caneva.

Il 3 novembre è presso le rive del Tagliamento ed il 4 riesce a costituire la testa di ponte a sud di Spilimbergo.

This memorial tablet was created by the Ravenna Brigade which consisted of the 37th and 38th Infantry Regiment. In 1915 it was operational in the Plava and Monte Sabotino sectors where it remained until June 1916 before being transferred to block the “Punitive Expedition” in the Vicenza sector of Monte Novegno-Monte Giove-Priaforà. In September 1916 it returned to the Gorizia area and fought in the 9th battle of Isonzo. In 1917 it was still in Gorizia and subsequently on the Bainsizza Plateau until the battle of Caporetto in October 1917. It withdrew first to the Tagliamento and then the Piave at Ponte della Priula. On 25th November it defended Col dell'Orso, Solarolo and Valderoa but lost the summit of Monte Spinoncia. For almost the whole of 1918 the 37th occupied the ridge positions of the Solaroli and Val Calcino. In July it attempted to retake the positions lost after the Austrian offensive of June 1918 on the Solaroli but did not succeed. On the eve of the battle of Vittorio Veneto it was near Treviso, crossing the Piave on 29th October during the fighting on a bridge of boats at Salettuol. It broke through the Austrian lines, headed for the river Monticano and then reached the Col del Fer-Castello di Caneva line. On 3rd November it was on the banks of the Tagliamento and on the 4th managed to set up a bridgehead south of Spilimbergo.

37° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA “RAVENNA”
“CELERRIMO ICTU, IMPAVIDA FIDE”

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1859 LIBERAZIONE DELLA LOMBARDIA
1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO
1887/88 GUERRA ERITREA
1911/12 GUERRA ITALO-TURCA
1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

ALLA BANDIERA: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA
1 MED. ARGENTO
UFF. e TRUPPA: 2 CAV ORD. MIL. SAVOIA
144 MED. ARGENTO
169 MED. BRONZO - 5 CROCI DI GUERRA

PERDITE IN COMBATTIMENTO

UFFICIALI: MORTI 62 - FERITI 159 - DISPERSI 34
TRUPPA: MORTI 820 - FERITI 4105 - DISPERSI 1077

Fu formato da volontari emiliani e toscani nel maggio del 1859. Nel 1860 fu nominato 37° dell'esercito sardo.

Partecipa alle guerre d'indipendenza italiana operando anche nella 1ª guerra d'Africa ed italo-abissina 1895/96.

Si mobilita anche per la guerra italo-turca.

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté come riportato in scheda.

Festa del reggimento 15 Giugno.



37TH INFANTRY REGIMENT “RAVENNA”
“CELERRIMO ICTU, IMPAVIDA FIDE”

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1859 LIBERATION OF LOMBARDY
1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO
1887/88 ERITREAN WAR
1911/12 ITALIAN-TURKISH WAR
1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY
TO THE FLAG: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

1 SILVER MED.

OFF. AND MEN: 2 CAV ORD. MIL. SAVOY
144 SILVER MED.

169 BRONZE MED. - 5 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION

OFFICERS: 62 DEAD – 159 WOUNDED – 34 MISSING
MEN: 820 DEAD - 4105 WOUNDED - 1077 MISSING

Formed with volunteers from Emilia and Tuscany in May 1859. In 1860 it was nominated 37th regiment of the Sardinian army. It took part in the Italian wars of independence and fought in the 1st African war and Italian-Abyssinian war 1895/96.

It was also mobilised for the Italian-Turkish war. During the 1st World War it fought as described in the entry.

Regimental Day: 15th June.



GENIO MILI.RE
18ª ZONA
3ª SEZIONE
11º CANTIERE
1919

GENIO MILITARE
18ª ZONA
3ª SEZIONE
11º CANTIERE
1919

MILITARY ENGINEERS
18th AREA
3rd SECTION
11th SITE
1919



Seren
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

436
2003

Al momento della liberazione il governo di Roma decise di affidare al Genio Militare la ricostruzione del territorio in quanto nessun ente civile era in grado di svolgere tale mansione. In provincia di Belluno operavano oltre ad altri reparti anche la 18ª e 21ª Direzione di Zona del 1º Ufficio di Belluno. La 18ª Direzione di Zona già a novembre 1918 si traferì da Camposampiero (PD) a Feltre ed operò nella conca feltrina con molti cantieri, nel 1919 fu sciolta la 21ª Direzione di Zona ed il territorio di competenza passò alla 18ª il che portò ad una accelerazione dei lavori per operare in più zone. Ci fu poi un rallentamento dei lavori per il congedo forzato degli ufficiali anziani in forza alla 18ª sostituiti da giovani ufficiali poco esperti e dal successivo congedo della truppa. Progressivamente i lavori rallentarono sempre più causando malumori tra i lavoratori ed i civili sfollati. Questa lapide, come quelle riportate alle schede n° 444 e 429, testimonia l'operato della 18ª Direzione di Zona nella zona feltrina.

At the moment of the liberation the government in Rome decided to engage the Military Engineers for reconstruction of the territory since no civilian body was capable of the task. In the province of Belluno, together with other units, the 18th and 21st Area Management of the 1st Belluno Office was operational. The 18th Area Management, as early as November 1918, moved from Camposampiero (PD) to Feltre and was operating with many building sites in the Feltre basin. In 1919 the 21st Area Management was closed down and the territory in question taken over by the 18th. This led to an acceleration of the works in order to operate in several areas. There was then a slowing down due to the forced retirement of old officers in the 18th, who were replaced by young and inexperienced officers, and to the subsequent demobilisation of the troops. The works progressively slowed down, creating bad feeling among the workers and the civilians. This memorial tablet, like the ones in N° 444 and 429 bear witness to the 18th Area Management's work in the Feltre area.



GENIO MILI.RE
18^a ZONA
3^a SEZIONE
11° CANT.RE
1919

GENIO MILITARE
18^a ZONA
3^a SEZIONE
11° CANTIERE
1919

MILITARY ENGINEERS
18th AREA
3rd SECTION
11th SITE
1919

Si rimanda ai cenni storici della lapide della scheda n° 436 in quanto fatte sempre dallo stesso reparto del Genio Militare nella zona feltrina.

See the historical notes for entry N° 436 which refers to the same unit of Military Engineers in the Feltre area.



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

444
2003



4° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA

130

BATTERIA ASSE DIO

24 MAGGIO

1918

4th ARTILLERY REGIMENT

130

SIEGE BATTERY

24th MAY

1918



Possagno
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

453
2003

Questa lapide è stata trovata in frantumi presso una galleria nella zona di Possagno, è stata poi pazientemente ricomposta e riportata in buone condizioni.

La 130^a Batteria d'Assedio del 4° Reggimento è certamente operativa sulla pedemontana del Grappa nel maggio del 1918, ed assieme alla 126^a costituiva l'8° Gruppo che assieme all'86° costituivano il 30° Raggruppamento a disposizione diretta del Comando di Artiglieria della IV Armata. Interessante la data posta sulla lapide che corrisponde all'anniversario dell'entrata in guerra dell'Italia (24 maggio 1915). Pregevole la presenza dei rami di quercia che in parte circondano il fregio dell'artiglieria. La 130^a Batteria d'Assedio era armata con obici da 280 L.

This memorial tablet was found shattered in a tunnel in the Possagno area and patiently put together and restored.

The 130th Siege Battery of the 4th Regiment was certainly operational in the Grappa foothills in May 1918.

Together with the 126th it made up the 8th Group which with the 86th constituted the 30th Unit directly under the Artillery Command of the 4th Army.

An interesting fact is the date on the memorial tablet (24th May 1915), the anniversary of Italy's entry into the war.

The oak branches partially surrounding the artillery insignia are particularly fine. The 130th Siege Battery was armed with 280 L Howitzers.



1° Plotone

C.

1918

1918

1st Platoon

C.

1918

1918

Piccoli graffiti lasciati all'ingresso di un sistema di gallerie in Valle San Lorenzo.

Brief graffiti left at the entrance to a system of tunnels in Valle San Lorenzo.



?

**Borso
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

467
2003



?

Pove
del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

476
2003

Lamberto
Nicolini

LAMBERTO
NICOLINI

Firme di un combattente lasciate presso una galleria
a difesa della Val San Lorenzo.

*Signature of a combatant left in a tunnel defending Val San
Lorenzo.*



GALLERIA ..RA
 RISERVA ..UNIZIONI
 RICOVERO UOMINI
 614ª BATTERIA P

TUNNEL ..RA
 STOCKPILE ..UNITIONS
 TROOP SHELTER
 614th BATTERY P

Questa lapide è stata ricomposta in quanto era molto rovinata. Il restauro ha permesso di capire quale batteria fosse qui dislocata. La 614ª Batteria da posizione (la P presente sulla lapide non significa Pesante) è riportata sul fascicolo di formazione della IV Armata nel maggio del 1918, questa assieme alla 596ª e 604ª costituivano il 183º Gruppo di Artiglieria da posizione a servizio del XXX Corpo d'Armata. Questa batteria era armata con cannoni da 70 mont. (montagna). Pregevole il giglio a destra che abbellisce l'iscrizione ed il gioco di cerchi sovrapposti nella parte inferiore.

This memorial tablet, which was ruined, has been recomposed and restored so we know what battery was positioned here. The 614th position Battery (the P on the memorial tablet does not mean Pesante = Heavy) is referred to in the battle order of the 4th Army in May 1918 and, together with the 596th and 604th constituted the 183rd position Artillery Group under the 30th Army Corps. This battery was armed with 70 calibre mountain cannons. The fine lily on the right embellishes the inscription, as does the play of superimposed circles in the lower part.



Possagno
 Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

485
 2003



**Alano di
Piave**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

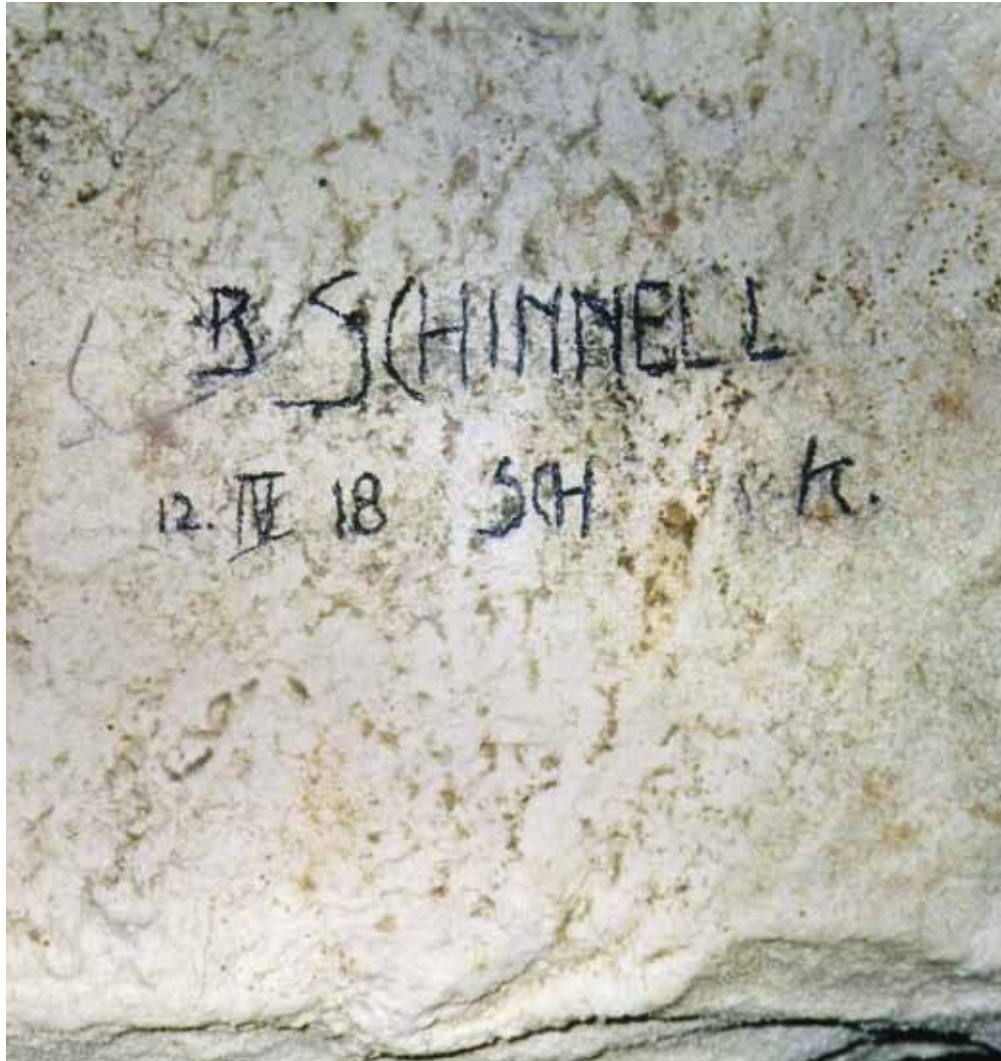
491
2003

117

1

Si rimanda alla scheda n° 116.

See entry N° 116



B SCHINNELL
12. IV 18 SCH
K.

B SCHINNELL
12 aprile 1918
SCHÜTZEN COMPAGNIA

B SCHINNELL
12 April 1918
SCHÜTZEN COMPANY

Sul Massiccio del Grappa, a più riprese, operarono reggimenti degli Schützen. In particolare, ricordiamo il 3° Reggimento Schützen di Graz che combatté per l'intero periodo novembre 1917 – ottobre 1918 sulle dorsali del Grappa, dai Solaroli al Pertica. Qui si tratta appunto con molta probabilità di uno Schütze di Graz.

Schützen regiments were often operational on the Grappa Massif. In particular we mention the 3rd Schützen Regiment of Graz which fought throughout November 1917-October 1918 on the ridges of Grappa, from the Solaroli to the Pertica. This in all probability refers to a Graz Schütze.



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

501
2003



?

Paderno
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

502

2004

25 - 8 - 18

Zailla
Antonio

Piccola firma di un combattente lasciata il 25 agosto 1918 all'interno di un ricovero, lungo una mulattiera militare che dalla pianura saliva al settore del Monte Boccaor, sul Massiccio del Grappa.

Small signature of a combatant left on 25th August 1918 in a shelter along a military mule track that rose from the plain to the Monte Boccaor sector on the Grappa Massif.



UFFICIO STRADE
IV ARMATA
7° REPARTO
CENTURIA 639
LUGLIO MCMXVIII

ROADS OFFICE
4th ARMY
7th UNIT
HUNDRED 639
LUGLIO MCMXVIII

La lapide qui fotografata non è originale, testimonianze raccolte sul luogo affermano che in origine la lapide era scolpita su di un masso a bordo strada.

Molti anni dopo la fine della guerra, questa fu ampliata ed il masso fu demolito. Per non perdere l'importante traccia storica si volle fare una replica di quanto fu scritto sul masso. Sebbene il valore storico di questa lapide non possa essere ricollegato direttamente all'evento bellico è comunque una testimonianza importante come fonte di informazioni sui reparti militari che operarono sulla pedemontana.

La 639^a centuria alla data del 1° marzo 1918 era dislocata a Crespano e contava un organico di 1 ufficiale e 73 soldati di truppa, al 1° aprile è operativa a Mussolente ma con un organico sensibilmente aumentato, disponeva di 4 ufficiali e 185 soldati. Il 1° maggio entra a far parte dell'Ufficio Strade dipendente direttamente dal Comando Genio della IV Armata.

The memorial tablet photographed here is not original. Information gathered in the field confirms that the original memorial tablet was carved on a roadside rock.

Many years after the end of the war the road was widened and the rock demolished, so a replica of the inscription was made to avoid losing an important historical trace.

Though the historical value of this memorial tablet cannot be directly linked to the war, it is nonetheless important testimony as a source of information about the military units that were operational in the foothills.

On 1st March 1918 the 639th Hundred was stationed at Crespano and consisted of 1 officer and 73 men. On 1st April it was operational in Mussolente, but with 4 officers and 185 men. On 1st May it became part of the Roads Office, directly under the 4th Army Engineers Command.



**Borso
del Grappa**
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

504
2004



Crespano
del Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

506
2004

936 BATTERIA ASSEDIO
COSTRUI' QUESTA
STRADA
MARZO APRILE
1918

936 SIEGE BATTERY
BUILT THIS
ROAD
MARCH APRIL
1918

Interessante testimonianza lasciata dalla 936ª Batteria d'Assedio nella zona pedemontana del Massiccio del Grappa. Spesso il mettere in posizione grossi calibri richiedeva la costruzione di strade e spazi adeguati per ospitare i pezzi, in questo caso, gli artiglieri della batteria vista la strada costruita vollero lasciare traccia del loro operato. Sempre su questa strada è presente una seconda testimonianza del medesimo reparto visibile alla scheda n° 710. Questa batteria era operativa già dal maggio del 1918 ed era a diretta disposizione del Comando Artiglieria della IV Armata.

Interesting testimony left by the 936th Siege Battery in the foothills of the Grappa Massif.

Often the positioning of large calibre artillery called for the construction of roads and emplacements. In this case the gunners of the battery, having built the road, wanted to leave a trace of their work. On this same road there's a second testimony by the same unit (see entry N° 710).

This battery was already operational in May 1918 and was directly under the 4th Army Artillery Command.



HOMATSC..

HOMATSCH

Si veda scheda n° 511, questo graffito è vicino ad altri che riportano gli estremi del 3° Reggimento Schützen.

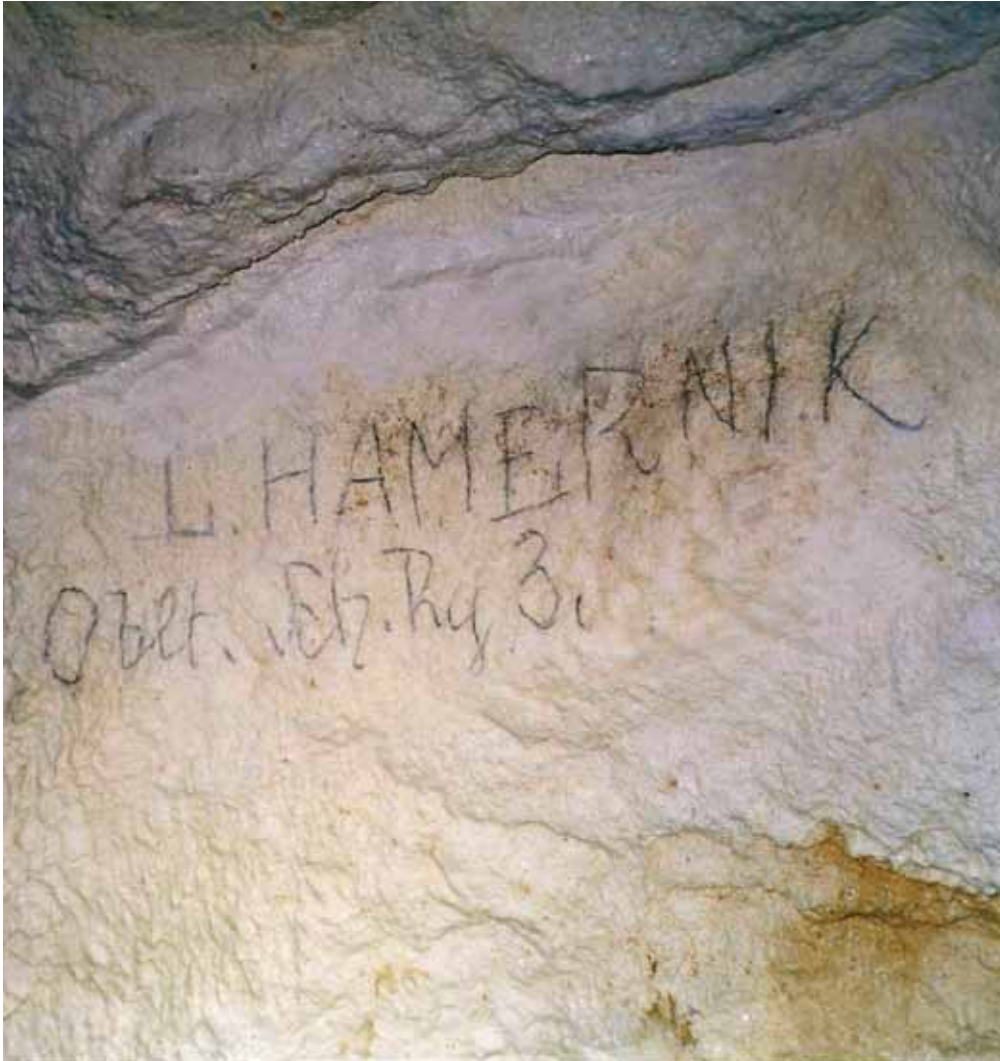
See entry N° 511; this graffito is close to others bearing details of the 3rd Schützen Regiment.



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

508
2003



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

511
2003

L. HAMERNIK
Obt. Sch. Ry 3.

L. HAMERNIK
Tenente Colonnello
3° Reggimento Schützen

L. HAMERNIK
Lieutenant-Colonel
3rd Schützen Regiment

Sul Massiccio del Grappa, a più riprese, operarono reggimenti degli Schützen. In particolare, ricordiamo il 3° Reggimento Schützen di Graz che combatté per l'intero periodo novembre 1917 – ottobre 1918 sulle dorsali del Grappa, dai Solaroli al Pertica.

Schützen regiments were repeatedly operational on the Grappa Massif. In particular the 3rd Schützen Regiment of Graz which fought throughout November 1917-October 1918 on the ridges of Grappa, from the Solaroli to the Pertica.



FECE 143

FECE 143° Reggimento di Fanteria

BY THE 143rd Infantry Regiment

Questa lapide, è stata fatta dalla Brigata Taranto che fu costituita nel giugno del 1916 ed era composta dal 143° e 144° Reggimento di Fanteria. Nell'agosto e settembre del 1916 opera tra Villanova Judrio e Lumignacco, poi è sul San Marco (Case Dirute), dove perde 43 ufficiali e 1560 militari di truppa. Qui rimane fino al giugno del 1917, per poi andare nel settore di Panovitz. Dopo Caporetto deve ritirarsi con accanita difesa dei ponti di Codroipo; poi passa il Piave su di un ponte di barche a Lovadina. A novembre 1917 è in parte schierata a presidio di Punta Brental - Possagno sulle prime propaggini del Grappa, mentre l'altra parte è inviata sul Col dell'Orso, riuscendo a catturare oltre cento austriaci tra soldati ed ufficiali. Fino ad aprile 1918 resta in pianura per riorganizzare le compagnie. Tra aprile e maggio è sul tratto Osteria Monfenera - Monte Tomba con compiti di vigilanza, poi torna in pianura ma all'offensiva austriaca del giugno 1918 ritorna sul Monte Tomba a presidiare la linea di Caniezza. Dopo un breve turno di presidio delle linee tra Arcade e Postioma è richiamata sul settore Osteria Monfenera - Monte Tomba con compiti di pattugliamento fino alla prima linea austriaca del Torrente Ornic nella Conca di Alano. Alla battaglia finale di Vittorio Veneto riceve il compito di inseguire le retrovie austriache in rotta lungo la Valle del Piave lungo la rotabile Quero - Feltre. A Pedavena il 2 novembre è attaccata in forze dagli austriaci da Col Melone e Norcen. Superato lo scontro arriva a Zorzoi e Croce d'Aune il 4 novembre 1918.

This memorial tablet is the work of the Taranto Brigade which was formed in June 1916 and consisted of the 143rd and 144th Infantry Regiment. In August and September 1916 it was operational between Villanova Judrio and Lumignacco, then San Marco (Case Dirute) where it lost 43 officers and 1560 men. It remained here until June 1917 before moving on to the Panovitz sector. After Caporetto it had to withdraw with a tenacious defence of the Codroipo bridges; it then crossed the Piave at Lovadina on a bridge of boats. In November 1917 it was partially stationed at the Punta Brental-Possagno garrison on the first spurs of Grappa while the rest of the brigade was sent to Col dell'Orso where they succeeded in capturing more than a hundred Austrian officers and men. Until April 1918 it remained on the plain to reorganise the companies. Between April and May it was on the Osteria Monfenera-Monte Tomba stretch, charged with lookout duties, then returned to the plain. But with the Austrian offensive of June 1918 it went back to Monte Tomba to hold the Caniezza line. After a brief stint garrisoned on the lines between Arcade and Postioma it was recalled to the Osteria Monfenera-Monte Tomba sector with the task of patrolling as far as the Austrian front line of the Ornic torrent in the Alano Basin. At the final battle of Vittorio Veneto it was given the task of following the Austrian supply lines along the Valle del Piave on the Quero-Feltre carriage-road. In Pedavena on 2nd November it was attacked in force by the Austrians from Col Melone and Norcen. Overcoming the skirmish it arrived in Zorzoi and Croce d'Aune on 4th November 1918.



Cavaso
del Tomba
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

516
2004



Cavaso
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

517
2004

- FECE -
143

- FECE -
143° Reggimento Fanteria

- IT MADE -
143rd Infantry regiment

Si rimanda alla scheda n° 516.

See entry N° 516.



23° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA CAMPAGNA
6ª BATTERIA
GLI ARDITI
DEL 3° PEZZO

23rd FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT
6th BATTERY
THE ARDITI
OF THE 3rd PIECE

All'ingresso di un ricovero antistante una piazzola è stata collocata questa lapide, che sebbene molto semplice, è carica di fascino.

Il 23° Reggimento di Artiglieria da Campagna era alle dirette dipendenze della 70ª Divisione che assieme alla 24ª costituiva il I Corpo d'Armata. Questo ha operato per quasi tutto il 1918 nel settore Monte Tomba – Monfenera.

This memorial tablet, set at the entrance to a shelter in front of an emplacement, is very simple but charged with fascination.

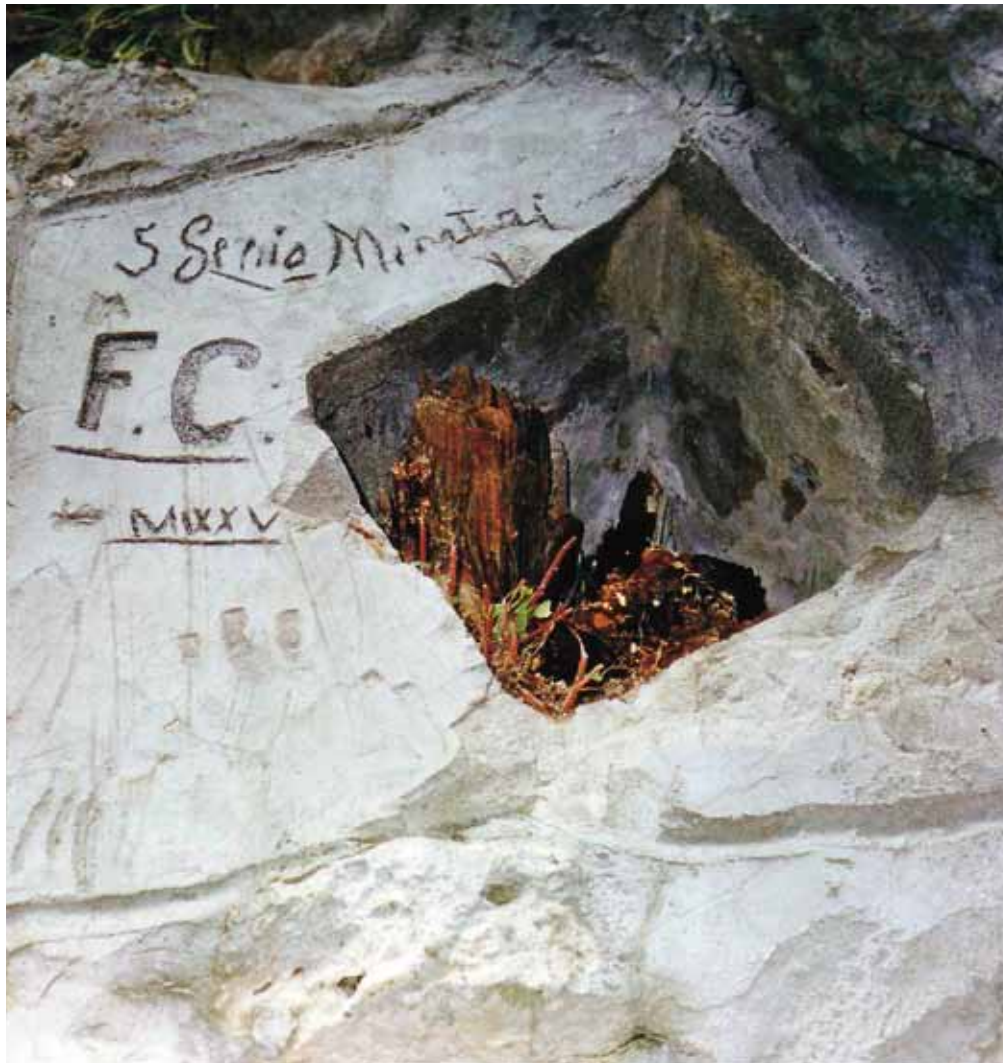
The 23rd Field Artillery Regiment was directly under the 70th Division which, together with the 24th, made up the 1st Army Corps. The latter was operational for almost all of 1918 in the Monte Tomba-Monfenera sector.



Cavaso
del Tomba
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

520
2004



Cismon
del Grappa
Brenta

Graffito
Graffito

521
2003

5 Genio Minatori
F. C.
MIXXV

5th Reggimento Engineerers Miners
F. C.
MIXXV

Anche questo graffito è attribuibile alla 7^a Compagnia minatori, dato che questa testimonianza è vicina a quella presente alla scheda n° 70.

This graffito is also attributable to the 7th Sappers Company, since it is close to the one in entry N° 70.



ANNO
1916
TARELLO CL 89
FRANCESCO
Cp 1^a

ANNO
1916
TARELLO CLASSE 1889
FRANCESCO
Compagnia 1^a

YEAR
1916
TARELLO CLASS OF 1889
FRANCESCO
Company 1st

Presso il Covolo di Butistone su un affresco cinquecentesco posto sulla balastrata merlata del castello fino a prima del suo restauro era possibile vedere questa testimonianza datata 1916 del soldato Tarello Francesco classe 1889 della 1^a Compagnia che prestava servizio presso la polveriera ivi collocata del sottostante Forte Tombion.

At the Covolo di Butistone this testimony dated 1916 was visible in a cinquecento fresco, until the latter was restored, on the crenellated balustrade of the castle. It was written by trooper Francesco Tarello, born 1889, of the 1st Company which was in service at the powder-magazine of Fort Tombion below.



**Cismon
del Grappa**
Brenta

Graffito
Graffito

531
2007



56° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA

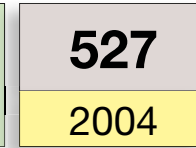
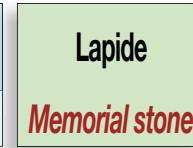
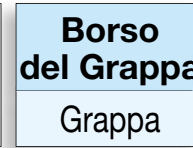
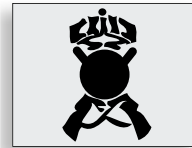
3.. P
31..

Questa lapide è stata lasciata dal 56° Reggimento di Fanteria che assieme al 55° costituiva la Brigata Marche. Tra maggio ed ottobre del 1915 opera nel settore di Auronzo, Monte Popena, Lavaredo, Monte Piana e Val Rimbianco, sostiene scontri sanguinosi, tanto che deve essere messa a riposo. A fine ottobre 1915 viene trasferita sull'Isonzo nel settore del Monte Sabotino, ed Oslavia. A febbraio

56th INFANTRY REGIMENT

3.. P
31..

This memorial tablet was left by the 56th Infantry Regiment which, with the 55th, made up the Marche Brigade. Between May and October 1915 it was operational in the sector of Auronzo, Monte Popena, Lavaredo, Monte Piana and Val Rimbianco, undergoing such bloody clashes that it was sent to rest. At the end of October 1915 it was transferred to the Isonzo, in the Monte Sabotino sector, and Oslavia.



1916 è trasferita a Taranto per operare per un breve periodo in Albania a Sevaster. A giugno rientra in Italia ed è nei settori di Monfalcone, poi Oppacchiasella e Hudi Log fino ai primi di settembre. Gli ultimi mesi del 1916 e fino a marzo del 1918 è operativa in Val Camonica, alta Valtellina e Val Daone.

