



Antifascist City Walk

Klagenfurt/Celovec



Intro

The relatively small capital of Carinthia is littered with memorials. This brochure sets out to shed some discriminating light on Klagenfurt's memorial landscape for visitors of the city as well as to confront people with the city's largely "forgotten" national-socialist history, which continues into the present.

To date, Carinthia's historiography has been heavily marked by German nationalism on the one hand and anti-Slav sentiments on the other. It revolves around what is known as the *Kärntner Abwehrkampf* (Carinthian defence fight): After World War I had ended a border conflict, not unusual for the day, led to a people's referendum in which the majority of the people of the disputed area of South Carinthia chose to stay under Austrian sovereignty on 10 October 1920, mainly for economic reasons.

Anti-Slav sentiments and the German-nationalist ideology proved fertile soil for national-socialist organisations, which soon began to sprout up in Carinthia. Thus, the 1938 *Anschluss* (the 1938 "annexation" of Austria into "Greater Germany" by the Nazi regime) did not constitute a rupture of any kind in Carinthian history. Nazi ideologies presented a logical continuation for the region and its population of whom many were already active in Nazi organisations. A history that, even after the liberation by the Allies in 1945, would continue: as soon as the 1950s, many former national-socialists were reinstated and they soon returned to positions of high social and political standing. This coincided with the erection of a lot of revisionist memorials commemorating the "victims" – on the national-socialist side – of World War II. In stark contrast, the victims of the national-socialist regime of terror received little to no attention. Erecting memorials for these victims often took years of struggle on the part of anti-fascist move-



ments. Today, anti-fascist memorials continue to be targets of desecration, whereas German-nationalist symbols still form the centre of grandiose celebrations.

Because listing all the memorials in Klagenfurt/Celovec would have been impossible, we want to mention the few anti-fascist memorial sites that exist in Carinthia today: The memorial commemorating the victims of ➤

➤ the Nazi Euthanasia Programme on the premises of the State Hospital Klagenfurt, the memorial for the victims of national-socialism on St. Veiter Ring in front of the Slovenian cultural house Hermagoras, the memorial for the resistance fighters against the national-socialists and the victims of national-socialism at the Annabichl cemetery, the memorial for the victims of national-socialism in front of the University of Klagenfurt and the memorial for the Carinthian partisans on Peršmanhof.

★ We want to raise the issue of nazi perpetration history, which without fail disregards its victims, for each stone-hewn instance of it.

★ We want to call attention to places that, by remembering victims and the Nazi perpetrations, prevent both from being forgotten!

How to read this brochure:

This brochure covers three topical sections:

★ **German nationalist/far-right wing memorials**

★ **Sites of national-socialist terror**

★ **Jewish Klagenfurt/Celovec**

Each section is numbered. The brochure includes three suggestions for city walks through Klagenfurt, corresponding to the different numbers.

Our city walk is most certainly not intended to aid digestion!

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German nationalist/far-right wing memorials

1 Memorial for the victims of the partisans (Denkmal für die Opfer der Partisanen)

Not one visitor of this memorial site should get the impression that it is in memory of the Carinthian partisans that were killed in battle or executed in their fight for liberation from the Nazi regime. This memorial, quite contrary, keeps alive the myth of “Carinthians who were abducted by Yugoslav partisans”. It distorts the anti-fascist struggle of the Carinthian partisans, denouncing it as an unjustified act of aggression against the “helpless” Carinthian people, while actual Nazi crimes against the Slovenian-speaking population, such as the forced emigration and deportation of more than 900 persons, are whitewashed – a historical misrepresentation that is common throughout Carinthia. The arrest of some 250 individuals by the Yugoslav army, most of them markedly active national-socialists, around a third of whom would never return, was used by German-nationalist organisations to propagate an ideologically motivated reversal of the roles of oppressor and victim.

The quadrangular chunk of stone on the centrally located Domplatz, erected in 1990 and expanded in 2002, forms the centre of regular pompous ceremonies by the far right organisations of the *Kärntner Heimatdienst* (KHD, literally: “Carinthian homeland service”) and its no less German-nationalist sister organisation, the *Kärntner Abwehrkämpferbund* (KAB, “Carinthian defence fighter association”), remembering the victims of the partisan “terror against Carinthia”.

The office of the KAB, the biggest and most influential German-nationalist movement in Carinthia apart from the *Kärntner Heimatdienst*, is located



on Domplatz directly opposite the memorial. Behind a façade of endeavouring to uphold regional traditions, it plays a significant role in the German-nationalist oriented Carinthian political landscape, for example by preventing further dissemination of bilingual town boundary signs. In a publication by the *Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance* is defined as an organisation in the milieu of far-right extremism.