Dal 16 luglio al 29 agosto 1918 è operativa sul Massiccio del Grappa, il 56° è il primo a salire ed occupa le posizioni del Col dell'Orso presso le prime linee ed i Colli Vecchi in posizione più arretrata. A metà luglio tutta la brigata è sul Grappa, in particolare ha il compito della difesa del Nocciolo del Grappa ovvero la parte più sommitale occupando la parte della cintura di caposaldi che circondavano la vetta e le posizioni chiamate punti di appoggio A, B e C. Il 56° si distingue per la conquista di quota 1457 nella parte settentrionale del Nocciolo. A fine agosto scende dal Grappa ed avrà, fino alla fine della guerra, funzione di brigata di riserva. La lapide è stata recuperata in frantumi e ricomposta, ora è custodita presso il Piccolo Museo 1915-1918 Roberto Favero a San Giovanni sul Massiccio del Grappa. Sapendo che la brigata è rimasta sul Grappa dal 16 luglio al 29 agosto 1918, è plausibile che il numero 31 sia la data del 31 luglio 1918.

In February 1916 it was transferred to Taranto, proceeding for brief operations in Sevaster, Albania. In June it returned to Italy to the sectors of Monfalcone and then Oppacchiasella and Hudi Log until early September. For the last months of 1916, and until March 1918, it was operational in Val Camonica, upper Valtellina and Val Daone.

From 16th July to 29th August 1918 it was operational on the Grappa Massif. The 56th was the first to rise and occupy the Col dell'Orso positions on the front lines, and the Colli Vecchi positioned farther back. In mid July the whole brigade was on Grappa where, in particular, it had the task of defending the Nocciolo del Grappa, meaning the highest zone, by occupying part of the belt of strongholds circling the summit and the positions called support points A, B and C. The 56th distinguished itself for taking altitude 1457 in the northern part of the Nocciolo. At the end of August it left Grappa and would function as a reserve brigade until the end of the war. The memorial tablet was found in fragments and restored. It is now in the Roberto Favero Piccolo Museo 1915-1918, in San Giovanni on the Grappa Massif. Knowing that the brigade was on Grappa from 16th July to 29th August 1918, it is plausible that the number 31 refers to 31st July 1918.

56° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA "MARCHE"

"MEMENTO AUDERE SEMPER"

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO

1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

ALLA BANDIERA: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA

UFF. e TRUPPA: 1 MED. ORO - 27 MED. ARGENTO

67 MED. BRONZO - 13 CROCI DI GUERRA

PERDITE IN COMBATTIMENTO

UFFICIALI: MORTI 51 - FERITI 102 - DISPERSI 9

TRUPPA: MORTI 554 - FERITI 3471 - DISPERSI 1263

Fu costituita il 24 febbraio 1861,
da 3 reggimenti dell'esercito regolare.

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté come riportato in scheda.

Festa del reggimento 1° Novembre.



56TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "MARCHE"

"MEMENTO AUDERE SEMPER"

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO

1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY

TO THE FLAG: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

OFF. AND MEN: 1 GOLD MED. - 27 SILVER MED.

67 BRONZE MED. - 13 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION

OFFICERS: 51 DEAD - 102 WOUNDED - 9 MISSING

MEN: 554 DEAD - 3471 WOUNDED - 1263 MISSING

Formed on 24th February

from 3 regular army regiments.

During the 1st World War it fought as described in the entry.

Regimental Day: 1st November.



**Cismon
del Grappa**
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

534
2003

OSPEDALE DA CAMPO 011
REPARTO INFETTIVI

FIELD HOSPITAL 011
INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNIT

Sulla facciata di questa abitazione è rimasta un'iscrizione che conferma come il Canal del Brenta fosse un'importante zona di supporto logistico alla prime linee dislocate sul fondo della Valsugana. Interessante notare come questo ospedale fosse specializzato nel ricovero e cura dei soldati colpiti da malattie infettive. Spesso tali malattie colpivano i reparti con una certa facilità dato che di frequente le condizioni di vita al fronte non garantivano condizioni igienico - sanitarie capaci di garantire la salute delle truppe dislocate.

On the façade of this house there is a very important inscription that confirms how the Brenta Canal was an important logistical support zone for the front lines at the bottom of Valsugana.

It is interesting to note that this hospital was specialised in the care and treatment of soldiers struck by infectious diseases. These diseases often struck the units with a certain facility, since living conditions at the front were neither healthy nor hygienic enough to guarantee the well-being of the troops.



Sul portale d'ingresso della galleria che porta a questa feritoia è presente un'altra iscrizione (scheda n° 858) che riporta in modo chiaro la numerazione di questa compagnia mitraglieri, ovvero la 2192ª. Questa è segnalata a metà aprile del 1918 sulle posizioni del Pizzo Razea a picco sulla Val Frenzela a servizio della 2ª Divisione del XX Corpo d'Armata. Sebbene l'iscrizione riporti la 3ª Sezione, dai documenti storici emerge la presenza di due sezioni, la 1ª era schierata in località Merlo mentre la 2ª a Lora in Canal del Brenta. Tra giugno ed agosto la 1ª sezione è spostata in località di Mori, mentre la 2ª difendeva i dintorni della chiesa di Valstagna.

A novembre del 1918 era dislocata presso Noale (VE).

Le compagnie mitragliatrici 907 F erano composte da tre sezioni, dove ogni sezione disponeva di due armi. L'organico era dato da quattro ufficiali, 119 uomini di truppa, e 26 muli tra basto e tiro. La mitragliatrice era il modello St. Etienne di produzione francese.

On the entrance to the tunnel leading to this loophole there's another inscription (entry N° 858) which clearly gives the number of this machine-gunner company, the 2192nd.

In mid April 1918 this company was at the positions of Pizzo Razea, steeply above Val Frenzela, under the 2nd Division of the 20th Army Corps.

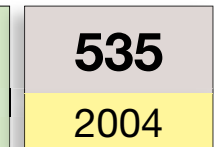
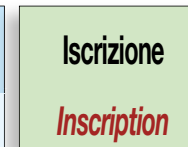
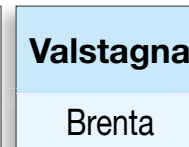
Though the inscription says the 3rd Section, from historical documentation it emerges that there were two sections, the 1st drawn up in Merlo and the 2nd in Lora, Brenta Canal. Between June and August the 1st section was moved to Mori while the 2nd defended the area surrounding the church of Valstagna. In November 1918 it was transferred to Noale (VE).

The 907 F machine-gunner companies comprised three sections, each section having two weapons. They consisted of four officers, 119 men and 26 draught/pack mules. The machinegun was the French-made St. Etienne model.

Sputafuoco della
..192 Comp Mitr
Mod 907 F
3ª Sezione 2ª Arm

Sputafuoco della
..192 Compagnia Mitraglieri
Modello 907 F
3ª Sezione 2ª Arma

Spitfire of the
..192 Machine-Gunner Company
Model 907 F
3rd Section 2nd Army





?

Alano di
Piave

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

542

2003

KAVERN

CAVERNA

CAVE

Lungo uno dei vari sentieri militari austro-ungarici che dalla Conca di Alano salivano alle prime linee del Monte Madal, Punta Zoc e Monte Spinoncia erano presenti numerose postazioni militari. Presso una galleria ricovero si è scoperto questa piccola testimonianza.

There were numerous posts along one of the various Austro-Hungarian military paths that led from the Alano Basin to the front lines of Monte Madal, Punta Zoc and Monte Spinoncia. This brief testimony was discovered in a tunnel shelter.



P. EVI.. ZT LAK

?? COSTRUZIONE

?? CONSTRUCTION

Questa iscrizione è posta sulla stessa costruzione di un'altra che è visibile alla scheda n° 549.

Sono le uniche due attualmente censite attribuibili ai reparti ungheresi mobilitati durante la Prima Guerra Mondiale.

I reparti ungheresi erano denominati Königlich Ungarisch con sigla K.U., in sostanza era l'esercito reale ungherese noto anche con il nome di Honvéd. Questa prima scritta è molto rovinata e non del tutto comprensibile, sicuramente identificava la funzione per la quale questa struttura fu costruita.

Dallo spessore dei muri perimetrali, dalla strombatura delle finestre e per la sua particolare posizione protetta dal terreno circostante, doveva svolgere una funzione militare molto importante.

This inscription is found on the same building as another (see entry N° 549).

They are the only two currently documented ones attributable to Hungarian units mobilised during the First World War.

The Hungarian units were known as Königlich Ungarisch (K.U.) and were substantially the royal Hungarian army, also known as the Honvéd.

This first inscription is in very poor condition and not wholly comprehensible, but it certainly identifies the function for which this building was built.

From the thickness of the perimeter walls, from the window jambs and the particularly protected position of the surrounding terrain, the building must have had a highly important military function.



Quero

Piave

Iscrizione

Inscription

548

2003



Quero

Piave

Iscrizione

Inscription

549

2003

ÉPÍTETTE
M. KIR 120 HGY.E, MÜ-
SZK SZAZ...

COSTRUITO DAL
1° REGGIMENTO TECNICO
REALE MAGIARO

BUILT BY THE
1ST ROYAL HUNGARIAN
TECHNICAL REGIMENT

Questa, insieme all'iscrizione presente alla scheda n° 548, sono le uniche due testimonianze ad oggi catalogate attribuibili alla Honvéd ungherese. Sebbene la qualità dell'iscrizione non sia buona da attenta osservazione è emersa l'informazione (anche se parziale) relativa al reggimento tecnico che realizzò questo manufatto.

This and the inscription of entry N° 548 are the only two testimonies catalogued to date that are attributable to the Hungarian Honvéd. Though the quality of the inscription is not good, from careful observation information has emerged (though partial) concerning the technical regiment that constructed this building.



REGG 3(?) FANT

33° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA 33rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

Presso l'entrata di questa galleria si trova la testimonianza del 33°, che assieme al 34° Reggimento di Fanteria costituisce la Brigata Livorno, il suo motto è "col sacrificio la gloria". Si trova in Canal di Brenta dal 18 maggio fino alla fine del settembre 1918. Si rimanda alla scheda n° 714 per le note storiche.

The entrance to this tunnel bears testimony of the 33rd which, together with the 34th Infantry Regiment, comprised the Leghorn Brigade whose motto reads "glory through sacrifice". It was in the Brenta Canal area from 18th May until the end of September 1918. See entry N° 714 for historical notes.



Valstagna
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

555
2004



Alano di
Piave
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

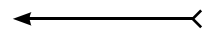
558
2004

...
192^a COMPAGNIA

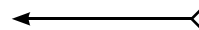
...
192nd COMPANY

Questa foto testimonia il tentativo di furto solo in parte riuscito ai danni di questa lapide. Malgrado oggi non sia più completa rimane solo il numero della compagnia che da ricerche effettuate corrisponde alla 192^a Compagnia Zappatori che con la 141^a e 193^a costituivano il LXXV Battaglione Zappatori inquadrato nella 56^a Divisione del XVIII Corpo d'Armata. Questo battaglione con le relative compagnie a gennaio del 1918 era già operativo sul Grappa.

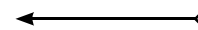
The photo bears witness to an attempt, not wholly successful, to steal this memorial tablet. Although it is no longer complete, the number of the company was traceable by research to the 192nd Sapper Company which, with the 141st and 193rd, made up the 75th Sapper Battalion, formed in cadres in the 56th Division of the 28th Army Corps. This battalion with the related companies was already operational on Grappa in January 1918.



BAHNHOF



STAZIONE FERROVIARIA



RAILWAY STATION

Presso la città di Feltre era presente su di un palazzo questa testimonianza dell'esercito austroungarico, sbiadita ma ancora perfettamente leggibile c'era l'indicazione per raggiungere la stazione ferroviaria. Feltre durante l'occupazione tra la fine del 1917 e l'ottobre del 1918 fu l'ultimo centro abitato di una certa importanza (assieme a Fonzaso ed Arsìè) prima di dirigersi verso le linee del Piave e Massiccio del Grappa, qui erano dislocati numerosi ospedali, comandi, magazzini del genio e dell'artiglieria. Era presente anche un importante aeroporto militare. Il palazzo è stato restaurato alcuni anni fa e la scritta **È SCOMPARSA.**

Near the town of Feltre this testimony, faded but still perfectly legible, from the Austro-Hungarian army was on a building showing directions to the railway station. During the occupation between the end of 1917 and October 1918 Feltre was the last significant inhabited area (with Fonzaso and Arsìè) before the lines of the Piave and the Grappa Massif.

*There were several hospitals, command posts and warehouses belonging to the engineers and the artillery. There was also an important military airport. The building was restored some years ago and the inscription **HAS BEEN LOST.***



?

Feltre

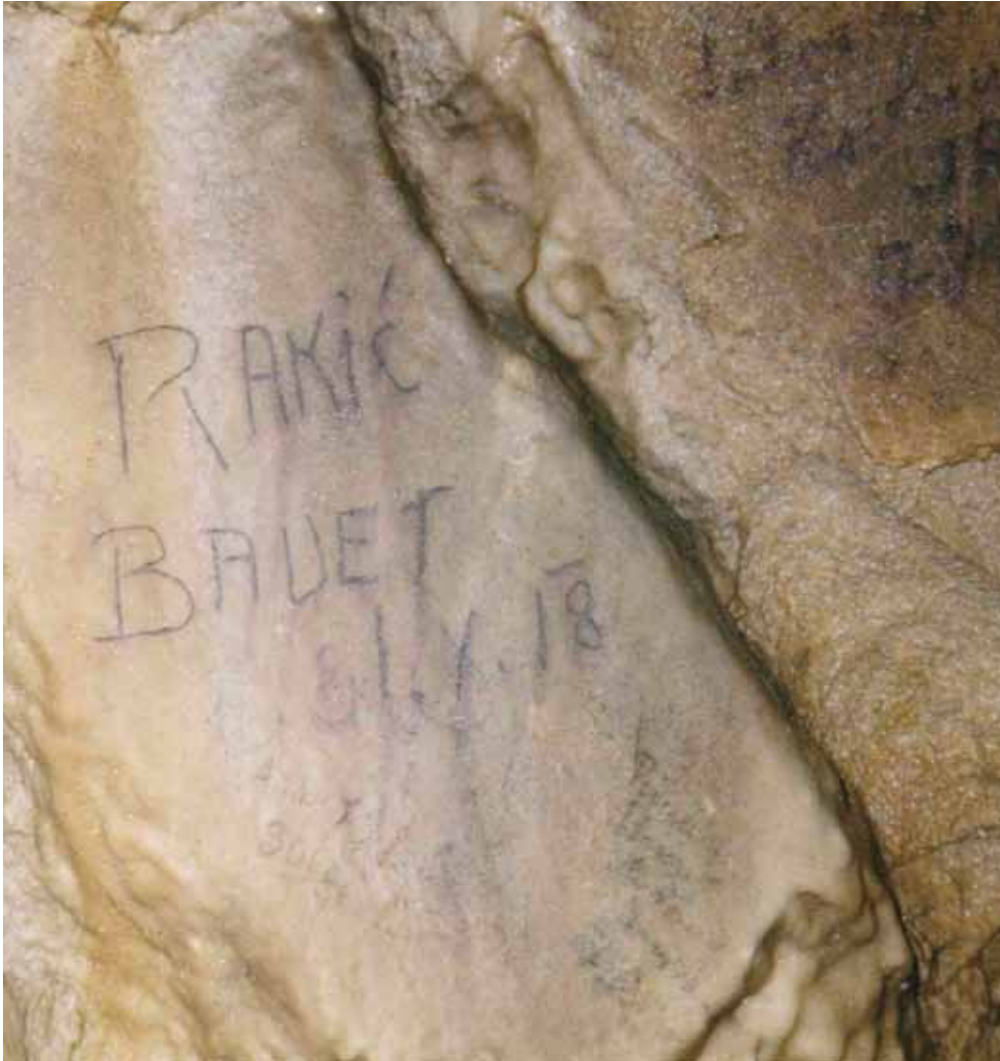
Conca Feltrina

Lapide

Memorial stone

560

2005



?

Seren
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

563

2003

RAKIC'
BAUET
5/.. / 18

Presso una cavità naturale nella Valle dello Stizzone, utilizzata degli imperiali tra la fine del 1917 ed il 1918 è presente questa firma che costituisce importante testimonianza dell'evento bellico.

In a natural hollow in the Valle dello Stizzone, used by the imperial troops between the end of 1917 and 1918, this signature bears important witness to the war.



K·U·K · SAPP · KOMP · 1/48

Imperiale e regia

Imperial and Royal

1^a Compagnia Zappatori

1st Sappers Company

48° Reggimento di Fanteria

48th Infantry Regiment

Questa testimonianza è la parte inferiore di una grande lapide che è riportata alla scheda n° 159. È stata trovata in frantumi, raccolta e restaurata, permettendoci così ora di sapere quale compagnia zappatori austroungarica la realizzò. Questa testimonianza è custodita presso il Piccolo Museo 1915 -1918 Roberto Favero a San Giovanni sul Massiccio del Grappa in attesa di trovare adeguata collocazione. Questa compagnia zappatori faceva parte del 48° Reggimento di Fanteria, che aveva il suo bacino di coscrizione in Ungheria, pur appartenendo all'esercito comune. Era denominato "Rohr" e si formò nel 1798 e la festa del reggimento è l'anniversario della battaglia di Novi del 1799. Era composto al 75% da magiari, al 20% da croati e al 5% da sloveni. La sede del comando di reggimento era a Sopron. Sul Massiccio del Grappa era inquadrato nella 14^a Divisione di Fanteria del V Corpo d'Armata.

This testimony is the lower part of a large memorial tablet catalogued at entry N° 159. It was found in fragments, collected and restored, so we now know the Austro-Hungarian Sappers Company that left it. It is being kept in the Roberto Favero Piccolo Museo 1915-1918, in San Giovanni on the Grappa Massif, until a suitable place is found for it.

This Sappers Company was part of the 48th Infantry Regiment whose conscription base was in Hungary though it belonged to the regular army. It was called "Rohr" and was formed in 1798. The Regimental Day is the anniversary of the battle of Novi, 1799. It comprised 75% Hungarians, 20% Croats and 5% Slovenians. Regiment Command was in Sopron. On the Grappa Massif it was formed in cadres in the 14th Infantry Division of the 5th Army Corps.



**Cismon
del Grappa**

Grappa

Lapide

Memorial stone

566

2004



**Seren
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

568
2003

....
IR 14
7 Juli (?) 1918

....
14° Reggimento Fanteria
7 luglio (?) 1918

....
14th Infantry Regiment
7 July (?) 1918

Graffito eseguito da un fante durante la sua permanenza in un ricovero presso una cavità naturale nella Valle dello Stizzone.

Il k.u.k. Infanterieregiment 14 – Hessen – era di stanza a Linz ed era intitolato a “Ernst Ludwig Großherzog von Hessen und bei Rhein” (Ernst Ludwig Granduca di Assia e del Reno). Le file del reggimento erano composte da soldati di lingua tedesca al 98% con il 2% di fanti di altra nazionalità. Il comandante di reggimento nel periodo bellico fu il Colonnello Friedrich Nobile von Löw. Il reggimento partecipò attivamente alle varie fasi della guerra sul Massiccio del Grappa.

Graffito written by an infantryman during his stay in a shelter, a natural hollow in the Valle dello Stizzone.

The k.u.k. Infanterieregiment 14 – Hessen – was stationed at Linz and named after “Ernst Ludwig Großherzog von Hessen und bei Rhein” (Ernst Ludwig, Grand Duke of Hesse and the Rhein). The ranks of the regiment comprised 98% German speakers with 2% infantrymen of other nationalities. The regimental commander during the war was Colonel Friedrich Nobile von Löw. The regiment took active part in the various phases of the war on the Grappa Massif.



13 XII 1917
O H.

13 DICEMBRE 1917
O H

13 DECEMBER 1917
O H

Presso un vecchio casolare si trovano due (per la seconda si veda la scheda n°857) testimonianze molto interessanti di combattenti austroungarici.

Questa testimonianza rappresenta forse la prima traccia scritta delle truppe che occuparono la conca feltrina per quasi un anno. La zona di Feltre fu occupata l'11 novembre 1917 dal Gruppo Krauss costituito da 45 battaglioni fra cui la divisione Edelweiss, una di Jäger tedesca ed una sessantina di batterie.

At an old farmhouse, two very interesting testimonies by Austro-Hungarian combatants (for the second see entry N° 857).

This is perhaps the first written trace of the troops who occupied the Feltre basin for almost a year. The Feltre area was occupied on 11th November 1917 by the Krauss Group consisting of 45 battalions including the Edelweiss Division, a German Jäger Division and about sixty batteries.



?

**Seren
del Grappa**
Conca Feltrina

Graffito
Graffito

578
2003



DR. FRANZ HAUSJELL
HAUPTMANN
MIN. WERF. BATT. 3. REG. 7
GEFALLEN AM 8 DEZ. 1917
PAX

DOTTORE FRANZ HAUSJELL
CAPITANO
LANCIABOMBE 3° BATTAGLIONE
7° REGGIMENTO
CADUTO L'8 DICEMBRE 1917
PAX

DOCTOR FRANZ HAUSJELL
CAPTAIN
3rd TRENCH-MORTAR BATTALION
7th REGIMENT
FELL 8 DECEMBER 1917
PAX



Cismon
del Grappa
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

585
2003

Il 7° Reggimento di Fanteria "Conte di Khevenhüller" è del 1691, la festa di reggimento è il 24 giugno anniversario della battaglia di Custoza del 1866. Era formato per il 75% da soldati austriaci e per il 25% da sloveni. La zona di reclutamento era tra Graz e Klagenfurt. Nel 1915 combatte tenacemente presso il Monte San Michele (Carso). Dopo Caporetto arriva a novembre 1917 nella conca feltrina. Partecipa alla conquista della dorsale Col della Berretta - Monte Asolone sul finire del 1917. Qui viene assegnato alla 4ª Divisione di Fanteria del XXVI Corpo d'Armata del Raggruppamento Belluno. Nell'estate del 1918 è a riposo lungo la Valle del Piave nei paesi di Sedico e Villa. Nel frattempo passa alle dipendenze della 55ª Divisione di Fanteria, il 23 ottobre viene richiamato sulle linee del Grappa nel settore Monte Pertica - Monte Prassolan dove con grossi sforzi riesce a contrastare l'offensiva finale italiana. Assalta più volte la cima del Pertica fino alla sera del 30 ottobre 1918 quando riceve l'ordine della ritirata generale.

The 7th Infantry Regiment "Conte di Khevenhüller" dates to 1691 and Regimental Day is 24th June, anniversary of the battle of Custoza in 1866. It comprised 75% Austrian soldiers and 25% Slovenian. The recruitment area was between Graz and Klagenfurt. In 1915 it fought tenaciously at Monte San Michele (Carso). After Caporetto it arrived in the Feltrine basin in November 1917. It took part in taking the Col della Berretta-Monte Asolone ridge at the end of 1917. Here it was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division of the 26th Army Corps of the Belluno Unit. In summer 1918 it was resting in the Valle del Piave, at Sedico and Villa. Meanwhile it was transferred under the 55th Infantry Division and on 23rd October was recalled to the Grappa lines in the Monte Pertica-Monte Prassolan sector where with great effort it managed to stem the final Italian offensive. It assaulted the summit of Pertica several times, then in the evening of 30th October 1918 it received the order of the general retreat.



TERZO REGGIMENTO BERSAGLIERI

Il 3° Reggimento Bersaglieri era costituito dai Battaglioni XVIII, XX, XXV e dal III Battaglione Ciclisti. Tra il 1915 e 1917 opera nella zone del Col di Lana, Sief, Colbricon, Fedaia, Cima di Bocche e Costabella. Alla ritirata di Caporetto nel novembre del 1917 si attesta nella zona di Pederobba - Monfenera - Monte Tomba contribuendo ad arrestare l'avanzata austroungarica. Successivamente, tra dicembre 1917 e febbraio 1918, è in prima linea a Zenson di Piave, viene poi trasferito per un periodo di riposo per essere poi inviato sull'Altopiano di Asiago nella zona del Monte Cornone dove riesce a difendere bene l'importante cima. Viene spostato più ad occidente verso il settore delicato di Monte Valbella - Cima Echar dove il 15 giugno 1918 e giorni seguenti tiene testa (sebbene perda alcune posizioni) all'avanzata austriaca. Il 27 luglio scende a riposo Vallonara dove assieme al 2° Reggimento Bersaglieri costituisce la VII Brigata Bersaglieri. L'iscrizione in foto si riferisce ad un edificio posto nelle retrovie utilizzato tra il 1915 - 1917 e poi abbandonato per la ritirata verso le nuove linee di resistenza del Monfenera per la ritirata di Caporetto (ottobre 1917).

THIRD BERSAGLIERI REGIMENT

The 3rd Bersaglieri Regiment was made up of Battalions 28, 20, 25 and the 3rd Cyclist Battalion. Between 1915 and 1917 it was operational in the Col di Lana, Sief, Colbricon, Fedaia, Cima di Bocche and Costabella zones. At the retreat of Caporetto in November 1917 it was in the Pederobba - Monfenera - Monte Tomba zones, contributing to arresting the Austro-Hungarian advance. Subsequently, between December 1917 and February 1918, it was in the front line at Zenson di Piave before being transferred for a rest period. It was then sent to the Asiago Plateau in the Monte Cornone area where it succeeded in defending the important peak well. Moved farther west towards the delicate sector of Monte Valbella - Cima Echar, on 15th June 1918 and the following days it stood up to the Austrian advance (though it lost some positions). On 27th July it went down to rest in Vallonara where, with the 2nd Bersaglieri Regiment, it made up the 7th Bersaglieri Brigade. The inscription in the photo refers to a building on the supply lines used between 1915-1917 and later abandoned for withdrawal to the new defence lines at Monfenera for the Caporetto retreat (October 1917).



Pedavena
Conca Feltrina

Iscrizione
Inscription

593
2004



MAG... 1918
... NTAG

MAGGIO (?) 1918
... MONTAGNA (?)

MAY (?) 1918
... MONTAGNA (?)



Paderno
del Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

604
2004

Osservatorio d'artiglieria, sul parapetto è presente una testimonianza che purtroppo è incompleta, dai frammenti delle parole ancora presenti si può ipotizzare che sia stato realizzato a supporto dei tiri dell'artiglieria verso le zone del Monte Spinoncia - Porte di Salton.

L'incompletezza dell'iscrizione non permette di risalire in modo certo a quale reparto dell'artiglieria operò in tale osservatorio.

Le lettere finali NTAG potrebbero appartenere alla parola MONTAGNA in riferimento al un gruppo di artiglieria da montagna. In base alla documentazione d'epoca trovata risulta operativo, nel settore dei Solaroli, dal febbraio 1918 un osservatorio utilizzato dal 9° e 12° Gruppo Artiglieria Montagna. Sempre da documenti storici consultati il nome in codice dell'osservatorio era "Corrado".

Artillery Observatory. On the parapet, an unfortunately incomplete testimony: from the fragments of words remaining one may guess that it was built to guide artillery fire towards the Monte Spinoncia-Porte di Salton zones.

The incompleteness of the inscription impedes certain tracing of the artillery unit that operated in this observatory.

The final letters NTAG might belong to the word MONTAGNA [MOUNTAIN], referring to a group of mountain artillery.

On the basis of contemporary documentation discovered, we know that in the Solaroli sector an observatory was in use from February 1918 by the 9th and 12th Mountain Artillery Group.

The historical documents consulted also mentioned that the observatory codename was "Corrado".



Su di un masso che costituisce il parapetto di una trincea italiana di seconda linea si ritrova il simbolo della stella a sei punte all'interno di un cerchio con sotto una lettera M chiusa in un rettangolo. Il simbolo è un elemento decorativo comune a tutto il bacino mediterraneo orientale, compresa la Palestina. Usato da millenni, può avere riferimento simbolico al sole o ai fiori.

On a rock constituting the parapet of a second line Italian trench this symbol was found: a six point star within a circle and the letter M beneath, enclosed in a rectangle. This symbol is a decorative element common throughout the eastern Mediterranean basin, including Palestine. Used for thousands of years, it may refer symbolically to the sun or to flowers.



?

Possagno

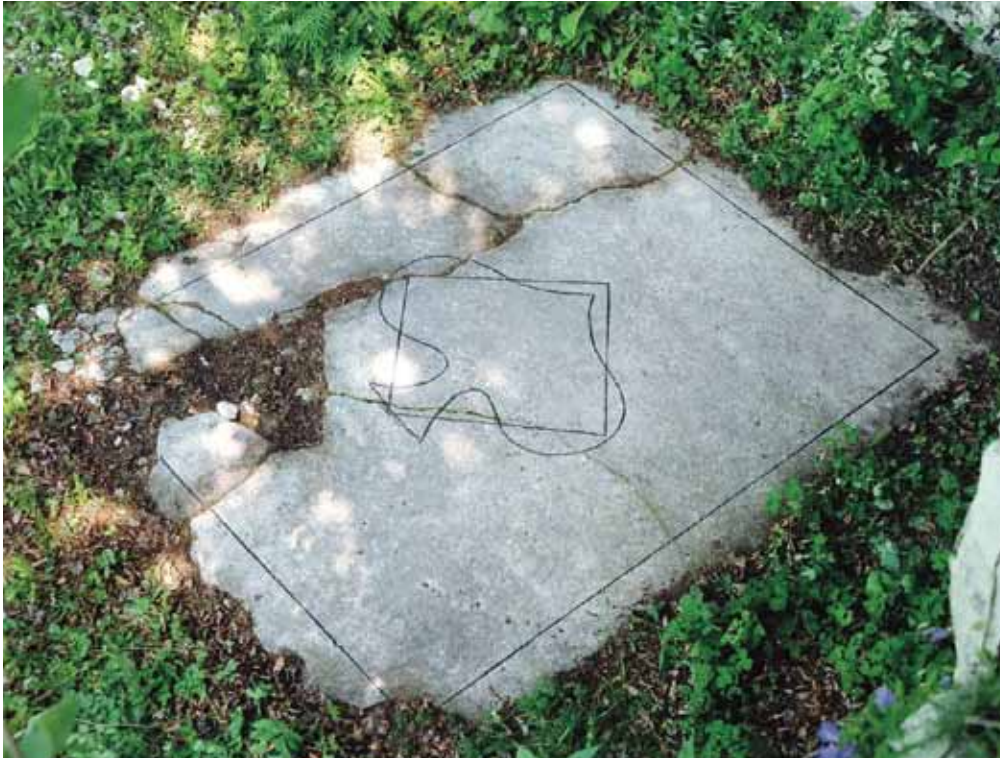
Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

619

2004



?

Pove del
Grappa

Grappa

Iscrizione

Inscription

627

2004

Questa piattaforma in cemento è stata realizzata dalle truppe italiane su una zona ricca di baraccamenti, ricoveri in galleria e postazioni d'artiglieria, nel settore di Campo Solagna. Interessante la presenza dei due simboli che assomigliano a quelli dei semi delle picche e quadri delle carte da gioco. S'ignora la funzione esatta di questo manufatto, si potrebbe supporre una pedana per svolgere qualche particolare gioco tra le truppe qui dislocate.

This concrete platform was built by Italian troops in a zone of the Campo Solagna sector, rich in encampments, tunnel shelters and artillery emplacements. Of interest are the two symbols which resemble the clubs and diamonds of playing cards. The exact function of this construction is unknown, but it might have been used for some special game played between the troops stationed here.



Nach der Zerstörung
wiederhergestellt
10./1. - 15./4. 1918

Ricostruito dopo
la distruzione
10/1. - 15/4 1918

Rebuilt after
destruction
10/1. - 15/4 1918

Dopo l'arrivo delle truppe austriache nella conca feltrina inizia un grande lavoro di organizzazione logistica per supportare i reparti presso le prime linee sul Massiccio del Grappa. Nella conca feltrina si costruirono grossi centri logistici, strade, magazzini, teleferiche, ferrovie a scartamento ridotto, acquartieramenti per le truppe a riposo. Fondamentale per il funzionamento dell'apparato logistico era la necessità di energia elettrica. Presso Fonzaso è presente la centrale elettrica di Pedesalto che durante la ritirata italiana del novembre del 1917, in conseguenza allo sfondamento di Caporetto, fu fatta saltare. Le truppe tecniche austroungariche la ricostruirono e lasciarono queste 2 (la seconda è alla scheda n° 657) importati lapidi a testimonianza. La zona della centrale di Pedesalto fu luogo di scontro nell'ottobre del 1918 tra le avanguardie italiane che inseguivano le retroguardie austriache che avevano il compito di difendere il grosso delle truppe imperiali in ritirata verso la zona del Passo Rolle.

After the arrival of Austrian troops in the Feltre basin, great logistical organisation work was begun to back up the front line units on the Grappa Massif.

In the Feltre basin great logistic centres were built, with roads, warehouses, cableways, narrow-gauge railways and quartering for resting troops. Electricity was fundamental to the functioning of the logistics apparatus. The Pedesalto power station at Fonzaso was blown up during the Italian retreat in November 1917 after the breakthrough at Caporetto.

The Austro-Hungarian technical troops rebuilt it and left these two important memorial tablets (the second is entry N° 657).

The zone of the Pedesalto power station was the theatre in October 1918 of a clash between the Italian vanguards that were pursuing the Austrian rearguards who had the task of defending the majority of imperial troops in retreat towards the Passo Rolle zone.



Fonzaso
Conca Feltrina

Lapide
Memorial stone

656
2004



Fonzaso
Conca Feltrina

Lapide
Memorial stone

657
2004

Kaiserlich und Königlich
ELEKTROKOMP 1/11

Imperiale e Regia
compagnia elettricisti
n. 1/11

Imperial and Royal
company of electricians
n. 1/11

Questa compagnia tecnica elettrica ricostruì la centrale elettrica di Pedesalto fatta saltare dall'esercito italiano in ritirata nel novembre 1917. L'intento era quello di soddisfare le richieste d'energia elettrica per i diversi servizi logistici dislocati nella conca feltrina.

Compagnia genieri appartenente e dipendente direttamente al comando della XI Armata, aveva il compito di gestire gli impianti elettrici sia nella fase di produzione che di distribuzione. Era munita di gruppi elettrogeni adatti al trasporto anche in zone impervie di montagna. Vicino a questa lapide è presente anche una seconda a cui si rimanda alla scheda n° 656.

This company of electricians rebuilt the Pedesalto power station blown up by the retreating Italian army in November 1917. The aim in rebuilding was to power the various logistic services in the Feltre basin. A pioneers company, belonging to and directly under the 11th Army command, it had the task of running electricity systems in both the production and distribution phases. They were equipped with generator units that could be transported even to rough mountain zones. This memorial tablet is close to another which is recorded in entry N° 656.



P G

Iniziali di un combattente italiano, sulla stessa galleria è presente altro graffito (scheda n° 677). *Initials of an Italian combatant. There is another graffito in the same tunnel (entry N° 677).*



?

**Paderno
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

674
2004



?

Paderno
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

677

2004

PACE

PEACE

Sebbene dalla foto non sembri, questa piccola parola è scritta in un punto che non è facilmente visibile. Entrando nella galleria risulta nascosta dalla conformazione della roccia. Durante la guerra se si veniva trovati a scrivere parole del genere, si finiva davanti alla corte marziale, in quanto considerati deboli e capaci di diffondere sentimenti pacifisti nei confronti del nemico; cosa che all'epoca presso le prime linee non era permessa.

Though not clear from the photo, this little word is written in a place that is not easily visible. When you enter the tunnel it is concealed by the conformation of the rock.

During the war, writing such words could lead to court martial since they were considered weak and liable to spread pacifist feelings with regard to the enemy, something prohibited on the front lines at that time.



Lirozzi Nicola di Ferrara

Lirozzi Nicola from Ferrara

Sul portale in cemento crollato di una galleria ricovero è rimasta la firma di un combattente con la città di provenienza. La precarietà di questo graffito non garantisce l'integrità di questa testimonianza sul luogo di ritrovamento.

On the crumbled concrete portal of a shelter tunnel, the signature of a combatant with the name of his hometown. The precarious condition of this graffito does not guarantee the intactness of this testimony in the place where it was found.



?

Paderno
del Grappa

Grappa


Graffito

Graffito

682

2004



	?	Paderno del Grappa	Graffito	694
		Grappa	Graffito	2004

1918

Lungo l'ardita mulattiera delle Meatte è presente questo piccolo graffito su roccia. Questa mulattiera era di fondamentale importanza in quanto permetteva il transito di truppe nascoste e protette dai tiri dell'artiglieria austriaca. Sui rovesci del Monte Meatte erano dislocate teleferiche che dalla sottostante Val San Liberale portavano in quota di materiali e viveri, in alcuni casi servirono per portare a valle i feriti più gravi. Di questa zona esistono moltissime foto d'epoca che testimoniano l'importanza e l'ingegno tecnico attuato per la realizzazione di questa straordinaria testimonianza storica.

Along the hazardous mule track of the Meate, this small graffito on the rock. This mule track was of fundamental importance inasmuch as it permitted the transit of troops concealed and protected from Austrian artillery fire. On the other sides of Monte Meate there were cableways that carried materials and provisions up from the Val San Liberale and in some cases were used to evacuate the most seriously wounded. There are many contemporary photos of this zone which bear out both its importance and the technical ingenuity employed in the creation of such an extraordinary historical testimony.



1.78

1.918

1.888

17

1915

Presso l'entrata di una galleria con portale in cemento sono state trovate queste cifre incise sulle pareti, s'ignora il loro preciso significato, spiccano le cifre 1918 e 1915 che potrebbero essere gli anni dell'entrata in guerra e l'anno in cui questo graffito è stato realizzato.

At the entrance to a tunnel with a concrete portal these figures were found inscribed on the walls, but their precise meaning is unknown. The figures 1918 and 1915 stand out, which could be the years since entering the war and the year in which the graffito was done.



?

Crespano
del Grappa

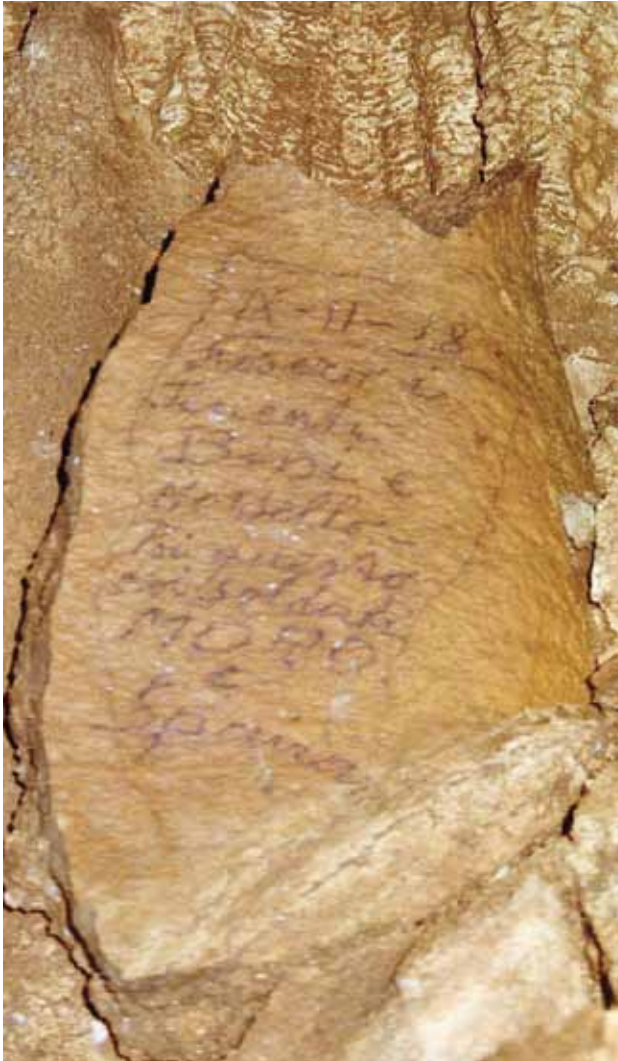
Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

703

2004



?

Borso
del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

706
2005

IX - II - 18
Scesero i
Tenenti
Bisi e
Morsello
Poi questo
coi soldati
MORO
e
Spairani

IX - II - 18
Lieutenants
Bisi and
Morsello
went down
Then the latter
with troopers
MORO
and
Spairani

Il 9 febbraio 1918 su di una trincea sul Monte Oro fu intercettato un abisso che oggi è conosciuto con il nome di Abisso Pianca. Ben studiato dagli speleologi locali, in sostanza è una voragine a forma di pozzo profonda quasi 200 metri. Durante l'esplorazione speleologica su una piccola cengia, dopo una trentina di metri di discesa, presso una concrezione è stato fotografato questo graffito. Si caratterizza per una cornice a forma di scudo e testimonia la discesa dei soldati fino a quel punto probabilmente spinti dalla curiosità di aver scoperto questa grotta naturale.

On 9th February 1918, working on a trench on Monte Oro, the soldiers came across an abyss which is now known as Abisso Pianca. Carefully studied by local speleologists, it is substantially a chasm in the form of a well, almost 200 metres deep. During speleological exploration, after a descent of about thirty metres, on a narrow ledge, this graffito near a concretion was photographed. It features a shield-shaped frame and bears witness to the soldiers' descent to that point, probably urged by the curiosity of having discovered this natural cave.



936 BATT. ASS.
COSTRUI' QUESTA
MULATTIERA
MARZO APRILE 1918

936^a BATTERIA ASSEDIO
COSTRUI' QUESTA
MULATTIERA
MARZO APRILE 1918

936th SIEGE BATTERY
BUILT THIS
MULE TRACK
MARCH APRIL 1918

La stessa batteria lasciò un'altra iscrizione lungo la stessa strada, si rimanda alla scheda n° 506. *The same Battery left another inscription on the same road (entry N° 506).*



Crespano
del Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

710
2004



ALGA
MASSA
III 34
14-9-18

MALGA
MASSA
3° BATTAGLIONE
34° FANTERIA
14-9-1918

MALGA
MASSA
3rd BATTALION
34th INFANTRY
14-9-1918



San
Nazario
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

714
2004

Il 34° assieme al 33° Reggimento di Fanteria (scheda n° 555) costituiva la Brigata Livorno. Il 26 maggio 1915 è il primo reggimento ad attaccare il Monte Sabotino. Per tutto il 1915 si accanisce contro il Sabotino senza mai riuscire a conquistarlo e lasciando sul campo 3000 soldati. Nel 1916 viene prima trasferita sul fronte delle Giudicarie nel settore Val Daone poi è richiamata a novembre a difendere le importanti posizioni sul Fajti e sul Monte Pecinka appena conquistati nella 9ª battaglia dell'Isonzo. Nel 1917 operano nel settore del Monte Santo nella 10ª battaglia dell'Isonzo. Dopo un mese di riposo tra giugno e luglio a San Giovanni di Manzano rientra in linea per l'11ª battaglia dell'Isonzo dove, partendo dalle posizioni di Descla, riesce a sfondare le linee e conquistare diverse quote tra Ravne e Sveto. Il 27 agosto è mandata in riposo per le spaventose perdite subite (800 militari). Dopo Caporetto si ritira sostenendo sanguinosi scontri a Korada, poi San Giorgio - Monte Zuanin e poi a Orgnano. Il 7 novembre la brigata è sciolta per ricostituirsi a Badia Polesine. Il 22 successivo viene inviata subito sull'Altopiano di Asiago nel settore Portecche - Monte Valbella. Il 7 marzo 1918 dopo due mesi di riposo è sulle linee del Col d'Ecchele - Pizzo Razea - Col dei Nosellari fino al 18 maggio per poi passare nel settore del Canal di Brenta fino a settembre 1918 a presidio degli sbarramenti di prima linea di Grottella e Rocce Anzini. Il 15 giugno 1918 è impegnata in aspri combattimenti per difendere le proprie posizioni, dell'importante caposaldo di Col Moschin, che però è perso. Ma già il 16 riesce a riprendere il caposaldo. Tra luglio e settembre 1918 riprende le posizioni di Rocce Anzini - Col Carpenedi e Grottella. Non viene impegnata attivamente nella battaglia finale di "Vittorio Veneto" dell'ottobre 1918, passa il Piave a fronte rotto presso Crocetta del Montello.

The 34th with the 33rd Infantry Regiment (entry N° 555) formed the Leghorn Brigade. On 26th May 1915 it was the first regiment to attack Monte Sabotino. Throughout 1915 it fought fiercely but never took Sabotino and suffered 3,000 dead. In 1916 it was transferred to the Giudicarie front in the Val Daone sector and then recalled in November to defend the important positions on the Fajti and Monte Pecinka, recently taken at the 9th battle of the Isonzo. In 1917 it was operational in the Monte Santo sector in the 10th battle of the Isonzo. After a month's rest between June and July at San Giovanni di Manzano it returned to the line for the 11th battle of the Isonzo where, setting out from the positions of Descla, managed to break through enemy lines and take various altitudes between Ravne and Sveto. On 27th August it was sent to rest after the frightening losses it had suffered (800 soldiers). After Caporetto it withdrew and sustained bloody clashes at Korada, then San Giorgio-Monte Zuanin and again at Orgnano. On 7th November the brigade was disbanded and re-established in Badia Polesine. On the 22nd it was immediately sent to the Asiago Plateau in the sector Portecche-Monte Valbella. On 7th March 1918, after two months' rest, it was in the Col d'Ecchele-Pizzo Razea-Col dei Nosellari lines where it remained until 18th May. It was then transferred to the Brenta Canal sector until September 1918, garrisoning the front line blockades of Grottella and Rocce Anzini. On 15th June 1918 it was involved in bitter fighting to defend its positions. The important stronghold of Col Moschin was lost, but was retaken on the 16th. Between July and September 1918 it recaptured the positions of Rocce Anzini-Col Carpenedi and Grottella. It took no active part in the final battle of Vittorio Veneto in October 1918 but, with the front broken, crossed the Piave at Crocetta del Montello.

34° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA “LIVORNO”
“TENACIA E VALORE”

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO
1911/12 GUERRA ITALO-TURCA
1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE
ALLA BANDIERA: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA
1 MED. ARGENTO
UFF. e TRUPPA: 100 MED. ARGENTO
142 MED. BRONZO - 24 CROCI DI GUERRA

PERDITE IN COMBATTIMENTO

UFFICIALI: MORTI 33 - FERITI 71 - DISPERSI 67
TRUPPA: MORTI 498 - FERITI 1897 - DISPERSI 1264

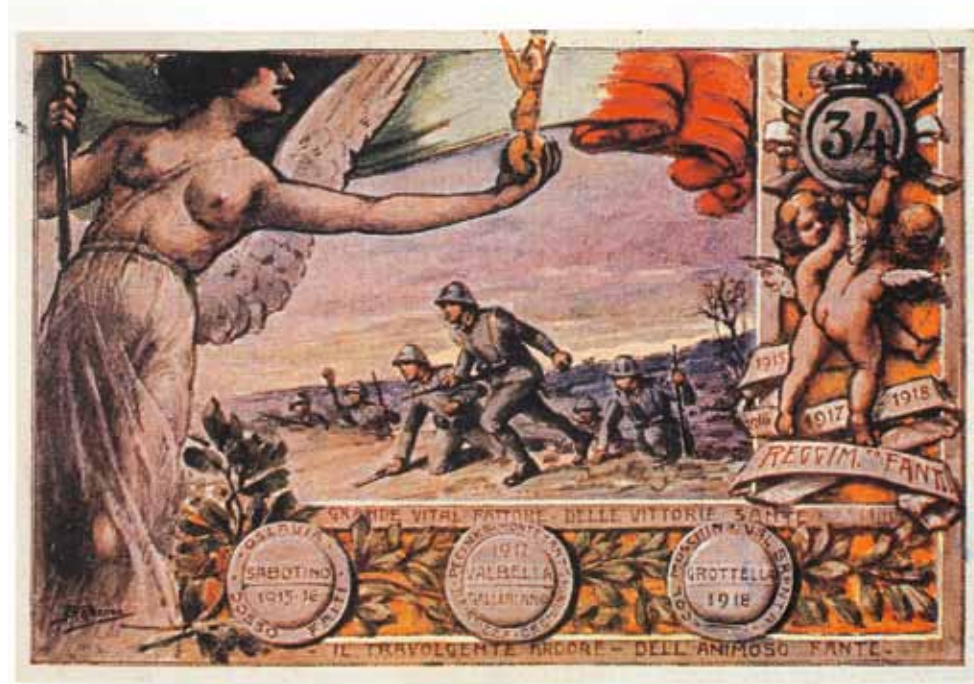
Si origina nel 1859 nel Gran Ducato di Toscana.

Entra a far parte dell'esercito sardo nel 1860.

Presta la sua opera di soccorso alle popolazioni
terremotate di Messina del 1908.

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté
come riportato in scheda.

Festa del reggimento 23 Agosto.



34th INFANTRY REGIMENT “LEGHORN”
“TENACIA E VALORE”

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO
1911/12 ITALIAN-TURKISH WAR
1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY
TO THE FLAG: CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY
1 SILVER MED.
OFF. AND MEN: 100 SILVER MED.
142 BRONZE MED. - 24 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION

OFFICERS: 33 DEAD – 71 WOUNDED – 67 MISSING
MEN: 498 DEAD - 1897 WOUNDED - 1264 MISSING

Formed in 1859 in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany,
it became part of the Sardinian army in 1860.

It aided the earthquake struck population
of Messina in 1908.

During the 1st World War it fought as described
in the entry.

Regimental Day: 23rd August.



Cismon
del Grappa
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

715
2004

DUE GRANDI CROCI ROSSE
SU SFONDO BIANCO

TWO LARGE RED CROSSES
ON WHITE BACKGROUND

Testimonianze locali confermano che le due croci rosse sono state realizzate durante la Grande Guerra per segnalare la presenza di un ospedale militare. Con molta probabilità questo ospedale riceveva i feriti che provenivano dalle prime linee poste sul fondo della Val Sugana (zona Castelnuovo - Strigno).

Local witnesses confirm that the two red crosses were created during the Great War to mark the presence of a military hospital. It is very likely that this hospital received the wounded from the front lines at the bottom of Val Sugana (Castelnuovo-Strigno zone).



2038
Comp Mit.
907. F.

2038^a
Compagnia Mitraglieri
907 F

2038th
Machine-Gunner Company
907 F

Questa compagnia mitraglieri trascorre i mesi di ottobre, novembre e dicembre 1917 sull'Altopiano di Asiago presso il Monte Cavalletto, con funzione di riserva della 7^a Divisione inquadrata a sua volta nel XXV Corpo d'Armata. Nel 1918 è presso il Monte Valbella, poi spostata a Rubbio ed ancora (giugno 1918) a presidiare importanti posizioni a ridosso della prima linea sul fondo del Canal del Brenta e nella contrada di Mori a Valstagna. In queste località è inquadrata nella 2^a Divisione del XX Corpo d'Armata in quanto assieme alla 2190^a, 2192^a e 2200^a costituivano le compagnie mitraglieri a diretta disposizione della divisione sopra citata. A novembre 1918 è segnalata presso Noale (VE).

Le armi in dotazione sono le mitragliatrici francesi St. Etienne modello 907 F.

This machine-gunner company spent October, November and December 1917 on the Asiago Plateau near Monte Cavalletto, functioning as reserve to the 7th Division which in turn was formed in cadres in the 25th Army Corps. In 1918 it was on Monte Valbella, then moved to Rubbio and again (June 1918) to garrison important positions behind the front line at the end of the Brenta Canal and the district of Mori in Valstagna. In these localities it was formed in cadres in the 2nd Division of the 20th Army Corps since it made up, with the 2190th, 2192nd and 2200th, the machine-gunner companies directly under the Division mentioned above. In November 1918 it was reported as being in Noale (VE).

Their weapon was the French 907 F St. Etienne machinegun.



San
Nazario
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

718
2004



Feltre
Conca Feltrina

Iscrizione
Inscription

723
2004

OSPEDALE DA CAMPO N° 096

FIELD HOSPITAL N° 096

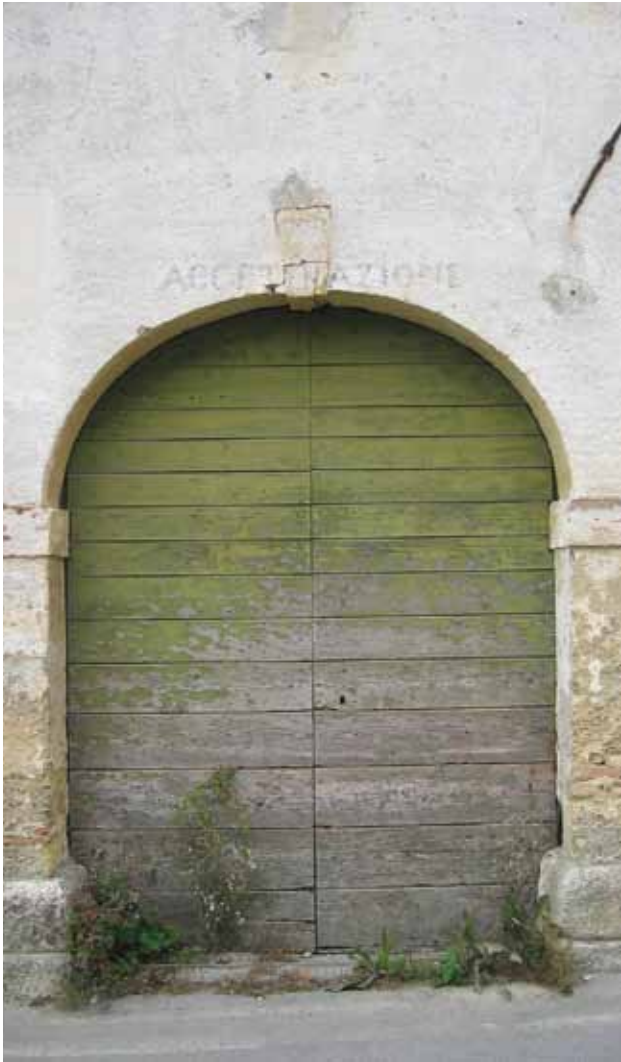
La conca feltrina costituiva una zona molto importante di retrovia per la IV Armata che era schierata nella zona montana dai Lagorai fino al Comelico, in particolare occupava la zona militare che all'epoca era chiamata la Fortezza Cadore - Maè.

Tutta la zona della Val Belluna era quindi sede di importanti servizi logistici a supporto delle prime linee. La testimonianza qui riportata mostra la villa settecentesca De' Mezzan in località di Grum che fu trasformata in ospedale militare, sebbene l'iscrizione sia poco visibile (ma comunque ancora presente) esistono delle foto del periodo bellico che ritraggono la villa dove si legge chiaramente la destinazione militare che assunse l'edificio. Presso un arco d'entrata della villa è ancora visibile la scritta sbiadita di "Accettazione" (si veda la scheda n° 724), che identificava il luogo dove feriti e malati provenienti dalle varie zone di guerra dovevano registrarsi prima del ricovero.

The Feltrina basin was a highly important supply line area for the 4th Army which was drawn up in the mountain zone from the Lagorai to Comelico. In particular it occupied the military zone which at the time was called Fort Cadore-Maè.

The entire Val Belluna area was therefore a base for important logistics services supporting the front lines. This testimony shows the 18th century villa De' Mezzan, in Grum, which was transformed into a military hospital. The inscription is not very clear but it still exists.

There are contemporary photos of the villa in which its military use is clearly legible. Above an entrance arch the faded word "Accettazione" [Reception] is still visible (see entry N° 724) where the sick and wounded had to report before being taken in.



ACCETTAZIONE

RECEPTION

Sebbene molto sbiadita sopra l'arco è ancora leggibile l'iscrizione, questa era l'entrata per l'ospedale italiano da campo n° 096 (si veda scheda n° 723).

Though very faded the inscription above the arch is still legible. This was the entrance to Italian field hospital N° 096 (see entry N° 723).



Feltre
Conca Feltrina

Iscrizione
Inscription

724
2004



2° REGGIMENTO GENIO
ZAPPATORI
160 COMP ? GENIO
69 BATT.NE

2° REGGIMENTO GENIO
ZAPPATORI
160ª COMPAGNIA
? GENIO
69° BATTAGLIONE

2nd SAPPER ENGINEERS
REGIMENT
160th COMPANY
? ENGINEERS
69th BATTALION



Valstagna
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

730
2004

La 160ª Compagnia Zappatori opera con lavori di fortificazione nei settori della Val Posina, Monte Priaforà, Monte Cimone, Val d'Astico e Monte Spin durante l'offensiva austroungarica del maggio 1916. In queste zone partecipa attivamente alla difesa di alcune posizioni subendo alcune perdite. Agli inizi del 1918 è attiva sul Corno di Vallarsa (dove furono catturati gli irredenti trentini Cesare Battisti e Fabio Filzi poi impiccati come traditori a Trento) per costruire una galleria di mina elicoidale con lo scopo di far brillare la cima occupata dal luglio del 1916 dagli austriaci. La vetta viene presa con un colpo di mano dagli arditi della Brigata Murge senza far esplodere la mina. La galleria costruita dagli Zappatori fu poi collegata con il sistema di gallerie austriache rendendo il Corno di Vallarsa un caposaldo inespugnabile. A settembre 1918 la compagnia è impegnata in Canal del Brenta con la costruzione di strutture logistiche per il rifornimento di materiali e mezzi per le posizioni avanzate in quota su Monte Cornone, San Francesco e Val Frenzela.

The 160th Sapper Company carried out fortification works in the sectors of Val Posina, Monte Priaforà, Monte Cimone, Val d'Astico and Monte Spin during the Austro-Hungarian offensive of May 1916. In these zones it took active part in the defence of several positions and underwent some losses. In early 1918 it was active on the Corno di Vallarsa (where the Trentino irredentists Cesare Battisti and Fabio Fonzi were captured and hanged as traitors to Trento), building a spiral mine tunnel with view to blowing up the summit that had been held by the Austrians since July 1916. The summit was actually taken with a surprise attack by the Arditi of the Murge Brigade, without exploding the mine. The tunnel built by the Sappers was then linked up to the Austrian tunnel system, making the Corno di Vallarsa an impregnable stronghold. In September 1918 the company was employed in the Brenta Canal area, building logistic structures for supplying materials and equipment to the high altitude positions on Monte Cornone, San Francesco and Val Frenzela.



TELEFERICA S. FRANCESCO

7ª Cª TELEFERISTI - 160ª Cª ZAPPATORI

3º PLOTONE 69º BATTAGLIONE

SETTEMBRE 1918

ZARAMELLA

S. FRANCESCO CABLEWAY

7th TELPHERMAN Co. - 160th SAPPERS Co.

3rd PLATOON 69th BATTALION

SEPTEMBER 1918

ZARAMELLA

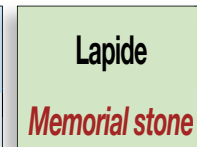
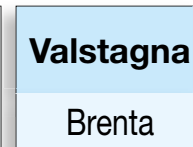
La lapide a destra riporta il probabile ritratto del Re Vittorio Emanuele III, mentre a sinistra un ritratto femminile che potrebbe corrispondere alla consorte la Regina Elena del Montenegro. Lapide realizzata dalla 7ª Compagnia teleferisti e dalla 160ª Compagnia Zappatori. Si rimanda alla scheda n° 730 per ulteriori cenni storici. La 7ª Compagnia teleferisti era composta da quattro plotoni, tre erano in servizio ed una era di riserva. La teleferica fu costruita dal 3º plotone che aveva sede a San Michele (nord - ovest di Bassano del Grappa). La zona d'operazione della 7ª Compagnia fu l'Altopiano di Asiago, da Monte Paù fino alle linee del Canal del Brenta.

La teleferica chiamata "Teleferica San Francesco" si caratterizzava per uno sviluppo in lunghezza di 910 m superando un dislivello di 535 m. Fu resa operativa nell'agosto del 1918 ed aveva un carico massimo di 250 kg ed una portata oraria di 1000 kg. In basso a sinistra il cognome del soldato che probabilmente ha realizzato la lapide.

The memorial tablet on the right shows what is probably a portrait of king Vittorio Emanuele III, while on the left the portrait of a woman is probably his wife queen Elena of Montenegro. A memorial tablet created by the 7th Telfherman Company and the 160th Sapper Company. See entry N° 730 for further historical details.

The 7th Telfherman Company consisted of four platoons, three serving and one in reserve. The cableway was built by the 3rd platoon which was based in San Michele (north-west of Bassano del Grappa). The 7th Company's zone of operation was the Asiago Plateau, from Monte Paù to the lines of the Brenta Canal.

The cableway, called "San Francesco Cableway" featured a length of 910 metres, covering a difference in height of 535 metres. It was made operational in August 1918, with a maximum payload of 250 kg and an hourly capacity of 1000 kg. Bottom left, the surname of the soldier who probably created the memorial tablet.





1949 COMP.
MIT. FIAT
BERSA - 1918



Valstagna
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

732
2005

1949 COMPAGNIA
MITRAGLIERI FIAT
BERSAGLIERI 1918

1949 COMPANY
FIAT MACHINE-GUNNERS
BERSAGLIERI 1918



Presso l'entrata di una galleria ora franata, è presente questa lapide che testimonia i lavori difensivi della 74ª Compagnia, eseguiti nelle linee difensive della Valle San Lorenzo. La lapide si caratterizza per la sua forma che richiama una pergamena arrotolata e la citazione latina. È l'unica testimonianza che riporta una citazione in latino fino ad ora trovata. La 74ª Compagnia è operativa sul Grappa già dal gennaio 1918 ed ancora in linea ad ottobre 1918 con lavori sul Col del Miglio. A metà dello stesso mese viene mandata a Treviso con il compito principale di scarico dei treni presso Porta Cavour ed istruzione dei nuovi complementi. Era inquadrata nel XXX Battaglione Zappatori che comprendeva anche la 64ª e 66ª Compagnia Zappatori a servizio del IX Corpo d'Armata. Di questa lapide è andato perso il fregio di cui rimane solo l'impronta, ma comunque si è scoperto che apparteneva al 1° Reggimento Genio.

At the entrance to a tunnel now caved in, this memorial tablet bears witness to defensive works by the 74th Company in the defensive lines of the Valle San Lorenzo. The memorial tablet is characterised by its form, which recalls a rolled up parchment, and by its Latin quotation. It is the only testimony found to date that bears a quotation in Latin. The 74th Company was already operational on Grappa in January 1918 and still in the line in October 1918 with works on Col del Miglio. In the middle of the same month it was sent to Treviso with the main task of unloading trains at Porta Cavour and training new recruits. It was formed in cadres in the 30th Sapper Battalion, which also included the 64th and 66th Sapper Company, under the 11th Army Corps. The insignia on this memorial tablet has been lost, only the imprint remaining. But it was discovered that it belonged to the 1st Engineers Regiment.

ARS ET LABOR
(?) Reggimento Genio
74ª COMPAGNIA

ARTE E LAVORO
(?) Reggimento Genio
74ª COMPAGNIA

ART AND WORK
(?) Engineers Regiment
74th COMPANY



Romano
d'Ezzelino
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

734
2005



?

Romano
d'Ezzelino

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

737

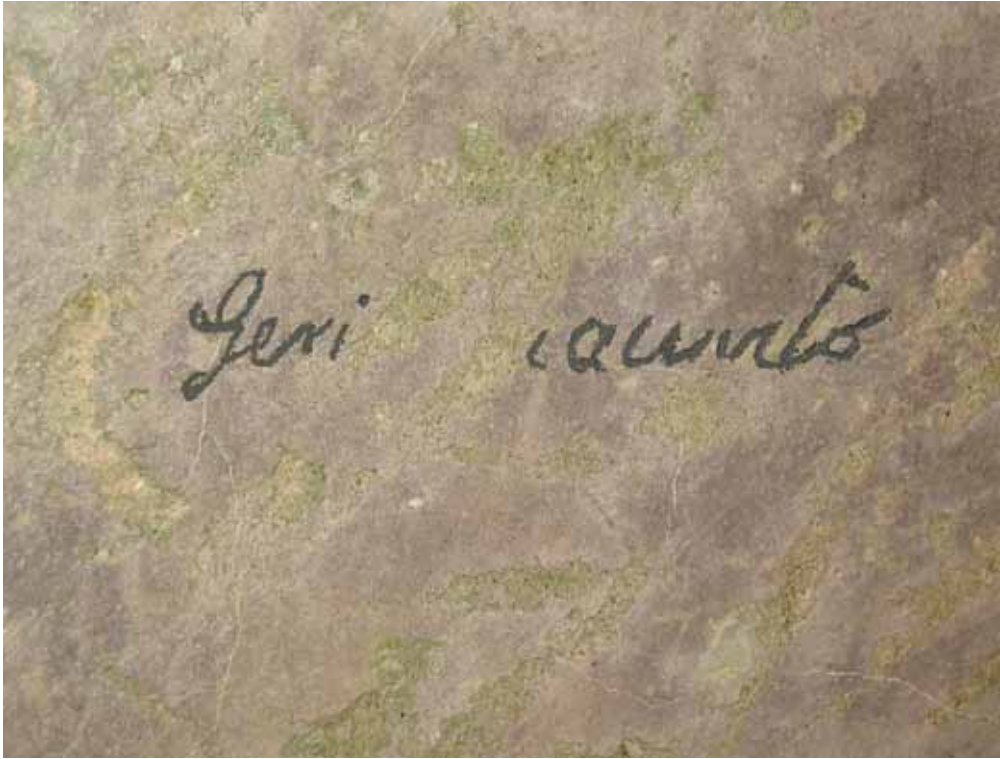
2005

PESCE
FOGGI..