Whereas this memorial remembers Carinthian national-socialists, there is hardly a memorial in Carinthia marking the antifascist struggle of the only armed resistance organisation Austria had – the Carinthian partisans. One exception is the Peršman memorial.

German nationalist/far-right wing memorials





2 Site of Carinthian Unity (Stätte der Kärntner Einheit)

Since 1998 the Landhaushof forms the location of the central memorial site of the German-nationalist and veterans associations – *Kärntner Abwehrkämpferbund* (KAB), *Kärntner Heimatdienst* (KHD), the *Ulrichsberggemeinschaft* (UBG) and the *Österreichischer Kameradschaftsbund* (ÖKB).

The memorial remembers the heroic defence of German Carinthia against Slovenia from the “Carinthian defence fight” up to today. Four broken-off pillars symbolise “freedom, encounter, unity and peace”. The *Ulrichsberggemeinschaft*, for example, puts it this way: “Das Recht auf Selbstbestimmung der Völker erhielt uns die ungeteilte Heimat Kärnten” (The people’s right of self-determination preserved an undivided Carinthia for us).

The *site of the Carinthian Unity* continues to be the stage for official German-nationalist ceremonies, such as the annual remembrance of the people’s referendum of 10 October 1920. They serve to sustain anti-Slav sentiments, and to this day uphold a sense of Slovenian threat being posed to Carinthia – the most-used example being the purported Slovenian efforts to have bilingual town boundary signs erected.



DAS RECHT AUF
SELBSTBESTIMMUNG
DER VÖLKER
ERHIELT UNS
DIE
UNGETEILTE
HEIMAT
KÄRNTEN

German nationalist/far-right wing memorials





3 Kreuzbergl – “State memorial site” and site of firing squad executions

To the northwest of the Klagenfurt city centre, at the end of Radetzkystraße, the State memorial site Kreuzbergl is located, a converted Way of the Cross, built in the mid 1950s to remember “all the victims of the wars” and dedicated in 1959. This site constitutes a unification of Christian and national-socialist symbolism: The sufferings of Jesus are used as an analogy to those of “the everyman battlefield soldier”, “the submarine sailor” and “the unknown soldier”. Even the generalising definition of a “memorial to all victims of national-socialism” right at the first station of the cross, led to an outcry among dismayed supporters. Every year in October, a remembrance ceremony takes place here, organised by the “Freunde der Landesgedächtnisstätte” (friends of the State memorial site), with the participation of the Austrian army.

In an especially cruel twist, the State memorial site is located in the immediate vicinity of the execution site on Kreuzbergl, which the Nazi judiciary used to have their convicted shot. Even in the last months of the war, death sentences were carried out at this site – under the title “army personnel executed” the files of the cemetery office of the Celovec/Klagenfurt magistrate mention 16 executions having taken place from September 1944. Most likely the last victim was 24-year-old partisan Ivan Podbevšek/Johann Podbeuschek, who was shot on 2 May 1945. The premises, which also served as an army training site during the second republic, is abandoned today. In 2006 a group of youths occupied the vacant buildings and temporarily turned Kreuzbergl into an autonom centre of culture.

German nationalist/far-right wing memorials

4 Ulrichsberg

Each September sees a gathering of former soldiers of the German “Wehrmacht” and SS-soldiers, war criminals, neo-nazis, young and old right wingers with their families, dead “normal” Carinthians and a great deal of political prominents at the memorial erected in 1958 at the Ulrichsberg, just a stone’s throw north of Klagenfurt. The ruins of an old gothic church contain plaques in honour of a plethora of national-socialist organisations as well as the Carinthian victims of both world wars and of the “Carinthian defence fight” - victims in this case meaning patriotic, strapping German soldiers and *Trümmerfrauen* (rubble women), and not the thousands of deported and murdered Carinthian Slovenians, Jews, communists, disabled, homosexuals...

Apart from the plaques for the Red Cross and the Austrian army – which continue to support the ceremonies – there also is a plaque of the *Kameradschaft IV*, the association of SS soldiers, which by using the appendage IV attempts to establish itself as part of the *Wehrmacht* and by doing so plays down its part in atrocious massacres and crimes.

Another plaque honours the Norwegian volunteers, who during World War II joined the SS as a volunteer division. Other plaques commemorate Spanish, Belgian, Dutch, and Latvian volunteers who participated in numerous war crimes and played a role in the murder of thousands of Jews.