PESCE
FOGGIA(?)

All'imbocco di una galleria si trova questo graffito fatto quando il cemento era ancora fresco. Riporta il cognome del soldato con la probabile città di provenienza, Foggia.

At the entrance to a tunnel, this graffito was written when the concrete was still wet: a soldier's surname and the name of his probable hometown, Foggia.



Firma incompleta e poco leggibile, di un soldato italiano sul cemento presso una galleria ricovero.

In a shelter tunnel, the incomplete and not very legible signature on concrete of an Italian soldier.



?

Pove del
Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

740

2005



?

Pove del
Grappa

Grappa

Lapide

Memorial stone

741

2005

All'ingresso di un caposaldo nella zona di Valle San Lorenzo è collocata questa lapide in parte rovinata. Sebbene incompleta si può apprezzare il suo pregio, si nota la cornice ancora parzialmente visibile e nella parte centrale rimane una piccola porzione di motivo decorativo a forma di ghirlanda. Nessuna lettera o numero è decifrabile.

At the entrance to a stronghold in the Valle San Lorenzo zone, this partially ruined memorial tablet. Although incomplete its fineness can still be appreciated. The frame is still partly visible and in the centre a small portion of decorative garland motif remains. No letter or number is decipherable.



ODO
INGINO

Testimonianza scritta da un combattente presso l'entrata fatta in cemento di un ricovero in galleria. Sebbene il graffito sia molto grande non è perfettamente comprensibile. *Testimony written by a combatant at the concrete entrance to a tunnel shelter. Though the graffito is large size it is not perfectly legible.*



?

Pove del
Grappa

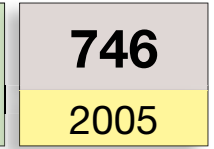
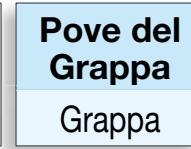
Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

743

2005



7 Comp^a
139° FAN^a
.. - 9 - 918
W
60 FAN^a
3^a Comp

7^a Compagnia
139° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA
.. - 9 - 918
W
60° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA
3^a Compagnia

7th Company
139th INFANTRY REGIMENT
.. - 9 - 918
W
60th INFANTRY REGIMENT
3rd Company

Interessante presenza di graffiti all'entrata di questa galleria, per la presenza di 2 reggimenti di fanteria, che si sono avvicendati, la Brigata Bari con il 139° e 140° e la Brigata Calabria (scheda n° 748). La Brigata Bari si trova nel 1915 sul Carso, partecipa ad assalti presso il Monte San Michele e il Bosco del Cappuccio, poi è a San Martino del Carso per quasi tutto il 1915. Il 12 aprile 1916 è sul Sabotino. A giugno viene trasferita in fretta sull'Altopiano di Asiago con il compito di conquistare Monte Fiara, Monte Colombara e Monte Zingarella, ma solo il primo viene raggiunto. A settembre 1916 è nuovamente sul Carso nella zona di Ronchi. Nel 1917 è schierata prima sul Debeli Vrh e poi verso Selo. Dopo Caporetto riceve l'ordine di ritirata e si schiera il 6 novembre tra San Donà di Piave e Castellana, dove blocca vari tentativi austriaci di passare il Piave. A fine dicembre 1917 è operativa sul Grappa, nel tratto Osteria del Lepre - Monte Asolone. A giugno merita la medaglia d'argento sulla bandiera per la difesa di Monte Asolone. Ad ottobre 1918 partecipa alla battaglia di Vittorio Veneto con gli obiettivi di occupare il Col della Berretta e poi il Col Bonato. Il 26 ottobre viene ritirata a Bassano del Grappa, per riordinarsi a causa delle forti perdite subite, dove arriva l'armistizio.

Interesting graffiti at the entrance to this tunnel due to the presence of 2 infantry regiments which did shifts: the Bari Brigade with the 139th and the 140th and the Calabria Brigade (entry N° 748). The Bari Brigade was on the Carso in 1915 and took part in assaults on Monte San Michele and Bosco del Cappuccio, and was subsequently at San Martino del Carso for almost all of 1915. On 12th April 1916 it was on the Sabotino. In June it was hurriedly transferred to the Asiago Plateau with the task of taking Monte Fiara, Monte Colombara and Monte Zingarella, but only the first objective was achieved. In September 1916 it was once again on the Carso in the Ronchi zone. In 1917 it was drawn up first on Debeli Vrh and then towards Selo. After Caporetto it received the order to retreat and was drawn up on 6th November between San Donà di Piave and Castellana where it blocked various Austrian attempts to cross the Piave. At the end of December 1917 it was operational on Grappa, in the Osteria del Lepre-Monte Asolone stretch. In June it was awarded the silver medal of the flag for the defence of Monte Asolone. In October 1918 it took part in the battle of Vittorio Veneto with the objectives of occupying Col della Berretta and then Col Bonato. On 26th October it was withdrawn to Bassano del Grappa for re-ordering, due to heavy losses, where news of the armistice arrived.

139° - 140° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA "BARI"

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

139° REGGIMENTO:

CROCE DI CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA

MED. ARGENTO AL VALOR MILITARE

140° REGGIMENTO:

CROCE DI CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA

MED. ARGENTO AL VALOR MILITARE

Citazioni nei bollettini di guerra del Comando Supremo

n° 819 del 31 agosto 1917 e n° 1120 del 18 giugno 1918.

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté come riportato in scheda.

Il 20 settembre 1919 la brigata fu disciolta



139TH- 140TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "BARI"

WAR CAMPAIGNS

915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY

139TH REGIMENT:

CROSS CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

SILVER MED. FOR BRAVERY

140TH REGIMENT:

CROSS CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

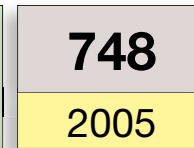
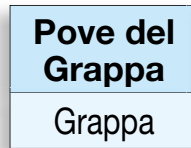
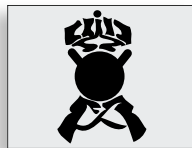
SILVER MED. FOR BRAVERY

Mentioned in Supreme Command dispatches N° 819 of 31st August

1917 and N° 1120 of 18th June 1918.

During the 1st World War it fought as described in the entry.

The brigade was disbanded on 20th September 1919.



60° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA

Il 59° e 60° Reggimento di Fanteria costituivano la Brigata Calabria, dal maggio del 1915 fino a metà del 1916 operò nel settore del Col di Lana - Monte Sief dove partecipò a cruente battaglie per la conquista di posizioni strategiche per il controllo del settore. Il 18 luglio viene trasferita in Val Travignolo con il compito di azioni offensive tra il Colbricon Piccolo - Cima Stradon. Dal 20 al 26 luglio attacca e conquista Cima Stradon ma poi deve lasciare la cima viste le numerose perdite subite. Rimane su questo settore fino a novembre 1917 per lavori di rafforzamento delle difese. Dopo Caporetto viene subito impiegata nel settore Monte Tomba - Monfenera dove viene, il 22 novembre, sopraffatta dalle truppe austriache. Tenta 5 volte di riprendere le diverse quote del Monte Tomba ma con limitati esiti. Ai primi di dicembre è ritirata ad Onè di Fonte per riorganizzarsi e a fine dicembre 1917 è schierata con la 18ª Divisione nel settore Col Moschin - Col Fenilon - Col del Gallo - Valle San Lorenzo. Nel 1918 è sempre operativa su questo settore con turni di riposo a Bassano del Grappa. Il 15 giugno 1918 la grande offensiva austriaca investe anche le prime linee della Brigata Calabria che nel settore Col del Miglio - Casera Cestarotta deve ritirarsi sulle seconde linee in Val Manara dove l'offensiva si infrange. Il 3 luglio tutte le posizioni perse dalla brigata sono riconquistate. Il 60° si distingue il 10 settembre per la partecipazione alla conquista della postazione "Fortino Regina" sull'Asolone e lo mantiene malgrado la violenta reazione nemica. Alla battaglia di Vittorio Veneto partecipa assieme ai fanti della Brigata Bari all'assalto del Monte Asolone - Col della Berretta ma dopo 4 giorni di scontri, viene ritirata per le gravi perdite fino alla fine del conflitto a Bassano del Grappa.

60th INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 59th and 60th Infantry Regiment made up the Calabria Brigade which from May 1915 to mid 1916 operated in the Col di Lana-Monte Sief sector, taking part in fierce battles to capture strategic positions for control of the sector. On 18th July it was transferred to Val Travignolo with the task of offensive actions between Colbricon Piccolo and Cima Stradon. From 20th to 26th July it attacked and took Cima Stradon but then had to leave the summit due to heavy losses. It stayed in this sector until November 1917 in order to reinforce the defences. After Caporetto it was immediately deployed in the Monte Tomba-Monfenera sector where it was overrun by Austrian troops on 22nd November. It made 5 attempts to retake the various heights of Monte Tomba but with limited results. In early December it withdrew to Onè di Fonte for reorganisation and at the end of December 1917 it was drawn up with the 18th Division in the Col Moschin-Col Fenonon-Col del Gallo-Valle San Lorenzo sector. In 1918 it was still operational in this sector, with rest periods at Bassano del Grappa. On 15th June 1918 the great Austrian offensive also involved the front lines of the Calabria Brigade which, in the Col del Miglio-Casera Cestarotta sector, had to withdraw to the second line in Val Manara where the offensive broke up. On 3rd July all the positions the brigade had lost were retaken. The 60th distinguished itself on 10th September for its part in taking the "Fortino Regina" emplacement on Asolone and holding it against violent enemy reaction. At the battle of Vittorio Veneto it took part with the Bari Brigade infantry in the assault on Monte Asolone-Col della Berretta but after four days of fighting it withdrew to Bassano del Grappa due to heavy losses and remained there until the end of the conflict.

**59° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA
"CALABRIA"
"ACRITER IN HOSTES"**

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA
1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO
1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR
MILITARE
ALLA BANDIERA:
CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA
1 MED. ARGENTO
AGLI UFF. E TRUPPA:
3 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA
71 MED. ARGENTO
108 MED. BRONZO
14 CROCI DI GUERRA

PERDITE IN COMBATTIMENTO
UFFICIALI: MORTI 74
FERITI 158 - DISPERSI 37
TRUPPA: MORTI 878
FERITI 5084 - DISPERSI 1825

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si
batté come riportato in scheda.
Festa del reggimento 18 aprile.

**60° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA
"CALABRIA"
"FORTE COME LA MORTE"**

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA
1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO
1911/12 GUERRA ITALO-TURCA
1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR
MILITARE
ALLA BANDIERA:
2 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA
1 MED. ARGENTO
1 MED. BRONZO
AGLI UFF. E TRUPPA:
1 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA
122 MED. ARGENTO
202 MED. BRONZO
64 CROCI DI GUERRA

PERDITE IN COMBATTIMENTO
UFFICIALI: MORTI 65
FERITI 144 - DISPERSI 30
TRUPPA: MORTI 801
FERITI 4342 - DISPERSI 1700

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si
batté come riportato in scheda.
Festa del reggimento 22 novembre.



**59TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
"CALABRIA"
"ACRITER IN HOSTES"**

WAR CAMPAIGNS
1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO
1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY
BRAVERY
TO THE FLAG:
CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY
1 SILVER MED.
OFF. AND MEN:
3 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY
71 SILVER MED.
108 BRONZE MED.
14 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION
OFFICERS: 74 DEAD
158 WOUNDED – 37 MISSING
MEN: 878 DEAD
5,084 WOUNDED – 1,825 MISSING

During the 1st World War it fought
as described in the entry.
Regimental Day: 18th April.

**60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
"CALABRIA"
"FORTE COME LA MORTE"**

WAR CAMPAIGNS
1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO
1911/12 ITALIAN-TURKISH WAR
1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY
BRAVERY
TO THE FLAG:
2 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY
1 SILVER MED.
1 BRONZE MED.
OFF. AND MEN:
1 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY
122 SILVER MED.
202 BRONZE MED.
64 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION
OFFICERS: 65 DEAD
144 WOUNDED – 30 MISSING
MEN: 801 DEAD
4,342 WOUNDED – 1,700 MISSING

During the 1st World War it fought
as described in the entry.
Regimental Day: 22nd November.



Borso del
Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

749
2005

AI FRATELLI D'ARMI
DEL 42° REGG FANTERIA
CADUTI

in difesa del monte Sacro alla Patria
GLI UFFICIALI DEL REGGIMENTO
CON AFFETTO E CON ORGOGLIO
NOVEMBRE 1918

Si veda la scheda n° 755

TO BROTHERS IN ARMS
OF THE 42nd INFANTRY REG.
FALLEN

in defence of the mountain Sacred to the Country
THE REGIMENT OFFICERS
WITH AFFECTION AND WITH PRIDE
NOVEMBER 1918

See entry N° 755



21°
REGGIMENTO FANTERIA
2°
BATTAGLIONE

21st
INFANTRY REGIMENT
2nd
BATTALION

Si rimanda alla scheda n° 755.

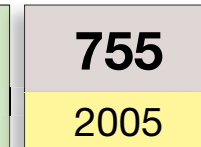
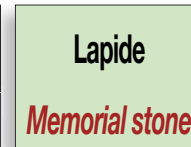
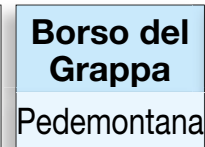
See entry N° 755.



**Borso del
Grappa**
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

753
2005



PER LA
LIBERTA'
DELLA PATRIA

Questo monumento funebre, sito nell'ex cimitero di guerra chiamato Amelotti, è stato fatto dal 21° e dal 22° Reggimento, che costituivano la Brigata Cremona. Questa opera nella zona di Monfalcone e Lago di Doberdò dove si distingue per la tenacia. Dopo una breve permanenza sull'Altopiano di Asiago nel 1916, ritorna sul Carso. In seguito a Caporetto, già il 25 novembre 1917 è operativa nella zona del Monte Tomba e poi sulla dorsale Monte Oro - Colli Vecchi - Monte Meda per eseguire lavori di fortificazione. All'inizio del 1918 è dislocata sul Monte Asolone che cerca di riconquistare, e dopo i combattimenti viene ritirata presso Mussolente, per un riordino visto le gravi perdite subite. A marzo è ancora schierata nella zona Monte Oro - Colli Vecchi - Monte Meda e poi nella prima linea di Monte Pertica - Cà Tasson - Valpore. Il 15 giugno 1918, giorno d'inizio dell'offensiva austroungarica, è dislocata tra la Val Cesilla e Monte Pertica dove oppone valida resistenza ma pagando un altissimo tributo di sangue. Dopo un nuovo periodo di riposo torna in linea sul Monte Pertica dove si prepara per l'offensiva finale, con l'obiettivo di sfondare le linee austriache della zona Pertica - Osteria del Forcelletto per conquistare il Monte Prassolan e poi scendere nella conca feltrina. Dopo difficili combattimenti riesce a raggiungere gli obiettivi assegnati ma con un alto numero di caduti, feriti e dispersi. In questi ultimi combattimenti il 21° Reggimento di Fanteria merita la medaglia d'argento al valor militare.

FOR THE
LIBERTY
OF THE COUNTRY

This funeral monument, situated in the former war cemetery known as Amelotti, was erected by the 21st and 22nd Regiments that made up the Cremona Brigade. This brigade was operational in the Monfalcone and Lago di Doberdò zone where it was outstanding for its tenacity. After a brief period on the Asiago Plateau in 1916, it returned to the Carso. After Caporetto, on 25th November 1917 it was already operational in the Monte Tomba zone and then on the Monte Oro-Colli Vecchi-Monte Meda ridge, carrying out fortification works. In early 1918 it was stationed on Monte Asolone which it tried to retake. After the fighting it withdrew to Mussolente for reordering, given the great losses suffered. In March it was still drawn up in the Monte Oro-Colli Vecchi-Monte Meda zone and then moved to the front line of Monte Pertica-Cà Tasson-Valpore. On 15th June 1918, the first day of the Austro-Hungarian offensive, it was stationed between Val Cesonla and Monte Pertica where it put up a good fight but suffered very heavy losses. After a further rest period it returned to the line on Monte Pertica to prepare the final offensive, with the aim of breaking through the Austrian lines in the Pertica-Osteria del Forcelletto zone to capture Monte Prassolan and then descend into the Feltre basin. After hard fighting it succeeded in achieving its assigned objectives but with a high number of dead, wounded and missing. For these last battles the 21st Infantry Regiment was awarded the silver medal for bravery.



..
 ..ATTAGLIONE DEL
 ..GG.TO FANTERIA
 ..UGNO

BATTAGLIONE
 DEL (?) REGGIMENTO
 FANTERIA
 GIUGNO (?)

BATTALION
 OF THE (?) INFANTRY
 REGIMENT
 JUNE (?)

Questa lapide era collocata all'ingresso della galleria dove è ancora presente il frammento visibile alla scheda n° 11, attualmente **QUESTA TESTIMONIANZA È SCOMPARSA**. Non è possibile identificare in modo certo il reggimento di fanteria ed il mese di collocazione della lapide.

*This memorial tablet was at the entrance to a tunnel where there is still a fragment visible (see entry N° 11). **THIS TESTIMONY HAS NOW DISAPPEARED.** Certain identification of the infantry regiment and the month the tablet was placed are no longer possible.*



Pederobba
 Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

758
 2002



Sul parapetto in cemento di una postazione è stata ritrovata questa iscrizione. Da ricerche effettuate sulla base del numero 28 è emerso che in zona operò la 28ª Compagnia Genio Zappatori che era, assieme alla 17ª e 69ª, inquadrata nel III Battaglione Zappatori del 1º Reggimento Genio. Nell'agosto del 1915 la 28ª Compagnia si distinse per un'azione presso il Ponte San Daniele a Tolmino. Questo ponte non fu fatto saltare dagli austriaci perché considerato strategico per future azioni offensive e lo sbarrò solo con grandi masse di reticolato e battuto da mitragliatrici. Fu compito della 28ª Compagnia rimuovere gli ostacoli in previsione di assaltare le posizioni di Santa Maria e Santa Lucia. Il 24 agosto la 28ª Compagnia protetti da scudi blindati, dopo alcuni giorni di lavoro e sotto il fuoco nemico, riuscirono a demolire quasi l'intero sbarramento,

ma fu investita da un attacco austriaco, che fu respinto dagli stessi zappatori guidati dal capitano Orlando Luciano che morì. Tra il 21 e 24 agosto Orlando fu decorato con due medaglie d'argento al valore. Nel 1918 il III Battaglione si distingue nella battaglia del 15 giugno dove l'offensiva austriaca aveva portato gli imperiali su buona parte del Montello. Qui la 28ª assieme alla 17ª e 69ª parteciparono attivamente alla riconquista della linea "della Corda". Ritroviamo la 28ª Compagnia operativa già a gennaio 1918 sul Grappa, dal 25 al 28 ottobre del 1918 in piena battaglia di Vittorio Veneto partecipa attivamente all'assalto delle posizioni austriache del Monte Valderoa ed alla loro difesa, una volta conquistata, dai contrattacchi austriaci. Sul Massiccio del Grappa il III Battaglione Zappatori era alla dipendenze della 50ª Divisione di Fanteria.



Alano di
Piave
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

760
2005

REGGIMENTO GENIO
2 8 18 2 = 8 = 18
C 28

REGGIMENTO GENIO
28 AGOSTO 1918
28ª COMPAGNIA

ENGINEERS REGIMENT
28 AUGUST 1918
28th COMPANY

This inscription was found on the concrete parapet of an emplacement. On the basis of research carried out it emerged that the 28th Company Sapper Engineers operated in the area, formed in cadres with the 17th and 69th in the 3rd Sapper Battalion of the 1st Engineers Regiment. In August 1915 the 28th Company distinguished itself for an action at the San Daniele bridge in Tolmino. This bridge had not been blown up by the Austrians because it was considered strategic for future offensive action: it was blocked with great masses of barbed wire entanglements and covered by machinegun fire. The task of the 28th Company was to remove the obstacles with view to assaulting the positions of Santa Maria and Santa Lucia. On 24th August the 28th Company, protected by bullet-proof shields, managed to demolish almost the entire barrage after several days' work under enemy fire. But then the

Austrians attacked, and though they were repulsed by the sappers under captain Orlando Luciano, the latter was killed. Between 21st and 24th August Orlando was decorated with two silver medals for bravery. In 1918 the 3rd Battalion distinguished itself in the battle of 15th June in which the Austrian offensive had taken the imperial troops to possession of a large part of Montello. Here the 28th, with the 17th and the 69th, took an active part in retaking the "della Corda" line. The 28th Company was already operational in January 1918 on Grappa. From the 25th to the 28th of October 1918, in the midst of the battle of Vittorio Veneto, it took active part in the assault on the Austrian positions on Monte Valderoa and, once taken, in their defence against Austrian counterattacks. On the Grappa Massif the 3rd Sapper Battalion was under the 50th Infantry Division.



2° REGGIMENTO
ARTIGLIERIA DA MONTAGNA

2nd MOUNTAIN
ARTILLERY REGGIMENT

All'entrata di un ricovero in roccia un artiglieriere ha lasciato traccia del suo passaggio, le dimensioni sono molto piccole ma è apprezzabile la raffinatezza di questo graffito che identifica una batteria dell'artiglieria da montagna.

At the entrance to a rock shelter a gunner left traces of his passing. Though very small, the refinement of this graffito identifying a mountain artillery battery is highly pleasing.



Paderno
del Grappa
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

763
2005



176
CM
I
SEZ

176^a
COMPAGNIA MITRAGLIERI
1^a
SEZIONE

176th
MACHINE-GUNNER COMPANY
1st
SECTION

Questa compagnia mitraglieri nel 1917 opera con la 52^a Divisione del XX Corpo d'Armata nei settori di Campomulo (Altopiano di Asiago) e Ortigara, sul finire del 1917 è nelle prime linee della Val Frenzela e vi rimane fino a febbraio del 1918. Successivamente passa alle dipendenze del XIII Corpo d'Armata ed è dislocata nella località di Pianezze (Monfenera) da luglio a settembre. A novembre 1918 è dislocata presso Granezza di Asiago.

This machine-gunner company was operational in 1917 with the 52nd Division of the 20th Army Corps in the sectors of Campomulo (Asiago Plateau) and Ortigara. Towards the end of 1917 it was in the front lines of Val Frenzela where it remained until February 1918. Subsequently it was placed under the 13th Army Corps and stationed in Pianezze (Monfenera) from July to September. In November 1918 it was stationed at Granezza di Asiago.



RESTI DI UNA FONTANA COSTRUITA DALLE TRUPPE AUSTROUNGARICHE

Anche se non ci sono testimonianze certe, gli abitanti della zona riferiscono che questo manufatto è stato realizzato dalle truppe austroungariche nel 1918. Analizzando il fregio riprodotto sul manufatto questo risulta essere molto simile (anche se incompleto) a quello delle truppe tecniche ferroviere (Eisenbahn Truppe) che avevano come simbolo una ruota alata. Nella foto risulta mancante l'ala che orna la ruota ferrata. Da ricerche fatte si è scoperto che durante l'occupazione della zona di Vanini - Cison del Grappa gli austroungarici nel 1918 ripristinarono la ferrovia Bassano - Trento distrutta dagli italiani in ritirata a seguito di Caporetto. Il ripristino fu fatto fino alla zona di Vanini per facilitare i rifornimenti dell'importante centro logistico a servizio delle prime linee sul Massiccio del Grappa.

REMAINS OF A FOUNTAIN BUILT BY AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN TROOPS

Although there is no certain proof, local inhabitants say that this was built by Austro-Hungarian troops in 1918. Analysing the insignia reproduced on the fountain, though incomplete it is very similar to that of the railway engineer troops (Eisenbahn Truppe) whose symbol was a winged wheel. In the photo the wing decorating the ironclad wheel is missing. Research revealed that during the occupation of the Vanini-Cison del Grappa zone, in 1918 the Austro-Hungarians repaired the Bassano-Trento railway destroyed by the retreating Italians after Caporetto. The repair was carried out as far as the Vanini zone to facilitate supplies to the important logistics centre serving the front lines on the Grappa Massif.



Distintivo del Genio ferrovieri
Insignia of the Railway Engineers



Cison del Grappa
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

770
2005



“Il giovane Eliau Vogel
è morto il 26 Agosto del 5678,
La sua anima sia legata tra coloro che vivono”
Zugf. ELI VOGEL
J. R. 9. Gest. 26/VIII.
1918. Ev. n° 64410

Il testo della lapide si divide in 2 parti, una in ebraico (che si legge da destra verso sinistra), l'altra in tedesco. Il sergente Vogel, di religione ebraica, apparteneva al 9° Reggimento di Fanteria galiziano “Conte Clerfaut”, fondato nel 1725, la festa del reggimento era il 4 giugno anniversario della battaglia di Magenta del 1859. Tale reggimento era composto per il 75% da ruteni, il 15% da polacchi e 15% da tedeschi. Nel 1778 l'Impero Asburgico fu il primo ad arruolare soldati ebrei. Durante la Prima Guerra Mondiale gli ebrei arruolati furono nell'esercito imperial-regio circa 300.000 pari al 3% dei 9 milioni di soldati mobilitati. I soldati israelitici non furono oggetto di atteggiamenti antisemiti. Il 9° Reggimento di Fanteria è inquadrato nella 5ª Divisione di Fanteria che costituisce la riserva dell'XI Armata che, nel 1918, opera tra la Val d'Astico ed il Canal del Brenta combattendo contro la VI Armata italiana. Interessante osservare la data ebraica 5678 che corrisponde al 1918. Quasi tutti gli ebrei ruteni parlavano la lingua mista tedesca dell' Yddisch.



Enego
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

771
2005

Sergente ELI VOGEL
9° Reggimento Fanteria Caduto 26 Agosto
1918 Matricola n° 64410

“Young Eliau Vogel
died on 26th August 5678,
May his soul be bound among the living”.
Zugf. ELI VOGEL
J. R. 9. Gest. 26/VIII.
1918. Ev. N° 64410
Sergeant ELI VOGEL
9th Infantry Regiment. Fell 26th August
1918 Regimental N° 64410

The text of the memorial tablet is divided in two parts, one in Hebrew and the other in German. The part in Hebrew is read from right to left. Sergeant Vogel was Jewish and belonged to the 9th Galician Infantry Regiment “Conte Clerfaut”, founded in 1725. The Regimental Day was 4th June, the anniversary of the battle of Magenta in 1859. This regiment was made up of 75% Ruthenians, 15% Poles and 15% Germans. In 1778 the Habsburg Empire was the first to recruit Jewish soldiers. During the First World War there were about 300,000 Jewish soldiers in the royal-imperial army, equal to 3% of the 9 million soldiers mobilised. The Jewish soldiers were not victims of anti-Semitism. The 9th Infantry Regiment was formed in cadres in the 5th Infantry Division which constituted the 11th Army reserve. In 1918 the latter was operational between Val d'Astico and the Brenta Canal, fighting the 6th Italian Army. It is interesting to note the Jewish calendar date, 5678, which corresponds to 1918. Almost all the Ruthenian Jews spoke Yiddish.



324 OSP tt DA CAMPO
REP to MEDICINA

324 OSPEDALETTO
DA CAMPO
REPARTO MEDICINA

324 FIELD HOSPITAL
MEDICINE UNIT

Questa iscrizione si è salvata in quanto il palazzo è stato recentemente restaurato. Molto apprezzabile la volontà del committente di conservare questa testimonianza della Prima Guerra Mondiale.

This inscription was saved when the building was recently restored. The owner's desire to preserve this testimony of the First World War is highly commendable.




Tezze sul
Brenta
Pedemontana

Iscrizione
Inscription

772
2005



		?	Valstagna Brenta	Graffito Graffito	775 2005
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663 C M

663^a Compagnia
Mitraglieri

663rd Company
Machine-Gunners

Nel 1917 la 663^a Compagnia Mitraglieri è alle dipendenze della 52^a Divisione del XX Corpo d'Armata, opera nelle zone dell'Osteria Barricata e di Malga Moline (Altopiano di Asiago). Alla rotta di Caporetto deve ritirarsi e sul finire del 1917 è segnalata in Canal del Brenta presso la località Costa Solana. Nel 1918 è per i primi tre mesi a presidio della zona Val Sasso, Mora Alta e Pralungo (Altopiano di Asiago) alle dipendenze del 10^o Gruppo Alpino e successivamente assegnata al Battaglione Alpini Monte Baldo.

In 1917 the 663rd Machine-Gunner Company was under the 52nd Division of the 20th Army Corps, operational in the zone of Osteria Barricata and Malga Moline (Asiago Plateau). At the rout of Caporetto it had to withdraw and at the end of 1917 it was reported as being on the Brenta Canal in Costa Solana. For the first three months of 1918 it was garrisoned in the Val Sasso, Mora Alta and Pralungo zone (Asiago Plateau) under the 10th Alpine Group and was subsequently assigned to the Monte Baldo Alpine Battalion.



Serbatoio idrico con evidenti
le aree delle due lapidi scomparse

Water tank with evident traces
of two removed memorial tablets

Nelle vicinanze è presente un secondo
serbatoio idrico dove anche qui è chiara
la presenza di altre due lapidi ora non più
presenti.

*There is a second water tank nearby which
also shows clearly the traces of two remo-
ved tablets.*

	?	Valstagna	Lapide	778
		Brenta	<i>Memorial stone</i>	2005



259 F
2 R Z



Valstagna
Brenta

Graffito
Graffito

781
2005

259° Fanteria
2° Reparto Zappatori

259th Infantry
2nd Sappers Unit

Il 259° Reggimento assieme al 260° forma la Brigata Murge. Si costituisce il 26 febbraio 1917 dai depositi del 43° e 89° Reggimento di Fanteria. Viene subito inviata nel settore di Selz - Doberdò sul Carso poi sul Debeli e nel settore di Monfalcone. A maggio 1917 nel settore di Monfalcone perde oltre 1800 uomini assieme al suo comandante. Dopo un periodo di riposo torna in linea ad agosto nel settore Flondar - Medeazza dove assieme ad altre brigate tentano di conquistare e difendere alcune posizioni che gli costeranno altri 1600 caduti. Il 27 settembre passa a riposo ed il 20 ottobre 1917 è trasferita a presidiare le linee nel settore della Vallarsa. Il 10 maggio la brigata è artefice della presa del Monte Corno Battisti partendo dalle posizioni della Selletta. Poi a giugno è ritirata per un periodo di riposo nell'alta pianura vicentina per poi passare al settore del Canale del Brenta agli inizi di luglio 1918 per dare il cambio al 1° Reggimento Bersaglieri sulle seconde linee di Lora Bassa, Pra Lungo ed Oliero. A fine luglio invece è schierata in linea a sostituzione della Brigata Treviso nel settore di Monte Cornone, Torrioni, Val Vecchia, San Francesco, Pizzo Razea e Val Frenzela. Sul Monte Cornone la "Murge" riesce a difendere in modo tenace la linea della "Caponiera" e quella dei "Due Pini" nell'agosto del 1918. Il 259° Fanteria in Canal del Brenta lascia sul campo 22 caduti, 100 feriti e 9 dispersi. Il 22 ottobre è nel settore di Col d'Ecchele - Col del Rosso - Monte Melago. Il 1 novembre attacca ed occupa dopo cruenti scontri l'abitato di Stoccareddo e Zaibena prendendo le Melette e raggiungendo la sottostante Val Brenta all'armistizio.

The 259th Regiment with the 260th constituted the Murge Brigade. It was established on 26th February 1917 by the deposit of the 43rd and 89th Infantry Regiment. It was sent immediately to the Selz-Doberdò sector on the Carso and then Monte Debeli and the Monfalcone sector. In May 1917 in the Monfalcone sector it lost more than 1,800 men together with its commander. After a rest period it returned to the line in August, in the Flondar-Medeazza sector where, with other brigades, it attempted to take and defend several positions, which cost a further 1,600 dead. On 27th September it went for a rest period and on 20th October 1917 was transferred to garrison the lines in the Vallarsa sector. On 10th May the brigade took Monte Corno Battisti, setting out from the Selletta positions. Then in June it withdrew for a rest period on the upper Vicenza plain before moving to the Brenta Canal sector in early July 1918 to relieve the 1st Bersaglieri Regiment on the second lines of Lora Bassa, Pra Lungo and Oliero. At the end of July it was drawn up in the line to replace the Treviso Brigade in the sector of Monte Cornone, Torrioni, Val Vecchia, San Francesco, Pizzo Razea and Val Frenzela. On Monte Cornone the "Murge" tenaciously defended the "Caponiera" and "Due Pini" lines in August 1918. At Brenta Canal the 259th Infantry left 22 dead, 100 wounded and 9 missing. On 22nd October it was in the Col d'Ecchele-Col del Rosso-Monte Melago sector. On 1st November in fierce fighting it attacked and occupied the built up area of Stoccareddo and Zaibena, taking the Melette and reaching the Brenta valley below at the armistice.

259° - 260° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA "MURGE"

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1917/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

259° REGGIMENTO:

CROCE DI CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA

260° REGGIMENTO:

CROCE DI CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA

Citazioni nei bollettini di guerra

del Comando Supremo

n° 823 del 25 agosto 1917.

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté come riportato in scheda.

La brigata fu disciolta a metà luglio 1919.



259th - 260th INFANTRY REGIMENT "MURGE"

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1917/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY

259th REGIMENT:

CROSS OF CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

260th REGIMENT:

CROSS OF CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

Mentioned in Supreme

Command dispatches

N° 823 of 25th August 1917.

During the 1st World War it fought as described in the entry.

The brigade was disbanded in mid July 1919.



Valstagna
Brenta

Graffito
Graffito

783
2005

254
4 COM

254° Reggimento Fanteria
4ª Compagnia

254th Infantry Regiment
4th Company

Il 254° Reggimento di Fanteria e il 253° formavano la Brigata Porto Maurizio. Tale brigata fu costituita nel febbraio del 1917. Allo sfondamento di Caporetto è dislocata presso Gorizia. Dopo aspri combattimenti il grosso della brigata riesce a mettersi in salvo. A dicembre 1917 è destinata alla difesa del Canal del Brenta, in particolare il 254° difende e fortifica i pendii rocciosi del Col d'Astiago, Pra Lungo e Costa Alta presso Carpanè, e gli sbarramenti del Merlo, Grottella e Valstagna fino alla fine di febbraio 1918. In questo periodo partecipa insieme agli alpini del Battaglione Vicenza e Morbegno alla rioccupazione di alcune posizioni sul Monte Sasso Rosso occupate dagli austro-ungarici. Successivamente trascorre un periodo di riposo nell'alto Vicentino per poi passare nelle prime linee tra il Montello ed il Piave.

The 254th Infantry Regiment and the 253rd formed the Porto Maurizio Brigade. This brigade was set up in February 1917. On the breakthrough at Caporetto it was stationed near Gorizia. After bitter fighting most of the brigade succeeded in escaping. In December 1917 it was sent to defend the Brenta Canal. In particular the 254th defended and fortified the rocky slopes of Col d'Astiago, Pra Lungo and Costa Alta near Carpanè, and the blockades of the Merlo, Grottella and Valstagna until the end of February 1918. In this period it took part, with the alpine troops of the Vicenza and Morbegno Battalion, in the reoccupation of several positions on Monte Sasso Rosso formerly occupied by the Austro-Hungarians. Subsequently it had a rest period in the upper Vicenza area before going to the front between Montello and the Piave.



636 B^a
29 - 7 - 18

636^a Batteria
29 luglio 1918

636th Battery
29 July 1918

Presso l'entrata di una galleria si ritrova questo graffito che testimonia la presenza della 636^a Batteria d'Assedio. Questa formava, assieme alla 641^a, il 29° Gruppo che era inserito nel 34° Raggruppamento (con il 22°, 59° e 147° Gruppo) ed era a disposizione del IX Corpo d'Armata. L'armamento di questa batteria era dato da mortai da 210 millimetri. Alla data del primo maggio 1918 era già operativa sul Massiccio del Grappa.

At the entrance to a tunnel this graffito bears witness to the presence of the 636th Siege Battery. This battery, with the 641st, formed the 29th Group which was part of the 34th Unit (together with the 22nd, 59th and 147th Groups) and was under the 9th Army Corps. The battery was armed with 210 mm mortars. On the first of May 1918 it was already operational on the Grappa Massif.



Romano
d'Ezzelino
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

785
2006



	?	Foza Brenta	Lapide <i>Memorial stone</i>	787 2006
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..PACITA'
..NDOLEI
..PAGNI D'ARMI
ITALIA

CAPACITA'
..NDOLEI
COMPAGNI D'ARMI
ITALIA

CAPACITY
..NDOLEI
BROTHERS IN ARMS
ITALY

Sopra un grosso serbatoio idrico oggi non più visibile, è presente questa lapide in parte mancante e collocata al completamento della costruzione, probabilmente nel 1918. Interessante notare, dalle poche parole ancora leggibili, la voglia di fissare nel tempo da parte dei soldati la loro presenza nel campo di battaglia. Nella parte finale si può interpretare “compagni d’armi” come sentimento d’amicizia e cameratismo ed “Italia” come patria del loro sacrificio. Della capacità di questa vasca idrica e di quali truppe la realizzarono non si hanno notizie certe, si può solo ipotizzare che siano stati reparti del genio militare.

Above a huge water tank that is no longer visible, this partially survived memorial tablet was placed on completion of construction, probably in 1918. It is interesting to note from the few letters still legible how the soldiers wanted to fix for posterity their presence on the battlefield. In the final part we may interpret “compagni d’armi” [comrades in arms] as a feeling of friendship and camaraderie, and “Italia” as the land of their sacrifice. We know neither the capacity of this water tank nor the precise identity of the troops who built it. We can only guess that they were units of military engineers.



CAPACITA'
5000
LITRI

CAPACITY
5000
LITRES

Presso un serbatoio idrico realizzato dalle truppe italiane è presente una piccola scritta che indica la capacità idrica disponibile per i soldati dislocati presso le prime linee sui dirupi della Val Frenzela. Vista la difficoltà di approvvigionamento idrico in quota questi serbatoi garantivano la possibilità di disporre di questa preziosa risorsa.

On a water tank built by Italian troops, an indication of the quantity available for the soldiers in the front lines on the crags of Val Frenzela.

Given the difficulty of water supply at high altitudes, these tanks guaranteed availability of the precious resource.



?

Foza

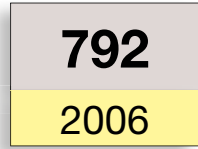
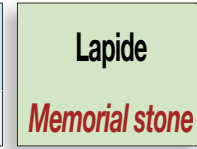
Brenta

Graffito

Graffito

789

2006



N^{RO} 38
e
118 COMP_ZAPPRI
AGOS EMBRE 1918

NUMERO 38
e
118^a COMPAGNIA
ZAPPATORI
AGOSTO SETTEMBRE
1918

NUMBER 38
and
118th
SAPPERS COMPANY
AUGUST SEPTEMBER
1918

Nella prima parte del conflitto (1915 - 1916) le compagnie genio erano numerate in progressione partendo da 101^a, 102^a e seguenti, che a loro volta erano identificate con 1^a, 2^a, e seguenti del 2° Reggimento Genio. La 118^a era dunque identificata con la 18^a Compagnia Zappatori. Si distingue nel 1916 per partecipare alla vaste operazioni di avanzata nella zone dell'alto Garda per controllare meglio il territorio in vista dell'imminente offensiva austriaca del maggio 1916.

La 18^a Compagnia partecipa alla conquista della Cima d'Oro assieme al XLIV Battaglione Bersaglieri, poi assieme al Battaglione alpino Val Chiese ed uno della guardia di finanza alla conquista della Rocchetta e Monte Sperone. All'attacco di Monte Sperone la 18^a Compagnia subì la perdita di 3 caduti, 3 dispersi e 11 feriti. Nel 1918 opera in Canal del Brenta con opere di incavernamento e fortificazione delle linee italiane tra il San Francesco e Sasso Rosso.

In the first part of the conflict (1915-1916) the engineer companies were numbered progressively from 101st, 102nd and so on; these in turn were identified with 1st, 2nd and so on of the 2nd Engineers Regiment. So the 118th was identified with the 18th Sapper Company. It distinguished itself in 1916 for its part in the vast advance operations in the upper Garda area to achieve better control of the territory in view of the imminent Austrian offensive of May 1916. The 18th Company took part in the capture of Cima d'Oro with the 44th Bersaglieri Battalion. Then, with the Val Chiese Alpine Battalion and one from the Customs Service, it took Rocchetta and Monte Sperone.

At the attack on Monte Sperone the 18th Company suffered 3 dead, 3 missing and 11 wounded. In 1918 it was operational at the Brenta Canal with works of excavation and fortification on the Italian lines between San Francesco and Sasso Rosso.



1918
CAPACITA'
6300
LITRI

120ª COMPAGNIA 2º GENIO

1918
CAPACITY
6300
LITRES

120th COMPANY 2nd ENGINEERS

Singolare serbatoio idrico costruito e decorato dalla 120ª Compagnia Zappatori del 2º Reggimento Genio, per l'approvvigionamento d'acqua potabile alle difficili postazioni italiane del Monte Cornone. Spicca la decorazione con la testa sotto due baionette incrociate ed una granata di cannone uscente dalla bocca. Sembra la rappresentazione di qualche oscura figura mitologica. Nei pressi esiste un secondo serbatoio idrico dalla minore capacità idrica (vedere scheda n° 797).

Singular water tank built and decorated by the 120th Sapper Company of the 2nd Engineers Regiment for supplying drinking water to the difficult Italian emplacements on Monte Cornone. Outstanding is the decoration with the head beneath two crossed bayonets and a cannon shell coming out of the mouth. It appears to be the representation of some obscure mythological figure. There is a second, smaller water tank nearby (see entry N° 797).



Foza
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

795
2006



Foza
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

797
2006

..PACITA' 4400 LITRI
120ª
COMPAGNIA

CAPACITA' 4400 LITRI
120ª
COMPAGNIA

CAPACITY 4400 LITRES
120th
COMPANY

Nei pressi esiste analogo serbatoio idrico decorato con allegoria da girone infernale dantesco (vedere scheda n° 795), qui la 120ª Compagnia Zappatori decora la vasca con un elmetto italiano incorniciato a sinistra con foglie d'alloro (allegoria della vittoria o eroismo), mentre a destra con foglie di quercia e ghiande (allegoria della virtù della forza). Al centro dell'elmetto manca il numero del reggimento genio, che in questo caso è il 2° come riportato sulla vicina vasca idrica.

There's a similar water tank in the area decorated with an allegory from Dante's circles of hell (see entry N° 795). Here the 120th Sapper Company decorated the tank with an Italian helmet on the left with laurels (allegory of victory or heroism) and on the right with oak leaves and acorns (allegory of the virtue of fortitude). At the centre of the helmet the number of the Engineers Regiment is missing, which in this case is the 2nd, as shown on the water tank nearby.



M I

Sul portale presso una galleria austriaca sulla Pyramidenkuppe (per gli italiani quota 1601 nel settore dei Solaroli) sono presenti due piccole lettere di cui s'ignora il preciso significato. La galleria in questione dev'essere stata molto importante all'epoca, lo testimonia il possente portale in cemento (raro per le gallerie austriache fino ad oggi studiate in questo lavoro di censimento) e la lunghezza della galleria.

On the portal of an Austrian tunnel on the Pyramidenkuppe (for the Italians altitude 1601 in the Solaroli sector) there are two small letters whose precise meaning is unknown. The tunnel in question must have been very important at the time, as borne out by its length and the impressive portal in concrete (rare in the Austrian tunnels studied to date for this census).



?

Seren del
Grappa

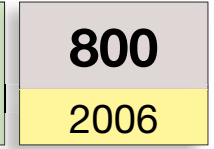
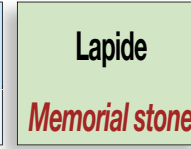
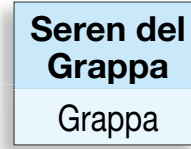
Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

799

2006



Impronta di lapide scomparsa
su postazione austroungarica
a Monte Fontanasecca

Imprint of memorial tablet removed
From Austro-Hungarian emplacement
at Monte Fontanasecca

Il Monte Fontanasecca fu perso dagli italiani sul finire del 1917 dopo aspri combattimenti, divenne un punto di fondamentale importanza per le truppe austriache che da qui potevano controllare tutto il settore di prima linea che andava dal Monte Valderoa alla Pyramidenkuppe (per gli austriaci, quota 1601 per gli italiani). Tutto il crinale del Fontanasecca fu rinforzato con postazioni di osservazione e di difesa. Sotto la linea di cresta erano dislocate numerose baracche e caverne per accogliere le truppe di presidio. Era presente un sentiero militare austriaco, che permetteva il transito delle truppe, al riparo dai tiri dell'artiglieria italiana che qui si accani per tutto il 1918.

The Italians lost Monte Fontanasecca at the end of 1917, after bitter fighting. It became a point of fundamental importance for the Austrian troops from which they could control the whole sector of the front line that ran from Monte Valderoa to the Pyramidenkuppe (as the Austrians called it; while the Italians called it altitude 1601). The entire ridgeline of the Fontanasecca was reinforced with observation and defence posts. Below the line of the ridge there were numerous huts and caves to accommodate the garrison troops. There was also an Austrian military path that allowed troop transit sheltered from the Italian artillery that was furiously active here throughout 1918.



1917

Questa testimonianza è tra le più piccole ad essere stata catalogata in termini di dimensioni. La data è stata scritta su di uno strato di cemento applicato alla roccia, durante lo scavo di postazione in galleria con feritoia. Questa aveva lo scopo di sbarrare il fondo del Canal di Brenta.

This testimony is one of the smallest catalogued. The date was written on a tiny layer of concrete spread on the rock during excavation of this tunnel emplacement with loophole. Its purpose was to block the end of the Brenta Canal.

	?	Valstagna	Graffito	802
		Brenta	Graffito	2006



?

Seren del
Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

804

2006

GI

All'ingresso di una galleria munita di feritoie con il compito di controllare la Valle dei Pez si ritrovano due iniziali del nome e cognome di un combattente. Notare sopra le iniziali il buco circolare nella zona d'ombra, sulla roccia, lasciato dalla perforatrice durante la costruzione della postazione. Da carte militari d'epoca trovate negli archivi militari di Roma, questa postazione aveva anche il compito di osservatorio nella sottostante valle, più volte attaccata dalle truppe austroungariche tra la fine del 1917 e il 1918. La postazione aveva il nome in codice di "Occhio dei Pez".

At the entrance to a tunnel with loopholes for controlling the Valle dei Pez, the two initials of a combatant. Above the initials, note the circular hole in the rock, in the shadow zone, left by the drill during construction of the emplacement. Contemporary papers from the military archives in Rome inform us that this emplacement also served as an observatory for the valley below which was repeatedly attacked by Austro-Hungarian troops between the end of 1917 and 1918. The emplacement was codenamed "Eye of the Pez".



STEMMA SABAUDO
CASERMA MILANO

SAVOY COAT OF ARMS
MILAN BARRACKS

A servizio della fortezza sotterranea chiamata "Galleria Vittorio Emanuele III" fu realizzata, dai reparti del Genio militare, la Caserma Milano questa era direttamente collegata alla galleria. Numerose foto d'epoca ritraggono la caserma (e la relativa iscrizione posta sulla facciata) sempre piena di soldati che si radunavano sull'ampio piazzale antistante che costituiva una sorta di luogo di ritrovo e smistamento per le truppe qui presenti. Adesso è sede del museo storico della Grande Guerra a Cima Grappa.

The Milan Barracks was created to serve the underground stronghold called the "Vittorio Emanuele III Tunnel" and was directly connected with it. Numerous contemporary photos show the barracks (and the inscription on the façade), always full of soldiers who gathered in the spacious yard in front which was a kind of meeting place and clearing ground for the troops billeted here. It now houses the history museum of the Great War in Cima Grappa.



Crespano
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

807
2006



69 F 2 c

69° Reggimento Fanteria
2ª Compagnia

69th Infantry Regiment
2nd Company

Il 69° costituisce assieme al 70° Reggimento di Fanteria la Brigata Ancona. Nel 1915 combatte per un breve periodo in Val Parola a difesa dei tratti di confine, poi ad agosto tenta di penetrare verso Sesto in Val Pusteria senza riuscirci. Il 7 novembre è sull'Isonzo nel settore di Oslavia - Peuma. Partecipa alla 4ª battaglia dell'Isonzo e subisce perdite spaventose tanto da ritirarla per il riordino. Nel maggio 1916 è sul fronte trentino del Monte

With the 70th Infantry Regiment the 69th made up the Ancona Brigade. In 1915 it fought for a brief period in Val Parola, defending stretches of the frontier, and in August attempted without success to penetrate towards Sesto in Val Pusteria. On 7th November it was on the Isonzo in the Oslavia-Peuma sector. It took part in the 4th battle of the Isonzo and suffered such terrifying losses it withdrew for reorganisation. In May 1916 it was on the Trentino front of Monte Ma-



San
Nazario
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

806
2006

Maronia, riesce a contrastare l'offensiva nemica, ma accusa altissime perdite. Ritorna in linea prima nel settore Monte Giove - Novegno per poi passare in Vallarsa, dove opera con altri reparti, per la conquista di Monte Trappola e Col Santo. Nel 1917 presidia sempre la Vallarsa quando riceve ordini di trasferirsi (maggio 1917) sul Carso, settore di Flondar. Dopo la rotta di Caporetto la brigata è dissolta. I superstiti si ritirano e si radunano a Padova (2 novembre). Riordinatasi, passa il 7 dicembre 1917, sull'Altopiano di Asiago a Monte Corno. A gennaio 1918 è sulle prime linee di Monte Valbella, poi viene trasferita il 3 giugno a Mestre per azioni di pattugliamento sul Sile, Vallio e Meolo. Alla battaglia del Solstizio combatte tenacemente nel settore di Zenson di Piave. Finita la battaglia, si ritira per il riordino presso Preganziol. Il 22 settembre 1918 è sulle prime linee di Giarà Modon e la Grottella. Alla battaglia di "Vittorio Veneto", dopo duri scontri con le retroguardie austroungariche riesce ad occupare il Monte Spitz e liberare l'abitato di Cismon del Grappa continuando l'inseguimento degli imperiali lungo la Valsugana in direzione di Trento. Il 69° Fanteria lascia sul campo di battaglia del Canal del Brenta 14 caduti e 56 feriti tra ufficiali e fanti.

ronia where it held off the enemy offensive but at the cost of very high losses. It returned to the line in the Monte Giove-Novegno sector and then moved to Vallarsa, where it was operational with other units, to capture Monte Trappola and Col Santo. In 1917 it was garrisoned in Vallarsa when it was ordered to transfer (May 1917) to the Carso sector of Flondar. After the rout at Caporetto the brigade was disbanded. The survivors withdrew and were drawn up in Padua (2nd November). Reorganised, on 7th December 1917 it was sent to the Asiago Plateau (Monte Corno). In January 1918 it was in the front lines at Monte Valbella before being transferred on 3rd June to Mestre for patrol actions on the Sone, Vallio and Meolo. At the battle of the Solstice it fought tenaciously in the Zenson di Piave sector. After the battle it withdrew to Preganziol for reorganisation. On 22nd September 1918 it was in the front lines at Giarà Modon and Grottella. At the battle of Vittorio Veneto, after violent clashes with the Austro-Hungarian rearguards, it succeeded in occupying Monte Spitz and liberating the built-up area of Cismon del Grappa, continuing pursuit of the imperial troops along Valsugana in the direction of Trento. The 69th Infantry suffered 14 dead and 56 wounded between officers and men at the battle of Brenta Canal.

69° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA "ANCONA"

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO

1900/04 GUERRA CINA

1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

ALLA BANDIERA: CROCE DI CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA

1 MED. ARGENTO

UFF. E TRUPPA: 3 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA - 1 MED. ORO

195 MED. ARGENTO - 303 MED. BRONZO - 19 CROCI DI GUERRA

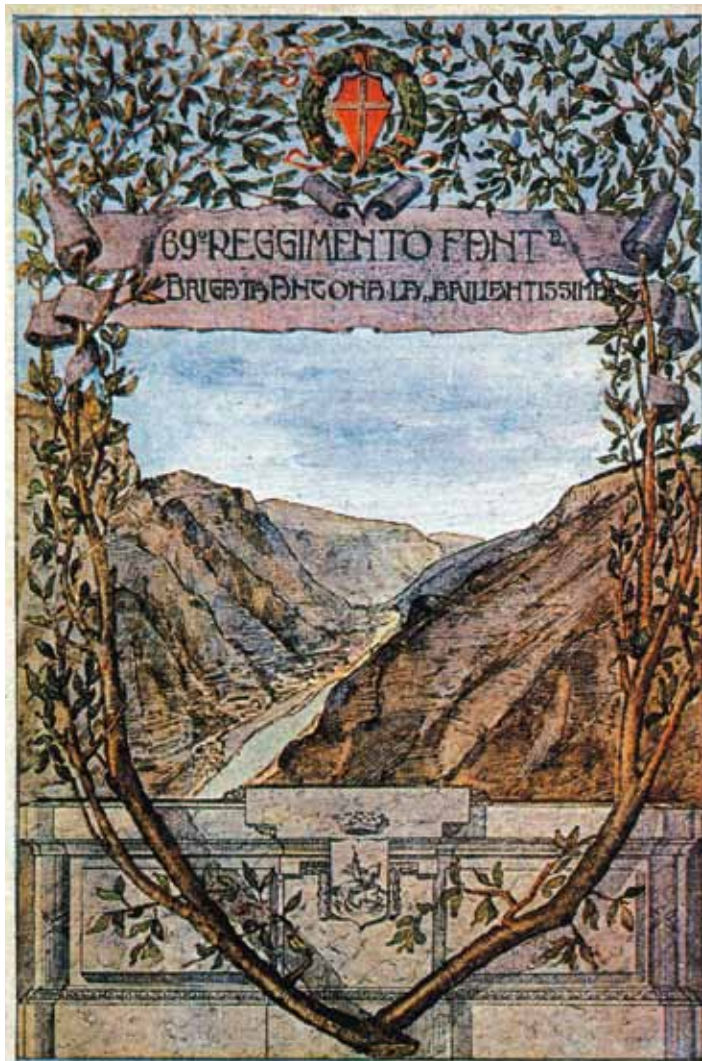
PERDITE

UFFICIALI: MORTI 49 - FERITI 117 - DISPERSI 105

TRUPPA: MORTI 898 - FERITI 4242 - DISPERSI 3989

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté come riportato in scheda.

Festa del reggimento 27 ottobre.



69th INFANTRY REGIMENT "ANCONA"

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO

1900/04 CHINA WAR

1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY

TO THE FLAG:

CROSS CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

1 SILVER MED.

OFF. AND MEN: 3 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY - 1 GOLD MED.

195 SILVER MED. - 303 BRONZE MED. - 19 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION

OFFICERS: 49 DEAD – 117 WOUNDED – 105 MISSING

MEN: 898 DEAD – 4,242 WOUNDED – 3,989 MISSING

During the 1st World War it fought as described in the entry.

Regimental Day: 27th October.



?

**San
Nazario**
Brenta

Graffito
Graffito

809
2006

..uigi A...gli...o..
asse 98
Roma

Nome Cognome
Classe 1898
Roma

Name Surname
Class of 1898
Rome

All'ingresso di una postazione in galleria presso una delle diverse linee di sbarramento che dal fondovalle del Canal di Brenta salivano verso il caposaldo italiano di Col Moschin è stata censita questa firma di un combattente. Il cemento all'ingresso della galleria è in parte rovinato e non permette di identificare in modo chiaro il nome e cognome del soldato ma solo l'anno di nascita e la località di provenienza.

At the entrance to an emplacement in a tunnel near one of the various barrage lines that led from the bottom of the Brenta Canal valley to the Italian stronghold of Col Moschin, this combatant's signature was recorded. The concrete at the tunnel entrance is partially ruined so the soldier's name and surname are not clearly identifiable, only the year of his birth and his hometown.



XIV V XVIII

S L

14 maggio 18

S L

14 May 18

S L

Presso una mulattiera militare a servizio di una linea di sbarramento del Canal del Brenta (Costa Alta) si trova una testimonianza militare datata 14 maggio 1918. Con molta probabilità le lettere S ed L sono le iniziali del soldato che l'ha incisa sulla roccia.

On a military mule track serving a Brenta Canal barrage line (Costa Alta), this military testimony dated 14th May 1918. It is very likely that the letters S and L are the initials of the soldier who carved them on the rock.



?

San
Nazario

Brenta

Graffito

Graffito

813

2006



GRUPPO LAVORATORI GAVOTTI
GALLERIA
VITTORIO EMANUELE III
COLLOCATA
DURANTE LA VISITA DI SUA MAESTÀ IL RE V. E. III
13 APRILE 1918

GAVOTTI WORKERS' GROUP
VITTORIO EMANUELE III
TUNNEL
PLACED
DURING THE VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING V. E. III
13 APRIL 1918



Paderno
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

814
2006

Anche questa lapide è stata collocata all'ingresso della fortezza sotterranea "Galleria Vittorio Emanuele III", (riguardo le note storiche del Gruppo Lavoratori Gavotti si veda scheda n° 192). Questo baluardo nasce a gennaio ed è completamente operativo nel giugno del 1918 e rappresentò il caposaldo per eccellenza nel Massiccio del Grappa. Da qui quasi tutto il campo di battaglia poteva essere visto e colpito. La galleria con tutte le diverse diramazioni raggiunse lo sviluppo di 5153 m, solo l'asse principale era lungo 1500 m. Ospitò 23 batterie per un totale di 92 bocche da fuoco di calibro 65, 70, 75 e 105, disponeva di 70 postazioni per mitragliatrici, 6 fotoelettriche, numerosi osservatori, depositi viveri, munizioni, difese antigas ed illuminazione. Era capace di resistere in completa autonomia per 15 giorni. Si rivelò molto importante in quanto le truppe potevano trasferirsi o allontanarsi dalle linee di combattimento restando al coperto dai tiri dell'artiglieria austriaca.

This memorial tablet too was placed at the entrance to the underground stronghold "Vittorio Emanuele III Tunnel" (see entry N° 192 for historical notes on the Gavotti Workers' Group). This bastion was begun in January and was completely operational in June 1918, the stronghold par excellence on the Grappa Massif. From here almost the whole battlefield could be viewed and struck. The tunnel with its various branches had an overall length of 5,153 metres while the main artery was 1,500 metres. It accommodated 23 batteries for a total of ninety-two 65, 70, 75 and 105 mm calibre guns, 70 machinegun emplacements, 6 searchlights, numerous observatories, provisions warehouses, munitions dumps, anti-gas defence and lighting. It could hold out in total autonomy for 15 days. It turned out to be highly important since the troops could come and go from/to the fighting lines under cover from Austrian artillery fire.



1° REGGIMENTO GENIO
17ª COMPAGNIA

1st ENGINEERS REGIMENT
17th COMPANY

Questa lapide è totalmente frantumata per il crollo del portale della galleria. Con paziente lavoro si sono ritrovati alcuni frammenti che lasciano intuire quanto grande fosse all'origine questa epigrafe. Fortunatamente si è trovato il frammento che rimanda alla compagnia zappatori che lasciò questa traccia la 17ª Compagnia del 1° Reggimento Genio Zappatori. Frammentarie sono le informazioni raccolte, nel gennaio del 1918 era inquadrata nel III Battaglione Zappatori con le compagnie 28ª

This memorial tablet was completely shattered due to collapse of the tunnel portal. Several fragments were painstakingly collected which give an idea of the size of the epigraph. Fortunately the fragment was found that refers to the Sapper Company that left these traces: the 17th Company of the 1st Sapper Engineers Regiment. The information gathered is fragmentary: in January 1918 it was formed in cadres in the 3rd Sapper Battalion with the 28th and 69th companies under the

e 69ª a servizio della 50ª Divisione del XXVII Corpo d'Armata. Poi a maggio 1918 è alle dipendenze sempre della 50ª Divisione ma nel XXX Corpo d'Armata che opera nel settore Solaroli - Monte Pallone. Poi la 17ª Compagnia assieme a tutto il XXX è spostato a giugno del 1918 sul Montello per contrastare l'offensiva austriaca dello stesso mese. Durante i lavori di difesa nella zona di Caonada fu urgentemente chiamata il 19 giugno presso la Presa 7 del Montello, alle 19.30 di sera fu ordinata l'avanzata lungo la Presa 7 ma dopo un'avanzata di 400 m fu bersagliata da scariche di mitragliatrice austriaca che provocò la morte di quattro ufficiali, 12 soldati e 60 feriti. Dopo il ripiegamento conseguente alle forti perdite, il comandante capitano De Matteis Gennaro, il giorno 20 giugno alle ore 05.00 guida la sua compagnia, in affiancamento ad altri reparti all'assalto, e alle 10.00 di mattina la Linea della Corda è occupata. De Matteis fu decorato con la medaglia di bronzo al valore militare. Successivamente la 50ª Divisione, e quindi anche la 17ª Compagnia, torna nuovamente sul Grappa nella zona di Porte di Salton - Monte Valderoa. Tra il 25 e 29 ottobre 1918, la 17ª combatté attivamente sul Monte Valderoa cooperando con assalti e con lavori di rafforzamento delle posizioni appena conquistate.

50th Division of the 28th Army Corps. Then in May 1918, still under the 50th Division but in the 30th Army Corps, it was operational in the Solaroli-Monte Pallone sector. Subsequently the 17th Company, with all of the 30th, was moved in June 1918 to the Montello to resist the Austrian offensive of the same month. During defensive works in the Caonada zone it was urgently called, on 19th June, to Presa 7 of the Montello. At 1930 hours it was ordered to advance along Presa 7, but after 400 metres ran into Austrian machinegun fire which killed four officers and 12 men, with 60 wounded. After withdrawal due to the heavy losses, on 20th June at 5:00 am hours captain Gennaro De Matteis led his company, flanked by other units, on the assault, and at 10:00 am hours the Linea della Corda was occupied. De Matteis was decorated with the bronze medal for bravery. Subsequently the 50th Division, and therefore also the 17th Company, returned once more to Grappa in the Porte di Salton-Monte Valderoa zone. Between 25th and 29th October 1918 the 17th fought actively on Monte Valderoa, cooperating with assaults and reinforcement works on the positions recently taken.



Possagno
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

815
2006



Alano di
Piave

Grappa

Lapide

Memorial stone

817

2002

Caposaldo 1308
1118 Compagnia Bers
Mitraglieri Fiat

Caposaldo 1308
1118 Compagnia
Bersaglieri
Mitraglieri Fiat

Stronghold 1308
1118 Company
Bersaglieri
Fiat Machine-Gunners

Si veda la scheda codice n° 399 per i cen-
ni storici. A livello artistico questa lapide
colpisce per la sua pregevole fattura e per
i suoi decori.

*See entry code N° 399 for historical notes.
From an artistic viewpoint this memorial ta-
blet is striking for its fine workmanship and
decoration.*



ERBAUT von der
TECH KOMP.
d. B. ... J. R. 3

COSTRUITO dalla
COMPAGNIA TECNICA
del 3° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA
BOSNO ERZEGOVINO

BUILT by the
TECHNICAL COMPANY
of the 3rd INFANTRY REGIMENT
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Probabilmente la lettera mancante, in quanto il cemento è stato eroso, tra la B e la J puntata può essere la lettera H, quindi le abbreviazioni di bosnich-hercegovinisches. La lettera J. è l'abbreviazione di Infanterie ed è in sostituzione della lettera I in quanto questa lettera poteva essere confusa con il numero arabo 1 o con il numero romano I.

The letter missing due to the eroded concrete between the B. and the J. is probably H, the abbreviation of bosnich-hercegovinisches. The letter J. is the abbreviation of Infanterie and substitutes the latter I which could be confused with the Arabic numeral 1 or the Roman numeral I. The Bosnia-Herzegovina regiments were pre-

I reggimenti bosno-erzegovini erano prevalentemente di fede musulmana. Da ricerche effettuate è probabile che questa scritta militare sia stata fatta in seguito alla realizzazione di un ricovero da parte della compagnia tecnica del 3° Reggimento di Fanteria della Bosnia Erzegovina che operò nel settore di Valdobbiadene nel 1918. Alcune unità del 3° Reggimento erano inquadrati nella 31^a Divisione. Il settore che andava da San Vito di Valdobbiadene a Vidor era di competenza della 31^a Divisione inquadrata nel II Corpo d'Armata della VI Armata austroungarica. Nelle giornate del 27 e 28 ottobre 1918 durante le prime fasi della battaglia di Vittorio Veneto il 3° Reggimento bosno-erzegovino fu impegnato in violenti combattimenti per contrastare la testa di ponte italo-francese (data dal 107° Reggimento di Fanteria francese, i Battaglioni Alpini Bassano e Verona e parte della Brigata di Fanteria Campania) sulla sponda sinistra del Piave vicino a Valdobbiadene. Successivamente si difesero presso il Monte Pianar e Perlo. I loro sforzi servirono a rallentare temporaneamente l'ormai vittoriosa avanzata italiana.

valently Muslims. From research carried out it is likely that this military inscription was done after the building of a shelter by the technical company of the 3rd Infantry Regiment of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was operating in the Valdobbiadene sector in 1918. Some units of the 3rd Regiment were formed in cadres in the 31st Division. The sector that ran from San Vito di Valdobbiadene to Vidor was under the 31st Division formed in cadres in the 2nd Army Corps of the 6th Austro-Hungarian Army. On 27th and 28th October 1918, during the first phases of the battle of Vittorio Veneto, the 3rd Bosnia-Herzegovina Regiment was involved in violent fighting for the Italian-French bridgehead (against the 107th French Infantry Regiment, the Bassano and Verona Alpine Battalions and part of the Campania Infantry Brigade) on the left bank of the Piave near Valdobbiadene. Subsequently they defended themselves on Monte Pianar and Perlo. Their efforts served to temporarily slow down the by now victorious Italian advance.



Valdobbiadene
Piave

Iscrizione
Inscription

819
2008



?

Paderno
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

821

2007

BRUNO
CAPRIOL

L'approvvigionamento idrico fu un fattore essenziale per poter condurre la guerra in posti impervi e senza fonti d'acqua naturali. Dalle retrovie fin quasi alle prime linee furono realizzati numerosi serbatoi idrici collegati il più delle volte da tubature per il loro riempimento. In Val delle Mure si costruirono numerosi punti di approvvigionamento idrico per le truppe. Nella foto, un serbatoio interrato dove sui bordi, quando ancora il cemento era fresco, un soldato lasciò il suo nome.

Water supply was a fundamental factor in waging war on rough terrain with no natural sources. From the supply lines almost to the front lines, numerous water tanks were built, usually linked by pipes for refilling.

Many supply points for the troops were built in Val delle Mure. The photo shows an underground tank where, while the concrete was still wet, a soldier left his name.



81ª BATTª A GGPº

81ª BATTERIA
ASSEDIO GGPº (?)

81st SIEGE BATTERY
GGPº (?)

Il 149° Gruppo comprendeva la 81ª e la 66ª Batteria d'Assedio. Questo gruppo era inquadrato, assieme al 3°, 19° e 148° Gruppo, nel 47° Raggruppamento alla dipendenze del VI Corpo d'Armata. Alla data del primo maggio 1918, l' 81ª batteria, armata con cannoni da 149A, era già dislocata sul massiccio del Grappa. In settembre era ancora dislocata ed operativa nel settore Monte Legnarola - Col Formiga. Incerto il significato delle parole che seguono dopo la lettera "A" maiuscola. Queste potrebbero essere l'abbreviazione della parola "gruppo".

The 149th Group comprised the 81st and 66th Siege Battery. This Group was formed in cadres, with the 3rd, 19th and 148th Group, in the 47th Unit under the 4th Army Corps. On 1st May 1918 it was already deployed on the Grappa Massif. The 81st was armed with 149 A cannons. In September it was still positioned and operational in the Monte Legnarola-Col Formiga sector. The meaning of the words following the capital "A" is uncertain. They could be the abbreviation of the word "Group".



**Borso del
Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

823
2007



?

Possagno

Pedemontana

Graffito

Graffito

825

2007

1919

Possagno

Presso una vecchia abitazione signorile a Possagno (TV) è conservata questa testimonianza di prigionieri austroungarici che rimasero sulla pedemontana anche dopo la fine della guerra. Svolsero diverse mansioni tra cui quello di bonificare i terreni da ordigni bellici, coltivazione di campi, ricostruzione dei paesi distrutti e recupero delle salme dei caduti ancora da seppellire. Sebbene questi prigionieri non fossero ancora rientrati nei loro paesi d'origine su questo muro lasciarono i loro segni per gioia della fine del conflitto. Il proprietario dell'edificio conferma che le scritte sono state lasciate da combattenti austroungarici di cui conserva documenti fotografici d'epoca che ritraggono i prigionieri proprio in questo luogo, che era destinato a camerate per la truppa. Accanto a questa scritta ne esiste una seconda che può essere vista alla scheda n° 826 della stessa mano.

In an old aristocratic house in Possagno (TV), this testimony of Austro-Hungarian prisoners who remained in the foothills even after the end of the war. They did various kinds of work such as clearing the land of military hardware and bombs, tending the fields, rebuilding destroyed villages and recovering the unburied dead. Although these prisoners had not yet returned home, they left on this wall their signs of joy at the end of the conflict.

The owner of the building confirms that the words were left by Austro-Hungarian combatants of whom he possesses photographs taken during their stay in this house which was requisitioned as a dormitory for troops. Next to this inscription there is another (see entry N° 826) in the same handwriting.



I ZA RQ 18-4-19 W Pace

I ZA RQ 18-4-19 W Peace

Qui il 18 aprile 1919 prigionieri austro-ungarici lasciarono traccia della loro presenza su questo edificio che fu destinato a camerata per l'alloggio dei soldati. La gioia per la fine del conflitto si legge nelle parole "W Pace". Le lettere potrebbero corrispondere di due soldati austro-ungarici. Questa scritta è posizionata accanto a quella che si può vedere alla scheda n° 825.

Here on 18th April 1919 Austro-Hungarian prisoners left a trace of their presence on this building which was requisitioned as a dormitory for troops.

The joy at the end of the conflict can be read in the words "W Pace" [Long Live Peace]. The letters might refer to two Austro-Hungarian soldiers. This inscription is next to the one at entry N° 825.



?

Possagno

Pedemontana

Graffito

Graffito

826

2007



?

Paderno
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

828

2007

9ª COMPAGNIA

9th COMPANY

Presso una trincea di seconda linea in Valle delle Mure si ritrova un portale in cemento di un ricovero per truppa. Sullo stipite dell'ingresso è presente la testimonianza di una ignota 9ª compagnia di cui però non è possibile risalire ad altre notizie storiche.

In a second line trench in Valle delle Mure, this concrete portal of a troop shelter. On the entrance jamb the testimony of an unknown 9th company of which we have no historical information.



W II

Lungo la mulattiera militare italiana del Monte Meate, sul Massiccio del Grappa, si trova questa galleria dove sul portale d'entrata è presente questo graffito difficilmente interpretabile.

Si può ipotizzare, vista la lettera W, che il suo significato fosse quello di inneggiare la compagnia o il reggimento a cui il milite apparteneva. Le lettere sono state lasciate quando il cemento era ancora fresco.

Along the Italian military mule track of Monte Meate, on the Grappa Massif, the portal of this tunnel bears a graffito that is hard to interpret.

Given the letter "W" (symbol of 'Long Live') we may guess that the intention was to praise the company or regiment the soldier belonged to. The letters were written when the concrete was still wet.



?

Paderno
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

830

2007



Crespano
del Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

833
2008

5° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA
BATTERIA D'ASSEDIO
N REINESI
918

5th ARTILLERY REGIMENT
SIEGE BATTERY
N REINESI
918

Il portale di questa galleria porta la testimonianza di una batteria d'assedio; a destra del fregio si notano i due buchi che servivano per fissare una lapide che oggi non è più presente. Interessante la presenza, accanto al fregio dell'artiglieria, della piccola firma di un artigliere N. Reinesi e l'anno 1918.

The portal of this tunnel bears the testimony of an Siege Battery: on the right of the insignia we see the two holes that served to fix a memorial tablet which is no longer here. An interesting element is the small signature, next to the artillery insignia, of gunner N. Reinesi with the date 1918.



COMANDO
464
BATT ASS

COMANDO
464
BATTERIA ASSEDIO

COMMAND
464
SIEGE BATTERY

Galleria Comando della 464^a Batteria d'Assedio dislocata in Valle San Liberale. All'epoca tale zona era sede di grandi teleferiche, acquedotti e numerose batterie di grosso calibro che sparavano sul settore della Valle delle Mure - Solaroli sul Massiccio del Grappa.

Tunnel Command of the 464th Siege Battery deployed in Valle San Liberale. At the time this area featured great cableways, reservoirs and numerous large calibre batteries that fired on the Valle delle Mure-Solaroli sector on the Grappa Massif.



Crespano
del Grappa
Grappa

Iscrizione
Inscription

837
2008



?

Pove del
Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

838

2004

1918 25 - 8 =

1918 25 - agosto

1918 25 - august

La Valle San Lorenzo fu molto importante per il transito di truppe italiane. Grazie a questa valle i reparti partendo dalla Valle Santa Felicità salivano verso le prime linee del settore Lepre - Monte Asolone. Lungo la valle è ubicato un serbatoio idrico dove è riportata la data del 25 agosto 1918 con una piccola decorazione floreale.

The Valle San Lorenzo was highly important for transit of Italian troops. Thanks to this valley the units setting out from Valle Santa Felicità went up to the front lines of the Lepre-Monte Asolone sector. There's a water tank along the valley bearing the date 25th August 1918 and a small floral decoration.



SOLDATO
CAPRIOGLIO LINO
FIGLI E NEPOTI
DEPONETE IL LAURO
SULLA TOMBA DEL PRODE
NATO IL 25-4-98
MORTO IL 23-6-1918
GLI UFFICIALI E SOLDATI
DELLA COMPAGNIA

TROOPER
LINO CAPRIOGLIO
SONS AND GRANDSONS
PLACE THE LAUREL WREATH
ON THE TOMB OF THE BRAVE
BORN 25-4-98
DIED 23-6-1918
THE OFFICERS AND MEN
OF THE COMPANY

Resti di un ex cimitero militare in Val Scausse sull'Altopiano di Asiago. Accanto a questo monumento esistono altre due testimonianze d'epoca. Vedi scheda n° 840 e n° 862.

Remains of a former military cemetery in Val Scausse on the Asiago Plateau. Next to this monument there are another two testimonies from the period. See entries N° 840 and N° 862.



Valstagna

Brenta

Lapide

Memorial stone

839

2008



Valstagna
Brenta

Lapide
<i>Memorial stone</i>

840
2008

2° REGGIMENTO
GENIO ZAPPATORI

2nd REGIMENT
SAPPER ENGINEERS

Resti di un ex cimitero militare in Val Scausse sull'Altopiano di Asiago. Accanto a questo monumento esistono altre due testimonianze d'epoca. Vedi scheda n° 839 e n° 862.

Remains of a former military cemetery in Val Scausse on the Asiago Plateau. Next to this monument there are another two testimonies from the period. See entries N° 839 and N° 862.



PAX
I SEZIO
62 BAT
3° MOT (?)

PAX
1ª SEZIONE
62ª BATTERIA
3° ARTIGLIERIA DA MONTAGNA (?)

PAX
1st SECTION
62nd BATTERY
3rd MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY (?)

Sui burroni della Val Frenzela è presente questa testimonianza legata alla guerra. Sul ciglio dell'Altopiano di Asiago che precipita verso il Canal di Brenta è presente un caposaldo italiano dove operò la batteria da montagna (sopra citata) che sparava verso il settore del Col del Rosso.

This testimony linked to the war was discovered in the ravines of Val Frenzela. On the edge of the Asiago Plateau that drops towards the Brenta Canal there's an Italian stronghold where the abovementioned mountain battery was operational, firing on the Col del Rosso sector.





Asiago
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

842
2008

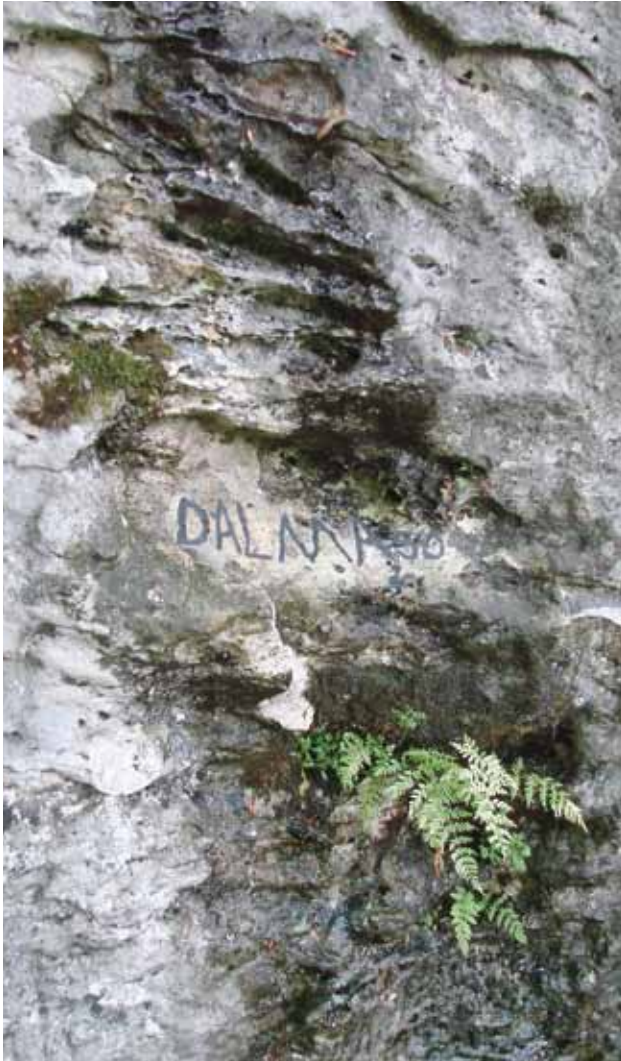


		?	Valstagna Brenta	Lapide <i>Memorial stone</i>	844 2008
--	--	---	---------------------	---------------------------------	-------------

..SE...MOR...
OMEGA

Presso l'entrata di una galleria è presente questa testimonianza, il suo stato è molto deteriorato, non risulta quindi facile dare esatta interpretazione sul significato di questa lapide. La galleria termina su una postazione con ampia feritoia in cemento (il tetto è in parte crollato) che fa presupporre la funzione di un osservatorio puntato verso le prime linee del Col del Rosso - Col d'Echele. Da cartografia d'epoca proprio nella zona di ritrovamento è segnalato nel maggio del 1918 un importante osservatorio della 28^a Divisione inquadrata nel XIII Corpo d'Armata.

At the entrance to a tunnel, this memorial tablet has greatly deteriorated so it isn't easy to give an exact interpretation of its meaning. The tunnel ends at an emplacement with a large loophole in concrete (the roof has partly fallen in) which suggests an observatory overlooking the front lines of Col del Rosso-Col d'Echele. Contemporary papers regarding precisely this zone and dated May 1918 refer to an important observatory belonging to the 28th Division, formed in cadres in the 13th Army Corps.



DAL MASO

In Valle delle Mure lungo un vallone a ridosso delle prime linee italiane dei Solaroli sono presenti alcune piazzole per baraccamenti dove si ritrova il cognome di un militare lasciato su di una roccia.

In Valle delle Mure, along a deep valley in the lee of the Italian Solaroli front lines, there are several clearings for encampments in one of which a soldier's surname is carved on a rock.



?

**Paderno
del Grappa**

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

846

2008



?

Paderno
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

848

2008

C G

Durante la realizzazione delle difese nella zona dei Solaroli, presso l'entrata di una galleria rinforzata con cemento è presente questo disegno con sopra le iniziali del nome e cognome di chi lo realizzò. Il disegno è stato fatto su cemento fresco ed in alcuni punti si notano ancora le impronte delle dita del soldato.

At the entrance to a tunnel reinforced with concrete, built during defensive works in the Solaroli zone, this drawing is signed with the artist's initials. The drawing was done on wet concrete and in some points we can still see the soldier's fingerprints.



F

1918 0

All'entrata di un ricovero sul settore dei Solaroli un combattente ha inciso la data dell'anno 1918. *At the entrance to a shelter on the Solaroli sector a combatant wrote the year 1918.*



?

**Paderno
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

851
2008



?

Possagno

Grappa

Lapide

Memorial stone

852

2007

Lapide scomparsa su ingresso galleria
della cannoniera di Monte Palon

Memorial tablet removed from tunnel entrance
to the Monte Palon embrasure

Monte Palon durante la guerra fu un importantissimo caposaldo italiano, la sua posizione permetteva di osservare direttamente sia le prime linee del settore Porte di Salton - Monte Spinoncia, ma ancor più la conca di Alano, Quero e Segusino. Furono incavernati alcuni pezzi d'artiglieria che si rivelarono una vera e propria spina nel fianco per lo schieramento austriaco. La zona fu più volte bombardata dagli austriaci dalla fine del 1917 all'ottobre 1918 per ridurre in silenzio la cannoniera, ma senza riuscirci.

During the war Monte Palon was a highly important Italian stronghold. Its position allowed direct observance of the Porte di Salton-Monte Spinoncia sector front lines, but even more so the basin of Alano, Quero and Segusino. Several artillery pieces were in place which proved to be a real thorn in the flesh for the Austrian ranks. They bombarded the zone repeatedly from late 1917 to October 1918 to silence the embrasure but without success.



W
..9·19·1

Uno dei luoghi preferiti dai soldati per lasciare traccia del proprio passaggio furono i portali dei ricoveri e delle gallerie, spesso questi erano rinforzati con pietre e cemento per poter applicare porte, o per le difese antigas date ad esempio da coperte imbevute di liquidi neutralizzanti che venivano srotolate per impedire l'entrata dei gas velenosi nella galleria. L'utilizzo del cemento per rinforzare l'entrata delle gallerie rappresentò quindi l'occasione più facile per lasciare un segno del proprio vissuto sul campo di battaglia.

A favourite place for soldiers to leave traces of their passing were the portals of shelters and galleries. These were often reinforced with stone and concrete so that gates could be fixed or anti-gas curtains (soaked in neutralising liquids and unrolled over the entrance to keep poisonous gases out of the tunnel). The use of concrete to reinforce tunnel entrances was therefore the easiest opportunity to leave a sign of one's experience on the battlefield.



?

Alano di
Piave

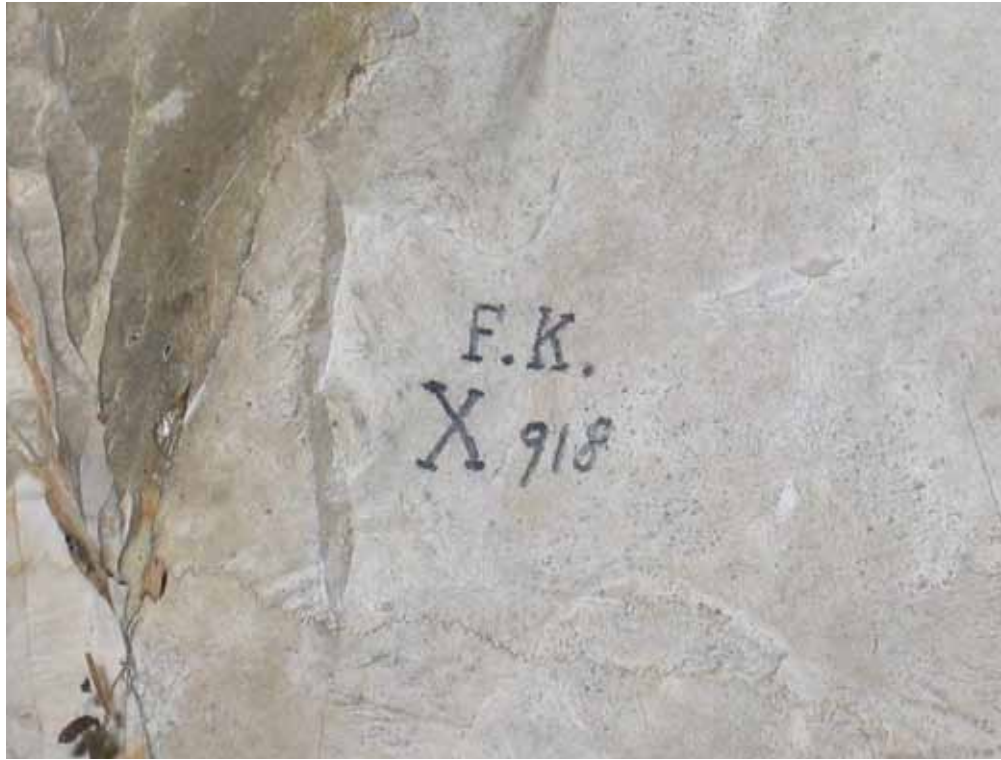
Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

854

2008



F. K.
X 918

F. K.
OTTOBRE 1918

F. K.
OCTOBER 1918



?

Seren del
Grappa
Conca Feltrina

Graffito
Graffito

857
2003

Poco distante dalla scritta riprodotta alla scheda n° 578, è presente un'altra testimonianza che può essere ricondotta alla presenza delle truppe d'occupazione austriache nella conca feltrina. Questa è stata scritta nell'ottobre del 1918, ancora pochi giorni e la guerra sarebbe finita ma prima doveva iniziare la sanguinosa battaglia finale di Vittorio Veneto. Nelle vicinanze del casolare sono state identificate delle zone dove erano presenti accampamenti. Con molta probabilità lo stesso edificio fu usato dalle truppe militari qui in riposo dopo i turni di prima linea sul Grappa.

Near the inscription reproduced at N° 578 there is another testimony traceable to the presence of Austrian occupation troops in the Feltrine basin. This was written in October 1918, just a few days before the end of the war, but also before the final bloody battle of Vittorio Veneto. Encampment zones have been identified in the vicinity of the farmhouse. The same building was very likely used by troops resting after a stint on the Grappa front line.



3^a Sezione
della 2192 Comp Mitr
2^a Arma

3^a Sezione
della 2192
Compagnia Mitraglieri
2^a Arma

3rd Section
of the 2192
Machine-Gunners Company
2nd Army

Si rimanda alla scheda n° 535 per i relativi
cenni storici.

See entry N° 535 for historical notes.



?

Valstagna

Brenta

Graffito

Graffito

858

2004



207 FANTERIA
1ª COMPAGNIA

18 - 7 - COSTRUI' - 10 - 8

207 FANTERIA
1ª COMPAGNIA

18 - 7 - COSTRUI' - 10 - 8

207 INFANTRY
1st COMPANY

18 - 7 - BUILT - 10 - 8

Il 207° Reggimento di Fanteria assieme al 208° andavano a formare la Brigata Taro. Per tutto il 1916 fino a luglio 1917 opera nei vari settori del passo Buole, Zugna dove contrasta l'offensiva austriaca del maggio 1916. Da luglio fino a novembre

The 207th Infantry Regiment with the 208th formed the Taro Brigade. Throughout 1916 and until July 1917 it was operational in the various sectors of the Buole-Zugna Pass where it resisted the Austrian offensive of May 1916. From July to November 1917 it



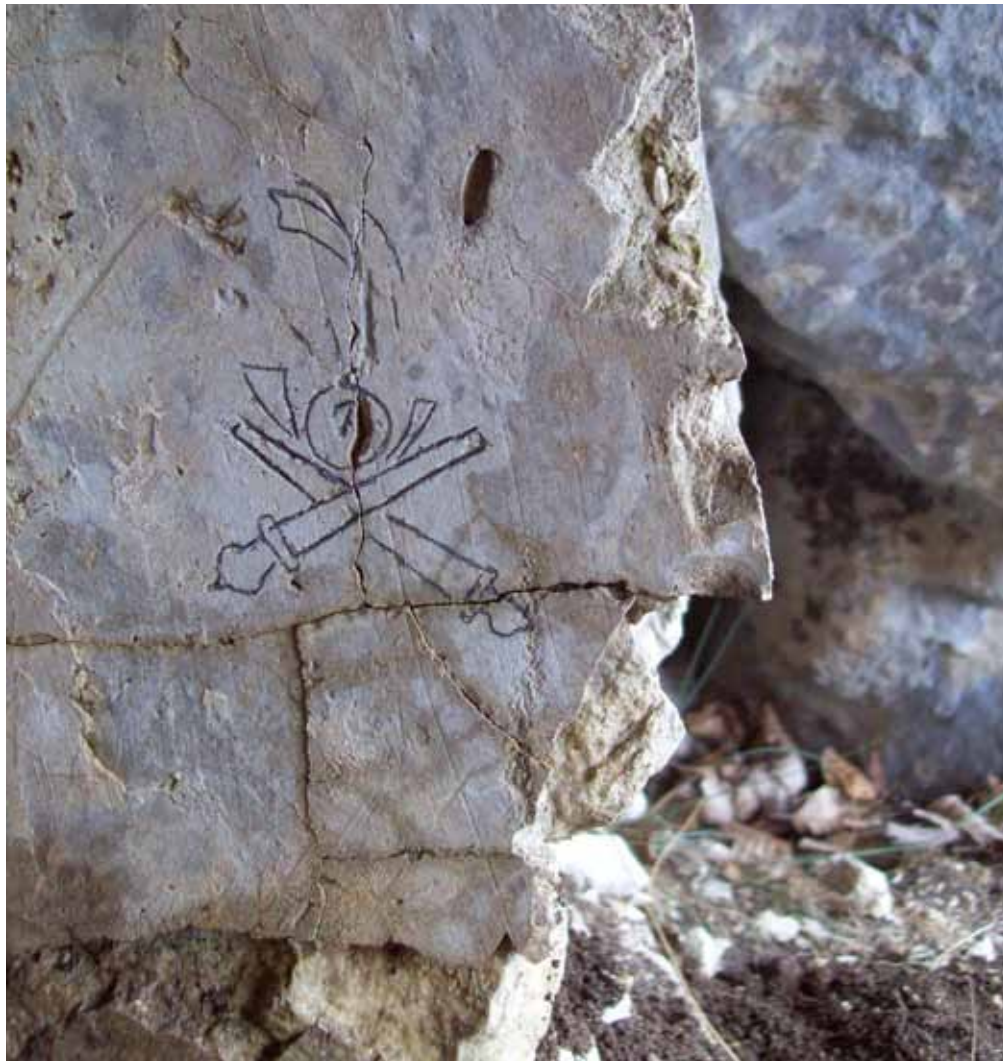
Seren del
Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

859
2009

1917 è trasferita sul fronte carnico, passa il fiume Isonzo ed è impegnata nel settore di monte Kak – Altopiano di Kal – Val Kamenca. Dette prova di capacità operative e logistiche nonché difensive tali da impegnare a fondo i reparti austriaci. In conseguenza di Caporetto si ritira ed oppone tenace resistenza nel settore Judrio – Natisone. Lo sbandamento ed il logoramento è tale da dichiararne lo scioglimento. Già il 15 dicembre 1917 si ricostituisce il 207° Reggimento. Da gennaio a maggio 1918 è sul settore Zugna a difesa della prima linea. A giugno è dislocata a sud di Bassano del Grappa per poi salire nel settore Osteria Campo Croce – Cason di Poise - Conca d'Ardua. Dal 20 luglio fino al 10 agosto è in linea nel settore di Cà Tasson con lavori di costruzione e sistemazione delle difese. Nel mese di settembre e buona parte di ottobre è a riposo ad Isola Vicentina. Il 23 dello stesso mese è dislocata a Santa Caterina di Lusiana (Altopiano di Asiago) dove rimane fino all'armistizio. Collezione privata.

was transferred to the Carnic front, crossed the river Isonzo and was operational in the Monte Kak-Altopiano di Kal-Val Kamenca sector. It demonstrated great operational, logistical and defensive abilities in keeping the Austrian troops under pressure. After Caporetto it withdrew and put up strong resistance in the Judrio-Natisone sector. Dispersal and fatigue were such as to declare the regiment disbanded. As early as 15th December 1917 the 207th Regiment was re-established. From January to May 1918 it was in the Zugna sector defending the front line. In June it was south of Bassano del Grappa and subsequently went up into the Osteria Campo Croce-Cason di Poise-Conca d'Ardua sector. From 20th July until 10th August it was in the line in the Cà Tasson sector doing building and defensive works. For September and much of October it was resting at Isola Vicentina. On the 23rd of the same month it was stationed at Santa Caterina di Lusiana (Asiago Plateau) where it remained until the armistice. Private collection.



7° RAGGRUPPAMENTO BOMBARDIERI

7th UNIT BOMBARDIERS

All'entrata di una galleria-osservatorio sul settore dell'Archeson, un combattente ha lasciato traccia del suo reparto di artiglieria. Questa unità operava con i suoi tiri contro le linee austroungariche nella zona di Monte Valderoa - Val Calcino - Monte Spinoncia.

At the entrance to a shelter on the Archeson sector a combatant left a trace of his unit. This unit can be strike the Austro-Hungarian lines on the Monte Valderoa - Val Calcino - Monte Spinoncia.



Alano di
Piave

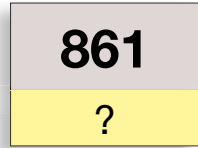
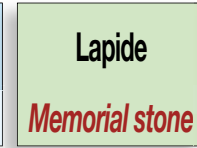
Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

860

2004



Questa lapide è **DA ALCUNI ANNI SCOMPARSA**, era presente nella zona di San Giovanni - Prà Fiolo, fortunatamente è stata scattata una foto prima della trafugazione. La qualità artistica della lapide è elevata per la presenza di particolari quali la corona reale ed i due fucili incrociati.

Dalla foto non è possibile risalire al reggimento di fanteria che ha realizzato questa lapide. Anche le parole poste ai lati del fregio della fanteria non sono facilmente decifrabili. Alla base dei fucili tra i due calci si distingue abbastanza bene l'anno 918.

*This memorial tablet **HAS BEEN MISSING FOR SOME YEARS**. It was in the San Giovanni-Prà Fiolo zone and fortunately a photo was taken before it was stolen. The artistic quality of the memorial tablet is high due to details such as the royal crown and the two crossed rifles.*

From the photo it is impossible to trace the infantry regiment that created this memorial tablet. Moreover, the words at the sides of the infantry insignia are not easily decipherable. At the base of the rifles, between the two butts, the year 918 is fairly distinct.



MARTIRE DEL DOVERE
VIVRAI NEI SECOLI
SOL. SUARDI ANGELO
NATO A BOMASCO IL 10-7-95
MORTO A BUSO TONDO IL 15-6-18
GLI UFFICIALI E SOLDATI
DELLA COMPAGNIA

MARTYR TO DUTY
YOU WILL LIVE THROUGH THE AGES
TROOPER ANGELO SUARDI
BORN BOMASCO 10-7-95
DIED BUSO TONDO 15-6-18
THE OFFICERS AND MEN
OF THE COMPANY

Resti di un ex cimitero militare in Val Scausse sull'Altopiano di Asiago. Accanto a questo monumento esistono altre due testimonianze d'epoca. Vedi scheda n° 839 e n° 840.

Remains of a former military cemetery in Val Scausse on the Asiago Plateau. Next to this monument there are another two testimonies from the period. See entries N° 839 and N° 840.



Valstagna
Brenta

Lapide
Memorial stone

862
2008



Borso del
Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

865
2003

SOLDATO
..CARDO MORELI GIUSEPPE

TROOPER
..CARDO MORELI GIUSEPPE

Per i cenni storici si rimanda alla scheda n° 209, resto di croce funebre sulla vecchia tomba di due militari della Brigata di Fanteria Pesaro oggi traslati sul Sacrario di Cima Grappa.

For historical notes see entry N° 209. Remains of a funeral cross on the former grave of two soldiers of the Pesaro Infantry Brigade. The bodies were moved to the Memorial Chapel of Cima Grappa.



Cippo funebre presso ex cimitero
del 239° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA

Funeral monument at the former cemetery
Of the 239th INFANTRY REGIMENT

Per i cenni storici si rimanda alla scheda n° 209.

For historical notes see entry N° 209



**Borso del
Grappa**
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

866
2003



Cornuda
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

867
2008

7° REGGIMENTO ARTIGLIERIA

7th ARTILLERY REGIMENT

Durante la Grande Guerra, questo reggimento d'artiglieria fu impiegato sul Carso, nella zona di Tolmino, sul Monte Sabotino, Gorizia, sul Vodice poi sulla pedemontana del Grappa e sul Montello nella battaglia finale di Vittorio Veneto. La piazzola identificata è in discreto stato di conservazione, presenta ancora sul margine esterno destro i gradi per facilitare il puntamento del pezzo in base alle coordinate date dagli osservatori d'artiglieria. I pezzi qui dislocati sparavano verso la zona di Vidor occupata dagli austriaci.

During the Great War this artillery regiment was deployed on the Carso, in the zone of Tolmino, on Monte Sabotino, in Gorizia, on the Vodice and subsequently in the Grappa foothills and on Montello in the final battle of Vittorio Veneto. The emplacement identified is fairly well preserved. On the right external margin there are still the steps used to facilitate aiming the piece in accordance with the coordinates given by the artillery observatories. The pieces here were trained on the zone of Vidor occupied by the Austrians.



SOR. GROSSENT

UFFICIO IDRICO

..ARM..

..18..

GROSSENT SOURCE

WATER OFFICE

..ARM..

..18..

Dopo la ritirata di Caporetto e l'assestamento sulla nuova linea di resistenza Grappa - Piave, le colline di Cornuda divennero molto importanti in quanto furono sede di diverse batterie, depositi, osservatori, accampamenti e trinceramenti di difesa. Per supportare a livello logistico le truppe ivi dislocate si cercò di razionalizzare al meglio anche la risorsa idrica. Numerose sorgenti locali furono intubate per portare l'acqua in diversi punti della zona compreso il centro di Cornuda. La sorgente Grossent ne è un esempio, questa è stata inglobata in una struttura di cemento a forma di botte. All'esterno rimane un'iscrizione che rimanda all'epoca del suo realizzo, la qualità non è elevata e di conseguenza non è chiaro quale sia l'Armata (incertezza tra la IV e l'VIII) e l'epoca di realizzo del manufatto.

After the Caporetto retreat and the reorganisation on the new Grappa-Piave resistance line, the Cornuda hills became highly important inasmuch as many batteries, depots, observatories, encampments and entrenchments were located there. For logistic support of troops in the area, attempts were made to rationalise water resources as best as possible. Numerous local sources were piped to bring water to various points in the zone, including the centre of Cornuda. The Grossent source is one such example. It was incorporated into a barrel-shaped concrete structure. On the outside there is an inscription dating to its construction. The quality is not high so it is not clear which Army is referred to (uncertainty between the 4th and the 8th) or exactly when it was built.



Cornuda
Pedemontana

Iscrizione
Inscription

869
2008



Cornuda
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

870
2008

OSSERVATORIO
MAROCCO

OBSERVATORY
MAROCCO

Le numerose batterie schierate sui Colli Asolani erano guidate da diversi osservatori d'artiglieria che impartivano coordinate di tiro per colpire le linee austriache tra Vidor e Valdobbiadene. Presso uno di questi osservatori sono state catalogate due lapidi (la seconda è presente alla scheda n° 871). In questa si riporta il nome dell'osservatorio. L'osservatorio Marocco assieme al Bengasi, Derna, Tripoli e Tunisi costituivano la rete degli osservatori tattici che coprivano tutto il settore del Comando dell'Artiglieria del XXVII Corpo d'Armata. Tali osservatori si dislocavano dai Colli asolani fino a Montello.

The numerous batteries drawn up in the Colli Asolani were guided by several artillery observatories which supplied firing coordinates for the Austrian lines between Vidor and Valdobbiadene. Two memorial tablets have been catalogued at these observatories (the second is entry N° 871). This one gives the name of the observatory. With the Bengasi, Derna, Tripoli and Tunisi, the Marocco made up the network of tactical observatories covering the whole sector of the 27th Army Corps Artillery Command. These observatories were located from the Colli Asolani as far as Montello.



DA QUI - FISI GLI OCCHI AI CONFINI
DELLA SVENTURA - RINNOVAMMO
LA PROMESSA ALLA PATRIA DI RISCAT-
TARLE CON L'AMORE E COL SANGUE -
I CONFINI DI DIO MCMXVIII

FROM HERE - I FIXED MY EYES ON THE
FRONTIERS
OF MISFORTUNE - WE RENEWED
THE PROMISE TO THE HOMELAND TO
DELIVER HER WITH LOVE AND BLOOD -
THE FRONTIERS OF GOD MCMXVIII

Questa lapide rappresenta l'unica poesia scritta catalogata in questo lavoro di censimento. L'osservatorio era puntato verso l'abitato di Vidor. Si veda anche scheda n° 870.

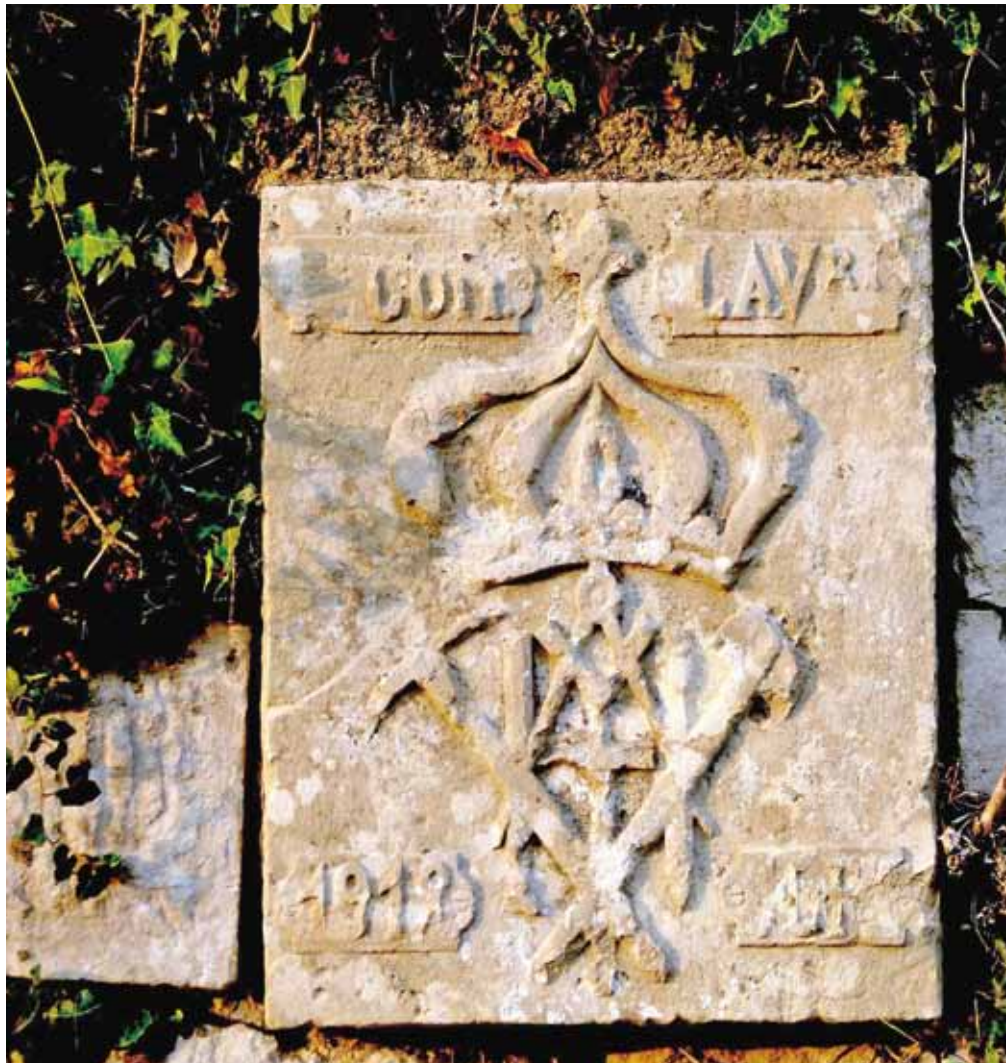
This memorial tablet is the only poem catalogued in the census. The observatory overlooked the built-up area of Vidor. See also entry N° 870.



Cornuda
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

871
2008



Monfumo
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

872
2008

? COM. LAV^{RI} ? COMPAGNIA LAVORATORI ? WORKERS' COMPANY
1918 10 F 1918 10 Febbraio (?) 1918 10 February (?)

Questa lapide si caratterizza per la qualità degli strumenti da lavoro rappresentati, si nota un'ascia, un martello, un compasso, una mazza, e due diverse punte di scalpello. Interessante notare che questa strada militare è stata realizzata da una compagnia lavoratori che si differenzia dalle compagnie zappatori del genio militare.

Queste erano costituite da operai civili "militarizzati" ed avevano il compito di realizzare opere di difesa e logistiche (strade, depositi ecc.) in zone arretrate, mentre le linee difensive a contatto con il nemico e quelle intermedie erano affidate alle truppe ed ai reparti del genio militare. Non si conosce il numero della compagnia che ha realizzato la targa.

This memorial tablet is characterised by the quality of the tools depicted: an axe, a hammer, compasses, a mallet and two different kinds of chisel.

It is interesting to note that this military road was built by a workers' company, differentiated from the sapper companies of the military engineers.

The former comprised "militarised" civilian workers and had the task of carrying out works of defence and logistics (roads, depots etc.) in zones far from the fighting, while defensive lines in contact with the enemy and intermediate lines were entrusted to the troops and the units of the military engineers.



1917

..EN OBERSOL

1917

Presso un osservatorio d'artiglieria austro-ungarico rimane sul tetto in calcestruzzo una piccola firma datata 1917 di un artigiere che prestò servizio come osservatore. L'osservatorio fu costruito sul finire del 1917 e restò operativo fino alla fine della guerra, fu un importante centro di comando dell'artiglieria austriaca dato che, essendo posto sulla cima di un colle, poteva osservare chiaramente lo schieramento italiano posto di fronte sulla riva destra del Piave e la zona del Monte Sulder.

La zona di Valdobbiadene e le località vicine occupate dagli austriaci furono duramente colpite dall'artiglieria italiana in quanto costituivano la cerniera di collegamento tra la linea che correva lungo la sponda del Piave e le prime linee che salivano sul Massiccio del Grappa.

On the reinforced concrete roof of an Austro-Hungarian artillery observatory there is the small signature of a gunner, dated 1917, who was in service as an observer. The observatory was built at the end of 1917 and remained operational until the end of the war. It was an important centre of Austrian artillery command since, being built on the top of a hill, it could clearly observe the Italian ranks opposite, on the right bank of the Piave, and the Monte Sulder zone.

The Valdobbiadene area and the nearby localities occupied by the Austrians were heavily hit by Italian artillery inasmuch as they constituted the connecting link between the line that ran along the banks of the Piave and the front lines that rose on the Grappa Massif.



?

Vadobbiadene

Piave

Graffito

Graffito

873

2008



Crespano
del Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

875
2008

4° PEZZO 1918
SEMPRE ED OVUNQUE
GALLERIA UMBERTO I°

4th PIECE 1918
ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE
UMBERTO 1st TUNNEL

Questa lapide è collocata presso l'imbocco di una piccola galleria sul Massiccio del Grappa ed è dedicata al secondo re d'Italia Umberto I che fu assassinato con tre colpi di pistola il 29 luglio 1900 a Monza dopo una festa ginnica. La lapide riporta la frase "Sempre ed Ovunque" che era il motto del 1911 del 1° Reggimento Artiglieria da Montagna. Non presentando altre informazioni non è possibile risalire con certezza alla batteria che lasciò questa bella testimonianza.

This memorial tablet is at the entrance to a small tunnel on the Grappa Massif and is dedicated to the second king of Italy, Umberto I, who was assassinated with three pistol shots on 29th July 1900 in Monza, after a gymnastics display. The memorial tablet bears the phrase "Always and Everywhere" which was the 1911 motto of the 1st Mountain Artillery Regiment. Since there is no further information it is impossible to trace the battery that left this fine testimony.



24 - 5 - 18

24 - maggio - 1918

24 - May - 1918

Piccola data graffiata sul portale in cemento di un ricovero italiano, lasciata il giorno dell'anniversario dell'entrata in guerra dell'Italia il 24 maggio 1915.

Small date scratched on the concrete portal of an Italian shelter, left on the anniversary of Italy's entry into the war on 24th May 1915.



?

Crespano
del Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

877

2008



Valstagna
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

879
2008

- A 10° G-

- ALPINI 10° GRUPPO -

- 10th ALPINE GROUP -

Il monumento è stato fatto dalle truppe alpine ivi dislocate, fu dedicato agli alpini caduti del Battaglione Val Adige. Sotto questo monumento sulla roccia è ben leggibile l'iscrizione di chi ha costruito il monumento: il 10° Gruppo Alpini. Sotto questa scritta è presente la data del 26 luglio 1918 a testimonianza della sua realizzazione (non visibile in questa foto). Il monumento si trova lungo la Val Scausse sull'Altopiano di Asiago.

The monument was built by the alpine troops stationed here and dedicated to their fallen comrades of the Val Adige Battalion. Beneath this monument in the rock there is a clear inscription regarding those who built it: the 10th Alpine Group. Beneath these words is the date, 26th July 1918, of its creation (not visible in this photo). The monument is in Val Scausse on the Asiago Plateau.



Ingresso di galleria austroungarica
con in rilievo la base per la collocazione
di una lapide oggi scomparsa

Entrance to an Austro-Hungarian tunnel
with, in relief, the base for a
memorial tablet that has since disappeared



?

Seren del
Grappa
Grappa

Lapide
Memorial stone

880
2008



**Cavaso
del Tomba**
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

881
2008

ICI
LE 13 - 12 - 1917
EST GLORIEUSEMENT TOMBE'
LE Colonel BEL
Cdt le 5° Groupe de Battalions
Chasseurs Alpins
de la 47e Division d'Infanterie
----- 0 -----
Camerades de la 46e Division -
Mars 1918

QUI
IL 13 - 12 - 1917
E' GLORIOSAMENTE CADUTO
IL Colonnello BEL
Comandante del 5° Gruppo del
Battaglione Cacciatori Alpini
della 47ª Divisione di Fanteria
----- 0 -----
Camerati della 46ª Divisione
Marzo 1918

881HERE
ON 13 - 12 - 1917
FELL GLORIOUSLY
Colonel BEL
Commander of the 5th Group of the
Alpine Hunters Battalion
of the 47th Infantry Division
----- 0 -----
Comrades of the 46th Division
March 1918

Il monumento è stato ricostruito agli inizi del 2001, ma riporta fedelmente il testo lasciato dai soldati francesi sull'originale monumento. Colpito da scheggia di granata alle ore 16.00 del 13 dicembre 1917 moriva l'amato comandante del 5° Gruppo del Battaglione Cacciatori Alpini, il coll. Bell. Questo si accingeva a pianificare la riconquista e difesa del Monfenera caduto in mano austro-tedesca a novembre 1917. Il 30 dicembre 1917 dopo 5 ore di furioso bombardamento sulle linee austriache tra Monte Tomba e Monfenera alle ore 16.05 il 51°, 70° e 115° Battaglione dei Cacciatori Alpini assaltarono le trincee avversarie riuscendo a conquistarle. Erano le ore 16.30, fu vendicata la morte del coll. Bell.

The monument was rebuilt in early 2001 but faithfully bears the words left by French soldiers on the original one. Struck by shrapnel at 1600 hours on 13th December 1917, Col. Bell was killed, the beloved commander of the 5th Alpine Hunters Battalion. He had planned the retaking and defence of Monfenera which fell into Austro-German hands in November 1917. On 30th December 1917, after 5 hours of furious bombardment of the Austrian lines between Monte Tomba and Monfenera, at 1605 hours the 51st, the 70th and the 115th Alpine Hunters Battalions stormed the enemy trenches and took them. It was 1630 hours and Col. Bell's death had been avenged.



V E

Presso un ex baraccamento con galleria di protezione in caso di bombardamento sono presenti (su di una roccia che costituiva un lato della baracca) due piccole lettere sottolineate. La zona è caratterizzata da numerose testimonianze militari, con numerose piazzole di batterie con incavernamenti e profonde trincee ancora ben visibili. Questo complesso faceva parte di un più vasto ed articolato sistema di difesa che doveva bloccare l'avanzata nemica in caso di sfondamento delle linee sulla dorsale del Monte Asolone. Incerto il significato delle due lettere che potrebbero essere le iniziali del combattente.

At a former encampment with a protection tunnel in case of bombardment, there are two small underlined letters (on a rock that constituted one side of the hut).

The area features numerous military testimonies, numerous battery emplacements with caves and deep trenches still clearly visible. This complex was part of a vaster, subdivided defence system intended to block the enemy advance in the case of a breakthrough in the lines of the Monte Asolone ridge.

The meaning of the two letters is uncertain but may be the combatant's initials.



?

**Borso del
Grappa**

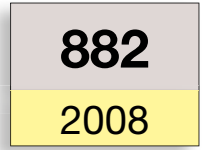
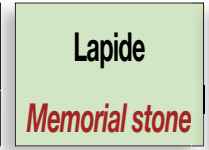
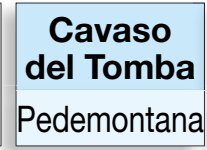
Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

887

2009



IL 2° REGGIMENTO FANTERIA

La Brigata Re era costituita dal 1° e 2° Reggimento di Fanteria, allo scoppio della guerra fu subito inviata presso Gorizia per conquistare il Podgora. Per tutto il 1915 si accanisce contro questo settore. Nel 1916 amplia le sue operazioni fino ad Oslavia, poi viene trasferita nel settore di Castegnavizza – Hudi Log (Carso). Nel 1917 viene incaricata di svolgere una delicata operazione a sorpresa per la conquista del Dosso del Palo, l'obiettivo viene raggiunto ma con perdite pesanti. Dopo Caporetto riceve l'ordine di impegnarsi a fondo per rallentare l'avanzata nemica e permettere il passaggio dell'Isonzo a molti reparti in ritirata. Riesce a mettersi in salvo oltre il Piave e si raduna a Biadene (TV) come riserva del I Corpo d'Armata. Già il 21 novembre presidia la linea intermedia del Monte Tomba e lo difende dall'attacco congiunto di battaglioni cacciatori della divisione Jager tedesca e truppe d'assalto austriache riescono ad occupare la linea di cresta costringendo i nostri reparti a trincerarsi a circa 200 m dalla linea nemica. A dicembre riceve il cambio dalla 47ª Divisione francese (si veda scheda n° 881) e si trasferisce a Ponte Vigodarzere per il riordino. Ritorna nel settore del Monfenera, nel marzo del 1918, con turni di prima linea e riposo alle dipendenze della 70ª Divisione. Nella battaglia finale ha il compito di occupare la Conca di Alano ed inseguire l'avversario una volta messo in fuga. Gli obiettivi vengono raggiunti, sostiene violenti scontri presso Monte Madal. In questi giorni lascia sul campo 1043 soldati ed ufficiali. Il 31 ottobre viene messa a riposo fino al termine del conflitto. Il monumento è stato fatto dalla stessa brigata a ricordo dei compagni caduti tra la fine del 1917 ed il 1918. E' stato restaurato nel 2005.

THE 2nd INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Re Brigade comprised the 1st and 2nd Infantry Regiments. On the outbreak of war it was immediately sent to the Gorizia area to take Podgora. Throughout 1915 it furiously attacked this sector. In 1916 it extended its operations to Oslavia and was then transferred to the Castegnavizza-Hudi Log (Carso) sector. In 1917 it was entrusted with a delicate surprise operation to capture the Dosso del Palo, which was successful but involved heavy losses. After Caporetto it was ordered to do its utmost to slow down the enemy advance to allow a great many units of retreating troops to cross the Isonzo. It managed to get across the Piave to safety and gathered in Biadene (TV) as reserve for the 1st Army Corps. On 21st November it was holding the intermediate Monte Tomba line and defended it against joint attacks by the German Jager Division and Austrian assault troops who managed to occupy the crest line, forcing the Italian units to entrench about 200 metres from the enemy line. In December it was relieved by the 47th French Division (see entry N° 881) and moved to Ponte Vigodarzere for reorganisation. It returned to the Monfenera sector in March 1918, with alternate stints at the front and rest periods, under the 70th Division. In the final battle it had the task of occupying the Alano Basin and pursuing the retreating enemy. These objectives were achieved, with violent clashes at Monte Madal. Over these days the regiment lost a total of 1,043 officers and men. On 31st October it was sent to rest until the end of the conflict. The monument was erected by the brigade in memory of its comrades fallen in the war. It was restored in 2005.

2° REGGIMENTO DI FANTERIA “RE”
“NULLI VIRTUTE ACI FIDELITATE SECUNDUS”

CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA

1625/26 VALTELLINA
 1628/31 SUCCESSIONE DI MANTOVA
 1635/59 LIBERAZIONE DEL MILANESE - 1672 LIGURIA
 1690/95 DIFESA DI SAVOIA
 1701/02 SUCCESSIONE DI SPAGNA
 1704/12 SUCCESSIONE DI SPAGNA - 1792/96 PIEMONTE
 1733/35 SUCCESSIONE DI POLONIA
 1742/48 SUCCESSIONE D'AUSTRIA - 1799 LOMBARDIA
 1800 PIEMONTE

1848/49 1ª GUERRA D'INDIPENDENZA ITALIANA
 1855/56 CRIMEA - 1859 LIBERAZIONE DELLA LOMBARDIA
 1860/61 MARCHE-UMBRIA-BASSA ITALIA
 1866 LIBERAZIONE DEL VENETO - 1887/88 ERITREA
 1915/18 GUERRA ITALO-AUSTRIACA

RICOMPENSE AL VALOR MILITARE

ALLA BANDIERA: CROCE DI CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA

2 MED. ARGENTO - 3 MED. BRONZO

UFF. E TRUPPA: 5 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOIA - 1 MED. ORO

290 MED. ARGENTO - 481 MED. BRONZO - 18 CROCI DI GUERRA

PERDITE

UFFICIALI: MORTI 42 - FERITI 138 - DISPERSI 19

TRUPPA: MORTI 826 - FERITI 2996 - DISPERSI 1582

Durante la 1ª Guerra Mondiale si batté come riportato in scheda.

Festa del reggimento 30 ottobre.



2nd INFANTRY REGIMENT “RE”
“NULLI VIRTUTE ACI FIDELITATE SECUNDUS”

WAR CAMPAIGNS

1625/26 VALTELLINA
 1628/31 SUCCESSION OF MANTUA
 1635/59 LIBERATION OF MILAN AREA - 1672 LIGURIA
 1690/95 DEFENCE OF SAVOY
 1701/02 SPANISH SUCCESSION
 1704/12 SPANISH SUCCESSION - 1792/96 PIEDMONT
 1733/35 POLISH SUCCESSION
 1742/48 AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION - 1799 LOMBARDY
 1800 PIEDMONT
 1848/49 1st WAR OF ITALIAN INDEPENDENCE
 1855/56 CRIMEA - 1859 LIBERATION OF LOMBARDY
 1860/61 MARCHE-UMBRIA-SOUTHERN ITALY
 1866 LIBERATION OF VENETO - 1887/88 ERITREA
 1915/18 ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR

DECORATIONS FOR MILITARY BRAVERY
 TO THE FLAG: CROSS CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY

2 SILVER MED. – 3 BRONZE MED.

OFF. AND MEN: 5 CAV. ORD. MIL. SAVOY - 1 GOLD MED.

290 SILVER MED.

481 BRONZE MED.

18 MILITARY CROSSES

LOSSES IN ACTION

OFFICERS: 42 DEAD – 138 WOUNDED – 19 MISSING
 MEN: 826 DEAD – 2,996 WOUNDED – 1,582 MISSING

During the 1st World War it fought as described in the entry.

Regimental Day: 30th October



?

Borso del
Grappa

Grappa

Iscrizione

Inscription

889

2009

Presso una postazione antiaerea verso Cima Grappa è presente un bellissimo portale d'ingresso alla galleria di servizio. La galleria è franata e grossi blocchi di roccia ora impediscono l'entrata. Malgrado il crollo il portale si è in parte salvato, come mostra la fotografia. Si caratterizza per una lunetta in cemento che probabilmente all'epoca era decorata con l'indicazione del reparto militare ivi presente. Oggi non rimane alcuna traccia se non deboli segni di colore. Questa postazione faceva parte di un sistema di difesa antiaerea che doveva ostacolare le operazioni di ricognizione aerea austriaca delle retrolinee italiane nella Valle di Poise.

At an anti-aircraft emplacement towards Cima Grappa there is a fine entrance portal to the service tunnel. The tunnel has caved in and great blocks of rock prevent entry. In spite of the collapse the portal has been partly saved, as the photograph shows. It is characterised by a concrete lunette which was probably decorated with some indication of the military unit stationed there. The only signs remaining today are faded traces of colour. This emplacement was part of an anti-aircraft defence system aimed at impeding Austrian reconnaissance flights over the Italian secondary lines in Valle di Poise.



113 E COMP. PRESID. ALPINI
ARMATA GRAPPA

113^a e COMPAGNIA PRESIDIO ALPINI
ARMATA del GRAPPA

113th and ALPINE GARRISON COMPANY
ARMY of GRAPPA

Bellissima fontana, semplice nelle sue forme geometriche ma di grande valore decorativo. Sopra il simbolo degli alpini (aquila) spicca un volto umano con folta barba da dove sgorga acqua. La 113^a Compagnia Alpini assieme all'89^a e 137^a costituivano il Battaglione Alpini Monte Stelvio. Formato nel 1916 a Tirano opera per tutto l'anno nella Carnia, poi nel 1917 viene trasferito sull'Altopiano di Asiago e partecipa alla tremenda battaglia dell'Ortigara. Dopo Caporetto opera in Canal del Brenta a difesa della valle e nelle posizioni della Val Vecchia e Monte Cornone. Nel 1918 ritorna sull'Altopiano in retro linea per poi operare tra settembre ed ottobre sul Col del Rosso. Nella battaglia finale di Vittorio Veneto partecipa, con la 23^a Divisione francese, alla presa delle colline di Valdobbiadene.

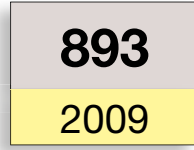
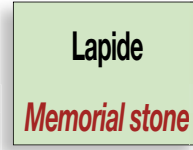
A beautiful fountain, simple in form but of great decorative value. Standing out above the symbol of the alpine troops (the eagle), a human face with a thick beard from which the water gushes out. The 113th Alpine Company, with the 89th and the 137th, made up the Monte Stelvio Alpine Battalion. Set up in 1916 in Tirano it was operational throughout the year in the Carnia, then in 1917 it was transferred to the Asiago Plateau and took part in the terrible battle of Ortigara. After Caporetto it was operational in the Brenta Canal zone, defending the valley, and in the Val Vecchia and Monte Cornone positions. In 1918 it returned to the Plateau in the rear line and was subsequently operational between September and October on Col del Rosso. In the final battle of Vittorio Veneto, together with the 23rd French Division, it took the hills of Valdobbiadene.



Castelcucco
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

891
2009



80 DIV
ALPINA
89 COMP

32 BATT
ZAPP

80^a DIVISIONE
ALPINA
89^a COMPAGNIA

32^o BATTAGLIONE
ZAPPATORI

80th DIVISION
SAPPERS
89th COMPANYY

32nd ALPINE
BATTALION

L'80^a Divisione Alpina si costituisce il 12 settembre 1918 e comprendeva l'VIII ed il IX Raggruppamento Alpino ed altri reparti provenienti dalla I Armata. Lo scopo dell'80^a era quello di un'unità mobile da impiegare in settori montani, all'imminenza della battaglia di Vittorio Veneto fu assegnata alla IV Armata alle dipendenze del XXX Corpo d'Armata. Si disloca nella zona di Crespano e poi nel settore Monte Boccaor – Monte Pallone in attesa dell'offensiva con compiti di avanzata in profondità non appena le linee nemiche fossero rotte nel settore Solaroli – Monte Spinoncia. Parte delle sue forze parteciparono alla conquista del Col del Cuc (con la Brigata Bologna), Solaroli (con la Brigata Lombardia) e Monte Valderoa. Il 31 ottobre tutti i battaglioni alpini rientrano alle dipendenze della divisione dopo la difficile conquista delle posizioni di Monte Spinoncia, Punta Zoc e Monte Madal. Il nemico è in rotta e l'80^a risale la Valle del Piave ed entra in Feltre. Il 4 novembre è ancora nei pressi di Feltre e comincia un periodo di lavoro per ricostruire infrastrutture stradali e ponti distrutti dalla ritirata austroungarica. In questa occasione viene costruito questo cippo da parte dei reparti appartenenti al 1° Reggimento dell'Arma del Genio che erano alle dipendenze dell'80^a Divisione. Questa viene sciolta il 30 aprile 1919 quando era alle dipendenze della VI Armata.

The 80th Alpine Division was established on 12th September 1918 and comprised the 8th and 9th Alpine Units and other 1st Army units. The 80th was devised as a mobile unit to be deployed in mountainous sectors. With the battle of Vittorio Veneto imminent it was assigned to the 4th Army under the 30th Army Corps. It was moved to the zone of Crespano and then to the Monte Boccaor-Monte Pallone sector in expectation of the offensive, with orders to advance deeply behind enemy lines as soon as there was a breakthrough in the Solaroli-Monte Spinoncia sector. Some of its troops participated in the taking of Col del Cuc (with the Bologna Brigade), Solaroli (with the Lombardy Brigade) and Monte Valderoa. On 31st October all the alpine battalions came under the Division after the difficult capture of the Monte Spinoncia, Punta Zoc and Monte Madal positions. The enemy was routed and the 80th went up the Valle del Piave and entered Feltre. On 4th November it was still in the Feltre area and began a period of rebuilding road and bridge infrastructures destroyed during the Austro-Hungarian retreat. This memorial stone is the work of the units belonging to the 1st Regiment of the Engineer Corps which was under the 80th Division. The latter was disbanded on 30th April 1919 while it was under the 6th Army.



Ingresso galleria con parziale decoro
lasciato sul cemento

Tunnel entrance with part of a
decoration left on the concrete



?

**Paderno
del Grappa**
Grappa

Graffito
Graffito

895
2009



?

Foza

Brenta

Graffito

Graffito

898

2009

Decorazione feritoia presso
lo sbarramento della Val Vecchia

Loophole decoration at the
Val Vecchia barricade

Lungo la Val Frenzela salendo si stacca
sulla destra la Val Vecchia, questa era par-

*Going up Val Frenzela, Val Vecchia le-
ads off to the right. This was a particular-*

ticolarmente strategica per gli austriaci in
quanto la conquista della valle garantiva
facile sbocco in Val Frenzela a poca di-
stanza da Valstagna che era un importan-
te centro di smistamento delle truppe ita-
liane. Gli austroungarici dopo Caporetto
tentarono più volte l'irruzione lungo la
Val Vecchia per raggiungere il Canal del
Brenta. Poco prima dello sbocco nella
Val Frenzela è presente una grande guglia
che all'epoca dei fatti d'arme era chiama-
ta "Dito di San Francesco" e costituiva un
poderoso caposaldo italiano a difesa del-
la valle.

Sulla sommità della guglia era stato co-
struito un caposaldo in galleria con più
feritoie a controllo della valle mentre alla
base del Dito era presente un secondo
sbarramento in galleria. Questa feritoia
è stata decorata dai soldati quando il ce-
mento era ancora fresco.

Da documenti del genio militare italiano
risulta che la galleria del caposaldo era
stata destinata per una postazione lan-
ciafiamme, il che giustifica la grandezza
della feritoia.

*ly strategic point for the Austrians since
control of the valley ensured easy entry
into Val Frenzela, a short distance from
Valstagna which was an important clear-
ing centre for Italian troops. After Capor-
retto the Austro-Hungarians made several
attempts at a breakthrough along Val Vec-
chia to reach the Brenta Canal.*

*Just before coming into Val Frenzela the-
re's a great pinnacle which in wartime
was called "St. Francis' Finger" and was
a mighty Italian stronghold for defence of
the valley.*

*A tunnel stronghold had been built at the
summit of the pinnacle, with several lo-
opholes covering the valley, while at the
base of the Finger there was a second
tunnel barrage.*

*This loophole was decorated by the sol-
diers while the concrete was still wet.
Documentation from the Italian Engine-
er Corps states that the stronghold tunnel
was built for a flamethrower emplace-
ment, which explains the large size of the
loophole.*



Decorazione astratta
all'entrata dell'osservatorio

Abstract decoration
at observatory entrance

Sui pendii orientali del Col d'Astiago lungo il tracciato di un sentiero militare (oggi sentiero CAI 775) troviamo i resti di un interessante osservatorio che guarda il Canal del Brenta e parte del Massiccio del Grappa. Vista la sua collocazione la probabile funzione era quella di guidare i tiri delle artiglierie collocate sui rovesci del Col d'Astiago. All'entrata dell'osservatorio è presente una piccola placca di cemento (in basso a sinistra nella foto) con incisa una figura astratta. Tale disegno è stato fatto quando ancora il cemento era fresco. Non si hanno notizie di riutilizzo dell'osservatorio dopo la fine della guerra il che fa risalire il disegno astratto all'epoca della guerra.

Da carteggi militari trovati risulta che presso il Col d'Astiago erano posizionati diversi osservatori denominati in codice H3, H14, H37, H40, H44, H62 e H72. L'osservatorio H40 corrisponde a quello in foto. Tale era destinato al 153° Gruppo d'Assedio a servizio del XX Corpo d'Armata operante nel Canal del Brenta.

On the eastern slopes of Col d'Astiago along the trace of a military pathway (today pathway CAI 775) there are the remains of an interesting observatory overlooking the Brenta Canal and part of the Grappa Massif. Given its location, its probable function was to guide the artillery fire from the other side of Col d'Astiago. At the entrance to the observatory there is a small concrete plaque (bottom left in the photo) with an engraved abstract figure. The drawing was done when the concrete was still wet. Since there is no record of the observatory being used after the end of the war, this abstract design is traceable to wartime.

Military papers show that several observatories were located on Col d'Astiago, codenamed H3, H14, H37, H40, H44, H62 and H72. The observatory H40 is the one in the photo and was used by the 153rd Siege Group under the 20th Army Corps, operational in the Brenta Canal zone.

				
	?	Valstagna Brenta	Graffito Graffito	900 2009



Schweitzer Márton – Honvéd – Il Fèszek
Egy pár csizma talpat kèrek mert a bakancsok használni nem bírom
Ha meglesz talpalua kèrem vissza küldeni Il Fèszek

Schweitzer Márton – Honvéd – Il nido
Chiedo la suola per un paio di stivali, perché non riesco a portare gli scarponi (foto sinistra).
Quando saranno risuolati, prego di rispedirli al Il nido (foto destra).

Schweitzer Márton – Honvéd – Il nest
Request sole for a pair of boots because I can't wear other footwear (photo left).
When they are resoled please send them back to Il nest (photo right).



Cismon del Grappa
Brenta

Iscrizione
Inscription

902
2009

Una quindicina di anni orsono, il Gruppo Grotte Giara Modon (gruppo speleologico vicentino) effettuò un'ispezione delle forre a monte di Cismon del Grappa, sulle pendici occidentali del Col Bonato. Ritrovano nella cavità denominata Lusedombra la tavoletta di legno sopra fotografata. È esposta al museo civico di Cismon del Grappa. La cavità faceva parte nel 1918 della cosiddetta "linea intermedia" austroungarica formata di piccoli posti o "nidi" che controllavano la sottostante Val Nassa, percorsa da uno dei due sentieri che collegavano direttamente il fondovalle con il settore d'altura di Col della Berretta. L'iscrizione è una singolare testimonianza della drammatica crisi degli approvvigionamenti che, negli ultimi mesi di guerra ha contribuito al collasso dell'esercito austriaco. Il soldato si chiamava Schweitzer Márton ed apparteneva al 19° Reggimento di Fanteria Honvéd, reclutato nella contea di Pécs in Ungheria meridionale. Sopravvissuto alla guerra era, dopo molte vicissitudini, tornato a fare il contadino. Morto nel 1968, ora riposa nel cimitero cattolico di Mohács, una cittadina presso il confine croato.

About fifteen years ago the Gruppo Grotte Giara Modon (a Vicenza speleological group) carried out an inspection of the ravines upstream of Cismon del Grappa, on the western slopes of Col Bonato. In the cavity known as Lusedombra they found the wooden panel shown in the above photo and now in the Cismon del Grappa civic museum. In 1918 Lusedombra was part of the so-called "intermediate line" of the Austro-Hungarian army, formed by small posts or "nests" that controlled the bottom of the valley and the highland sector of Col della Berretta. The inscription bears singular witness to the dramatic crisis of provisioning which, in the last months of the war, contributed to the collapse of the Austrian army. The soldier's name was Márton Schweitzer, he belonged to the 19th Infantry Regiment Honvéd and was recruited in the country of Pécs, southern Hungary. He survived the war and, after many vicissitudes, went back to farming. He died in 1968 and is buried in the Catholic cemetery of Mohács, a small town near the Croatian border.



77° Reggimento di Fanteria

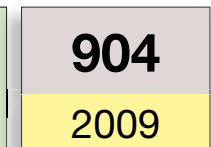
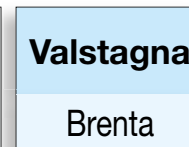
77th Infantry Regiment

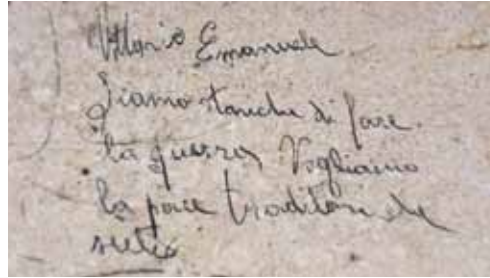
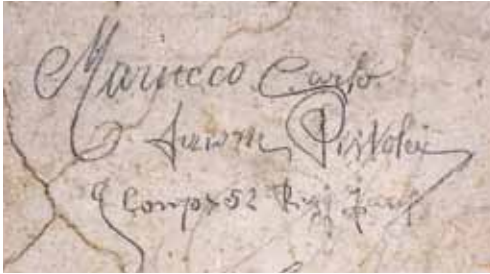
Il 77° assieme al 76° Reggimento di Fanteria costituiscono la Brigata Toscana. Per tutto il 1915 fino a marzo del 1916 è schierata nel settore delle Giudicarie (Maniva - Crocedomini) con compiti di pattugliamento. Alla primavera del 1916 viene spostata nel settore del Sabotino ed il 6 agosto lo conquista. Dopo un periodo di riposo viene spostato a fine settembre sul Nad Logem per partecipare alla conquista di alcune posizioni sul Veliki. Dopo un secondo attacco ad ottobre la vetta del Veliki cade in mano nostra assieme alle posizioni del Fajti. Viene inviata a fine 1916 in riposo a Palmanova poi tra maggio e giugno 1917 partecipa alla sfortunata azione

The 77th with the 76th Infantry Regiment made up the Tuscany Brigade. Throughout 1915 and until March 1916 it was drawn up in the Giudicarie sector (Maniva-Crocedomini) with patrolling duties. In spring 1916 it was moved to the Sabotino sector which it took on 6th August. After a rest period it was transferred at the end of September to Nad Logem to take part in capturing some positions on the Veliki. After a second attack in October the Italians took the peak of Veliki, together with the positions on the Fajti. At the end of 1916 it was sent for a period of rest in Palmanova. Then between May and June 1917 it took part in an ill-fated action on the Timavo where the 77th

sul Timavo dove il 77° perde oltre 2000 soldati. Viene ritirata a S. Canziano per riordinarsi. Torna il linea presso San Giovanni di Duino e svolge azioni tra agosto e settembre sulla linea tra Flondar e San Giovanni. A fine settembre viene inviata sull'Altopiano di Asiago nel settore Monte Longara – Monte Ferragh. Dopo Caporetto anche nei nuovi settori presidiati inizia l'offensiva austriaca che riesce a far indietreggiare la brigata sulle nuove linee di resistenza Monte Sisemol - Val Frenzela (novembre 1917). Si distingue per ardimento nella difesa del Col del Rosso – Col d'Echele, poi esaurita la sua capacità offensiva viene spedita a Recoaro per un lungo periodo di riposo. A fine febbraio 1918 torna in linea sullo sbarramento di Valstagna con compiti di presidio della linea, il 29 giugno la brigata conquista il Monte Cornone dopo furibonde lotte. Viene ritirata a riposo tra Verona, Schio e Camposampiero. In piena battaglia di Vittorio Veneto passa il Piave a Grave di Papadopoli e si lancia all'inseguimento delle truppe austroungariche in rotta. Il 2 novembre presso il fiume Meduna sostiene l'ultima furiosa battaglia per traghettare il fiume con l'obiettivo di raggiungere il Tagliamento. Il 4 novembre è dislocata a Codroipo. Per le sanguinose lotte a cui presero parte i fanti, questi si nominarono dell'appellativo "lupi di Toscana".

lost more than 2,000 soldiers. It was withdrawn to S. Canziano for reorganisation. It returned to the line at San Giovanni di Duino and was in action between August and September in the line between Flondar and San Giovanni. At the end of September it was sent to the Monte Longara-Monte Ferragh sector of the Asiago Plateau. After Caporetto the Austrian offensive began also in the new garrisoned sectors, forcing the brigade back to the new Monte Sisemol-Val Frenzela resistance lines (November 1917). Its bravery was outstanding in the defence of Col del Rosso-Col d'Echele. Subsequently, with its offensive capacities exhausted, it was sent to Recoaro for a long rest period. At the end of February 1918 it returned to the front at the Valstagna barrage with duties of holding the line. On 29th June, after furious fighting, the brigade took Monte Cornone. It was withdrawn to rest at Verona, Schio and Camposampiero. At the height of the battle of Vittorio Veneto it crossed the Piave at Grave di Papadopoli in hot pursuit of the routed Austro-Hungarian troops. On 2nd November, at the river Meduna, it fought a last fierce battle to cross the river with the objective of reaching the Tagliamento. On 4th November it was stationed at Codroipo. For the bloody fighting they took part in, the infantry were known as the "Wolves of Tuscany".





VARI

Rosà
Pedemontana

Graffito
Graffito

905
2009

Presso la settecentesca Villa Roberti a Rosà (VI) sono state ritrovate molte testimonianze scritte di militari italiani legate all'evento bellico. Dopo Caporetto la villa fu destinata ad ospedale militare per i feriti provenienti dal fronte del Grappa. Ai piani inferiori si ha notizia (data dai residenti nella villa) di comandi militari. Dei quattordici graffiti identificati se ne trascrivono solo quelli più leggibili. La villa ora è di proprietà privata.

At the 18th century Villa Roberti in Rosà (VI) many testimonies were found, written by Italian soldiers involved in the war. After Caporetto the villa was transformed into a military hospital for those wounded on the Grappa front. On the lower floors (as the villa residents stated) there were military commands. Of the fourteen graffiti identified, only the most legible have been transcribed. The villa is now privately owned.

- "Casareto Luigi 99 Rapallo 1918"
- *"Caseto Luigi 99 Rapallo 1918"*
- "Vittorio Emanuele 3 siamo stanchi di fare la guerra e vogliamo la pace a tutti i costi che siete vigliacchi"
- *"Vittorio Emanuele 3 we're tired of war and we want peace at all costs..... that you're all cowards"*
- "Vittorio Emanuele siamo stanchi di fare la guerra. Vogliamo la pace traditori che siete"
- *"Vittorio Emanuele we're tired of war. We want peace, traitors that you are"*
- "Viva l'anarchia e la libertà. Quando mi leverò le stelle voglio fare tante cose belle. Firmato chi non vuole la guerra ma la pace e la libertà. Povera Italia che fù"
- *"Long live anarchy and freedom. When I get out of uniform I want to do so many great things. Signed by someone who wants not war but peace and freedom. Poor Italy that once was"*

- "217^a compagnia mitraglieri Fiat del 139° reggimento"
- *"217th Fiat Machine-Gunner Company of the 139th regiment"*
- "Marucco Carlo Sezione Pistola 9^a compagnia 52° reggimento fanteria"
- *"Marucco Carlo Pistol Section 9th company 52nd Infantry Regiment"*
- "Il 20 - 1 - 1918 al soldato Calvi Antonio Sezione Pistola"
- *"20 - 1 - 1918 to trooper Calvi Antonio Pistol Section"*
- "Cap. Pittalunga G.B. 24° gruppo 167^a batteria. Qui giace l'ultima mia per febbre malarica. Zona di guerra 9 - 6 - 18"
- *"Capt. Pittalunga G. B. 24th Group 167th battery. Here lies l'ultima mia?? due to malarial fever. War zone 9 - 6 - 18"*
- "Marzavant Giovanni nato il 1897 - 28 aprile a comando di compagnia ora trovasi nel reggimento"

- *"Marzavant Giovanni born 1897 - 28th April company command now in the regiment"*
- "Pasquale 132° reggimento fanteria"
- *"Pasquale 132nd Infantry Regiment"*
- "Batti Giovanni 1° reggimento fanteria 3^a compagnia"
- *"Batti Giovanni 1st Infantry Regiment 3rd company"*
- "South Bethlehem Unit (?) States America of C.M.Y. 99^a fanteria 5^a compagnia"
- *"South Bethlehem Unit (?) States America of C.M.Y. 99th infantry 5th company"*
- "Cattiveria sarebbe a fare la pace se mandassi i nostri generali al taglio della testa li vorrei mandare sia allora si ritornerebbe ai nostri Natali. Ciao"
- *"Cattiveria sarebbe a fare la pace se mandassi i nostri generali al taglio della testa li vorrei mandare sia allora si ritornerebbe ai nostri Natali. Ciao"??*



1° REGGIMENTO GENIO
251^a COMPAGNIA
1918

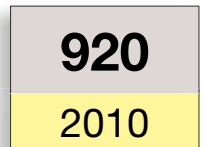
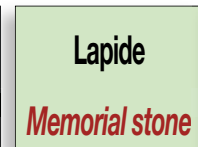
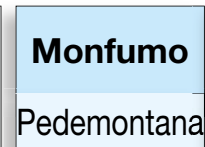
Le colline Asolane tra il 1917 ed il 1918 furono interessate da importanti lavori logistici che trasformarono le cime in validi caposaldi difensivi. Oltre alle difese furono costruiti acquedotti, reti di teleferiche, telefoniche e di stazioni di comunicazione ottica. Le colline ospitavano numerose batterie pesanti con tiro verso il Piave. Presso un muraglione si ritrova questa testimonianza diretta degli imponenti lavori che furono fatti in queste zone.

La 251^a compagnia, inquadrata nel XXVII^o battaglione zap-patori della 65^a Divisione di fanteria operò nell'agosto del 1917 assieme a pontieri della 12^a compagnia per il gittamento del ponte T 2 presso l'ansa di San Pietro per il transito dell'artiglieria campale durante 11^a Battaglia dell'Isonzo per la conquista dell'Altopiano della Bainsizza alleggerendo così la pressione nemica su Gorizia. Dopo Caporetto opera sulle colline Asolane con numerosi lavori logistici a servizio dell'VIII^a Armata.

1st ENGINEER CORPS
251st COMPANY
1918

Between 1917 and 1918 important logistic works were carried out in the Asolo hills, transforming the summits into valuable defensive strongholds. As well as defences they built waterworks, cableway and telephone networks and optical communications stations. There were numerous heavy artillery emplacements in the hills, aimed towards the Piave. This direct testimony of the extensive works carried out in these zones was found on a retaining wall.

The 251st company, part of the 27th Sappers battalion of the 65th infantry Division, worked in August 1917 with pontoniers of the 12th company, building bridge T 2 at the San Pietro bend for the transit of field artillery during the 11th Battle of the Isonzo to take the Bainsizza Plateau, thus lightening enemy pressure on Gorizia. After Caporetto the company carried out numerous logistics works in the Asolo hills in the service of the 8th Army.





?

Monfumo
Pedemontana

Iscrizione
Inscription

922
2010

CROCIFISSO SCOLPITO

SCULPTED CRUCIFIX

Le colline Asolane tra il 1917 ed il 1918 furono interessate da importanti lavori difensivi che trasformarono le cime in validi caposaldi difensivi. Tatticamente questa linea difensiva doveva bloccare un'eventuale irruzione nemica nella Valcavasia. A settembre 1918 la linea che andava dal Monte dei Frati fino al Piave era in buona efficienza e contava 182 elementi di trincee, 134 appostamenti per mitragliatrici, 97 ricoveri per truppa e oltre 19 km di fasce di reticolato, a queste strutture si sommarono numerosi osservatori d'artiglieria per guidare il tiro delle numerose batterie ivi dislocate. I lavori furono fatti dalla Direzione Lavori dell'VIII^a Armata. Poco distante da un ricovero in roccia è stata catalogata questa testimonianza composta da un grande crocifisso scolpito con ai lati due figure di donna inginocchiate (ora poco distinguibili per l'erosione progressiva) fino a pochi anni fa ai piedi del crocifisso era presente la scritta "sold. Araia Giovanni" oggi scomparsa che però collega questa testimonianza direttamente all'evento bellico. Il crocifisso sebbene deteriorato è di agevole fattura.

Between 1917 and 1918 important defensive works were carried out in the Asolo hills, transforming the summits into valuable defensive strongholds. Tactically this line of defence was intended to block any enemy breakthrough in Valcavasia. In September 1918 the line running from Monte dei Frati to the Piave was very efficient, with 182 trenches, 134 machinegun positions, 97 troop shelters and more than 19 kilometres of barbed wire entanglement. To these structures could be added numerous artillery observatories to guide the fire of the many battery emplacements there. The work was carried out by the 8th Army's Construction Supervision Unit. This testimony was catalogued in a rock shelter a short way off and consists of a large sculpted crucifix with two kneeling female figures at the sides (no longer very distinct due to previous erosion). Until just a few years ago the words "soldier Giovanni Araia", no longer visible, appeared at the foot of the cross, bearing witness to a direct connection with the conflict. Though it has deteriorated, the crucifix is very well executed.

RICORDO DEL PASAGIO DEL BATT. ANTELAO

PARTITO DI QUI IL GIORNO 24 - 10

PER LA LIBERAZIONE DELLE TERRE INVASE - SPERIAMO BENE - S. TEN

Durante la ristrutturazione di un vecchio casolare in località Vardanega poco distante da Possagno è stata ritrovata e conservata questa significativa testimonianza del Battaglione Alpini Antelao. Questo si formò nel dicembre del 1915 a Belluno e comprendeva la 96^a, 150^a e 151^a compagnia. Nel 1916 combatte sulle Tofane e Val Travenanzes con attacchi a postazioni a picco e con spericolate cordate. Nel 1917 il battaglione combatte sull'Isonzo (Mesnjak), poi è trasferito a fine 1917 sul settore del fiume Adige presso Doss di Remit e Sasso Sega. Su tali posizioni rimane fino a metà ottobre 1918, poi in fretta è mandato sul Massiccio

del Grappa, il 21 ottobre è nella zona di Crespano del Grappa, presso la località Vardanega, poi il 24 sale in linea ed il 25 è su Monte Casonet e sul fondo di Val Calcino, qui si scatena in furibondi assalti alle linee austriache dei Solaroli ma la tenacia avversaria è tale da quasi annientarlo tanto che deve essere ritirato dalle linee già il 28 ottobre per essere riordinato presso Monte Boccaor - Monte Pallone. Una volta rotta la resistenza austriaca si mette all'inseguimento dell'avversario ed in breve tempo si ritrova il 1 novembre a Mugnai presso Feltre ed il 4 a Fiera di Primiero dopo aver catturato numerosi prigionieri.

IN MEMORY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE ANTELAO BATT.

WHICH SET OUT FROM HERE ON 24 - 10

FOR LIBERATION OF THE INVADED LANDS - HOPING FOR THE BEST - S. LIEUT....

During the rehabilitation of an old country house in Vardanega, not far from Possagno, this significant testimony of the Antelao Alpine Battalion was found and preserved. The battalion was formed in Belluno (1915) and comprised the 96th, 150th and 151st companies. In 1916 it fought on the Tofane and in Val Travenanzes with attacks by daredevil roped parties on sheer-face positions. In 1917 the battalion fought on the Isonzo (Mesnjak) before moving at the end of 1917 to the river Adige sector near Doss di Remit and Sasso Sega. It remained in these positions until mid October 1918 when it was hurriedly sent to the Grappa Massif,

and on 21st October it was in the area of Crespano del Grappa, near Vardanega. On the 24th it went up the line and on the 25th was on Monte Casonet and at the bottom of the Calcino valley where it made furious assaults on the Austrian Solaroli lines but the enemy held out to such an extent as to nearly destroy it. It withdrew from the line on 28th October and was reordered at Monte Boccaor - Monte Pallone. Once the Austrian resistance was broken, the battalion pursued the enemy and shortly, on 1st November, reached Mugnai near Feltre. On the 4th, having taken numerous prisoners, they were in Fiera di Primiero.



Possagno
Pedemontana

Graffito
Graffito

923
2010



?

Borso del
Grappa
Pedemontana

Graffito
Graffito

925
2010

ANNO 1918

YEAR 1918

All'ingresso di un ricovero in roccia con portale in cemento nel settore di Campo Croce, si ritrova questa piccola testimonianza lasciata da un ignoto soldato.

This brief testimony was left by an unknown soldier at the entrance to a rock shelter with concrete portal, in the Campo Croce sector.



484

484 A

Sul portale d'ingresso ad un ricovero vicino al Monte Boscon sul Massiccio del Grappa, un artigliere ha lasciato la testimonianza della sua batteria d'assedio. Il Comando della IV^a Armata alla data del primo maggio 1918 segnalava alle dipendenze del IX^o Corpo d'Armata il 34^o raggruppamento di artiglieria formato dal 22^o, 29^o, 59^o e 147^o gruppo. Il 22^o gruppo era composto dalla 484^a e 484^a A batteria armate con cannoni 95 F. Nel portale d'ingresso sono riportati gli estremi di entrambe le batterie, segno che il ricovero era in uso promiscuo. Alla data del 6 settembre 1918 da un lavoro di censimento delle gallerie fatto dal Genio militare, tale ricovero era ancora assegnato alle batterie citate. Il settore di tiro di queste erano le prime linee della dorsale del Monte Asolone e la Val Cesilla importante zona logistica per l'esercito asburgico.

On the entrance portal of a shelter near Monte Boscon in the Grappa Massif, an artilleryman left testimony of his siege battery. On the first of May 1918 the 4th Army Command put the 34th artillery unit, formed by the 22nd, 29th, 59th and 147th groups, under the 9th Army Corps. The 22nd consisted of the 484th and the 484th A, armed with 95 F cannons.

The entrance portal shows the details of both batteries, a sign that the shelter was used indiscriminately. On 6th September 1918, following a census of tunnels by the Engineer Corps, this shelter was still assigned to the batteries mentioned. The firing sector was the front lines of the Monte Asolone ridge and the Val Cesilla, an important logistics zone for the Habsburg army.



**Borso del
Grappa**
Pedemontana

Graffito
Graffito

927
2010



?

Borso del
Grappa
Pedemontana

Lapide
Memorial stone

933
2010

???

BM

MB

Sul portale d'ingresso ad un ricovero vicino al Monte Boscon sul Massiccio del Grappa, si ritrovano queste due testimonianze di combattenti lasciate quando il cemento era ancora fresco. Non si riesce a decifrare in modo chiaro la scritta a sinistra che con molta probabilità è il nome e cognome di un soldato. Le due lettere poste a destra potrebbero essere le iniziali di un altro soldato. I sei cerchi lasciati sul cemento costituiscono una semplice decorazione del portale d'ingresso del ricovero.

These two testimonies were found on the entrance portal of a shelter near Monte Boscon in the Grappa Massif, written by combatants when the concrete was still wet. The writing on the left cannot be clearly deciphered, but it is very likely a soldier's name and surname. The two letters on the right could be the initials of another soldier. The six circles drawn in the concrete are a simple decoration of the shelter entrance portal.



Rovigo 1918
 Marchini Felice
 74° Fanteria
 8 comp. a
 Sezz. Pistol
Classe 99

Rovigo 1918
 Marchini Felice
 74° Fanteria
 8 compagnia
 Sezione Pistola
Classe 1899

Rovigo 1918
 Felice Marchini
 74th Infantry
 8 Company
 Pistol Section
Class of 1899

Su di un ricovero sul Col dell'Orso sul Massiccio del Grappa, si ritrova questo graffito di un soldato della classe 1899 (passati alla storia come i "Ragazzi del '99") della Brigata Lombardia formata dal 73° e 74° reggimento. Nel maggio del 1915 è sulle posizioni dell'Isonzo sul Peuma e poi ad Oslavia dove subisce spaventose perdite. Nel 1916 è sul Sabotino, poi nel maggio del 1916 opera sull'Altopiano di Asiago nelle località Monte Zebio e Monte Valbella. Ritorna sul Carso nel settore del Nad Logem e Veliki dove subisce gravi perdite. Nel 1917 combatte sull'Hudi Log, dopo Caporetto è annientata per mettere in salvo altri reparti. A dicembre 1917 a Treviso si ricostituisce con nuovi arrivi e viene mandata, fino a giugno 1918, sul Grappa (Solaroli). Poi è inviata sul Montello per arginare lo sfondamento nemico con l'obbiettivo di conquistare Case Serena, perde in due giorni oltre 1500 soldati. Il 15 luglio ritorna sul settore Col dell'Orso – Solaroli. Alla Battaglia di Vittorio Veneto riesce, dopo gravi perdite, a conquistare le posizioni del "Roccione dell'Abete" e "Roccione delle Cavernette". Il 31 ottobre è sulla conca feltrina dove combatte per liberare i centri abitati di Seren del Grappa, Arten e Rasai.

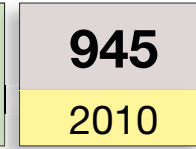
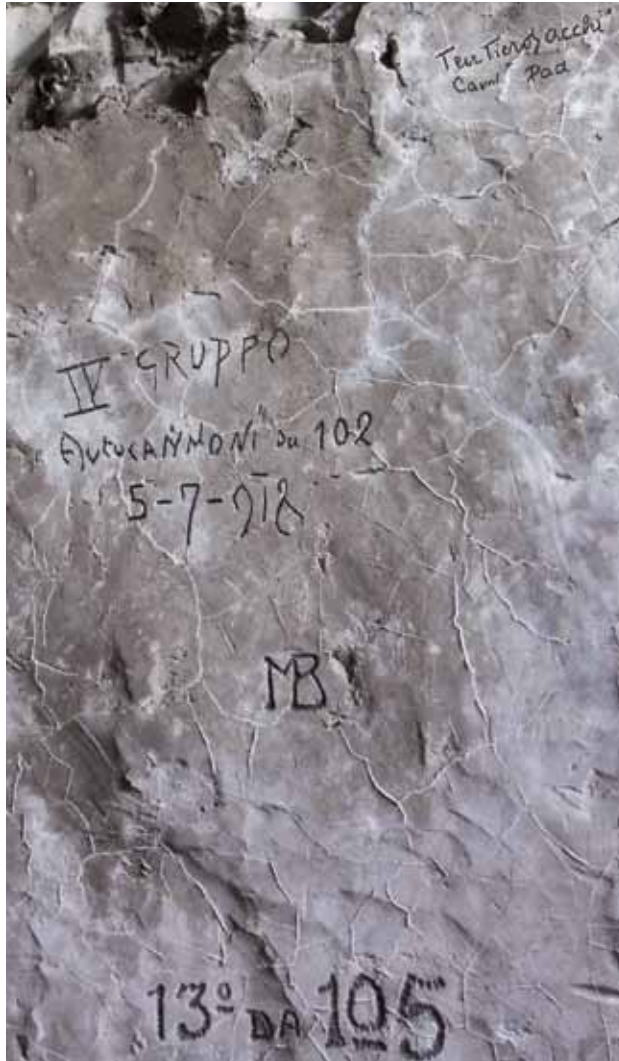
This graffito, found in a shelter on Col dell'Orso in the Grappa Massif, was written by one of the soldiers who passed into history as the "Boys of '99", the Lombardy Brigade formed by the 73rd and 74th regiment. In May 1915 they were in positions on the Isonzo, Peuma and then in Oslavia where they suffered terrible losses. In 1916 they were on Sabotino and in May of the same year on the Asiago Plateau in the localities of Monte Zebio and Monte Valbella. They returned to the Carso in the Nad Logem and Veliki sector where they underwent heavy losses. In 1917 they fought on Hudi Log and after Caporetto were destroyed in saving other units. In December 1917 at Treviso the brigade was reformed with new arrivals and was sent to Mount Grappa (Solaroli) until June 1918. They were then transferred to Montello to stem the enemy breakthrough with the aim of taking Case Serena. More than 1500 soldiers were lost in two days. On 15th July they returned to the sector Col dell'Orso - Solaroli. At the Battle of Vittorio Veneto, following severe losses, they managed to capture the positions of "Roccione dell'Abete" and "Roccione delle Cavernette". On 31st October they were in the Feltrina valley where they fought to liberate the inhabited centres of Seren del Grappa, Arten and Rasai.



**Alano di
 Piave**
 Grappa

Graffito
 Graffito

937
 2010



Ten Tiersacchi
Cav. Pad...
IV° GRUPPO
AUTOCANNONI DA 102
5 – 7 – 918
MB
13° DA 105

Lieutenant Tiersacchi
Cav. Pad...
4th AUTOCANNONI GROUP CALIBRE 102
5 – 7 – 918
MB
13th Heavy Artillery Group 105

Su un osservatorio rivolto verso il settore Monte Pertica – Monte Prassolan all'interno della Galleria V. E. III troviamo traccia del IV° Gruppo Autocannoni armato con cannoni da 102/35 mm di origine navale montati su autocarro SPA 9000. Il gruppo formato nel 1916 assieme al I° operò subito per fermare la Strafe Expedition. Nell'agosto del 1916, partecipò alla 6^a Battaglia dell'Isonzo. Alla ritirata di Caporetto il IV° Gruppo perde, alla stretta di Selisce, un autocannone. Riesce a passare il Piave e si pone nei pressi di Treviso. Partecipa alla difesa del Piave nella Battaglia del Solstizio, poi il 23 giugno assieme al V° e VI° sono sul Grappa. Ritornano sul Piave a disposizione della 3^a ed 8^a Armata per partecipare alla Battaglia di Vittorio Veneto. Tale osservatorio fu utilizzato anche dal 13° Gruppo di artiglieria pesante campale armato con cannoni calibro 105 mm. Il 13° era costituito dalla 37^a, 38^a e 39^a batteria. Assieme al 44° Gruppo costituiva il 15° Raggruppamento a diretta disposizione del VI° Corpo d'Armata dell' Armata del Grappa.

On an observation post directed towards Mt Pertica and Mt Prassolan, inside the Vittorio Emanuele III Gallery, we find traces of the 4th Autocannoni Group armed with calibre 102.35mm cannons of naval origin mounted on a SPA9000 lorry. The Group was found in 1916 and together with the 1st Group, it acted immediately to hold back the Strafe Expedition. In August 1916 the Group takes part in the 6th Battle of the river Isonzo. At the retreat of Caporetto they lose a cannon by the Selisce's strait then manage to cross the river Piave and settle near Treviso. They participate in the Battle of the Solstice in defence of the Piave and on June 23rd they move to Mt Grappa with the 4th and 5th Groups. In October 1918 they return to the Piave to share in the battle of Vittorio Veneto with the 3rd and 8th Army. This observation post was also used by the 13th heavy artillery field Group armed with calibre 105mm cannons. The 13th Group was formed by the 37th, 38th and 39th Batteries. Together with the 44th Group they made up the 15th Grouping who were at the service of the 6th Army Corps of the Mt Grappa Army.



..WELTKRIEG

1918

GOT

..GUERRA MONDIALE

1918

DIO

..WORD WAR

1918

GOD

Questo graffito, lasciato sul cemento, incompleto testimonia la presenza delle truppe asburgiche nel settore della Valle dello Stizzone – Monte Peurna sul Massiccio del Grappa. Da testimonianze raccolte da persone locali, probabilmente abbelliva un serbatoio idrico che raccoglieva acqua da una sorgente naturale e che riforniva gli artiglieri delle batterie di artiglieria che sparavano verso la cima del Monte Grappa. Oggi questo serbatoio è scomparso. Essendo la scritta incompleta non si conosce il reparto che realizzò il manufatto né tantomeno il suo significato completo.

This incomplete graffiti was left on concrete proving the presence of the Austro-Hungarian troops in the Stizzone valley, around Mt Peurna on the Grappa Mountain Range. According to local knowledge it would probably decorate a natural spring-water tank which was used by the soldiers of the artillery batteries shooting towards the peak of Mt Grappa. No traces remain of this water tank today. Since the graffiti was never completed, it is impossible to identify the Unit who wrote it nor its full meaning.



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Seren del
Grappa

Grappa

Graffito

Graffito

957

2010