The *Gebirgsjäger* (mountain soldiers) are also honoured on more than one plaque. They were deployed in Greece, amongst others, where they were responsible for numerous massacres during which entire villages were destroyed and their populations murdered under the cover of the fight against partisans.



The ceremonies and plaques come close to breaking the nazi prohibition laws. Examples are the nazi plaques at Ulrichsberg of which merely the swastika has been removed, and speeches like the one in 2005 on which occasion the president of the Ulrichsberg society, Rudolf Gallob, declared that the members of the *Waffen SS* were welcome at the Ulrichsberg. Moreover, wanted war criminals such as Sören Kam have been sighted during ceremonies at the Ulrichsberg, standing next to defence ministers and heads of the state government.

Since 2005 the *AK gegen den Kärntner Konsens* has made an effort to mobilise people to take part in protest actions against the Ulrichsberg gathering.

German nationalist/far-right wing memorials



5 Bleiburg

Mostly unnoticed by Austrian media or politics, every May thousands of people meet at the “Loibacher Feld” near Bleiburg/Pliberk in memorial of the “tragedy of Bleiburg”. On site you’ll immediately realize: This “memorial service” is rather one of the biggest fascist meetings in Austria. Hundreds of people in black Ustaša-uniforms, swinging the suiting flags are gathering in front of the site.

Together with Croatian government representatives and clerics they commemorate the fascist troops of the NDH-Regime.

However there was no central capitulation of the Ustaša-divisions in Bleiburg/Pliberk nor is it proved that shootings or mass killings by the Yugoslavian army took place there. The individual divisions were returned to Yugoslavia



after the capitulation. During this process killings and executions occurred. Current research assumes that several tenthousand people died. In Croatia high tendentious phrases like “Way of the Cross” or “death marches” found their way into common language.

After the collapse of the Yugoslavian state the Ustaša-exile-associations got a significant boost since they considered the independent state of Croatia to be in direct continuity to the NDH-state. This idea was also supported by the government of Tuđman. Despite the official commitment to antifascism in the Croatian constitution Ustaša-symbols and Ustaša-ideology were used. Especially during the war between 1991-1995 croatian officials sought for positive reference to the NDH-State. Only after the death of Tuđman and the beginning rapprochement to the EU, parts of the Croatian society tried to deal with the NDH-legacy in an more critical way.

The debate around World War II came to a climax in the “case Šakić”. The former camp commander of the concentration camp Jasenovac, Dinko Šakić participated in the Ustaša-meeting in Bleiburg/Pliberik in 1990. Four years later he met president Tuđman in Argentina, who signaled him to have a “right” to come back to Croatia, since he was “a victim of historical circumstances” In 1999 Šakić got sentenced to maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment in Zagreb.

Another wanted war criminal who is still waiting for atonment is Milivoj Ašner, former Ustaša-police chief in Požega. Until now he succeeds to abscond Croatian justice. He lives a quiet life in Klagenfurt/Celovec - undisturbed, since Austrian authorities consider him incapable of being interrogated. During the European Soccer Championship he talked openly with a SUN-reporter and declared that he is “ready anytime to make a statement in front of the law”.

Sites of national-socialist terror

6 “Alte Burg“(old castle) – Headquarters of the Gestapo

No plaque commemorates the fact that the rooms of the former *Alte Burg* housed the Klagenfurt Gestapo branch office, after the original offices in the building of the Carinthian state government had soon become too small. Whereas the majority of the prisoners were quartered in the building of today's regional court prison (see below), this was the place where the civil servants who devoted their time to *Bandenbekämpfung* (fight against partisans), monitoring “political enemies”, or the persecution of Jews resided. From here the subordinate Gestapo offices in Lienz, Spittal an der Drau, Dravograd (Unterdrauburg), Villach/Beljak and later also in smaller bases such as Ferlach/Borovlje were coordinated. Furthermore, the Gestapo had an extensive web of spies – often prisoners would be blackmailed into spying. Not least, the sheer power of the Gestapo arose from its right to perform arrests without limitation and the right to have *Schutzhäftlinge* (literally: prisoners in protective custody) sent off to a concentration camp. Forced labourers from Eastern Europe could even be sentenced to death and executed. The Gestapo played a decisive part in the national-socialist terror apparatus against Jews and Slovenians as well as “political enemies”.

Today the former offices of the Gestapo employees and the interrogation rooms are used by civil servants to administrate culture in Carinthia.

7 Gestapo and Gau prison

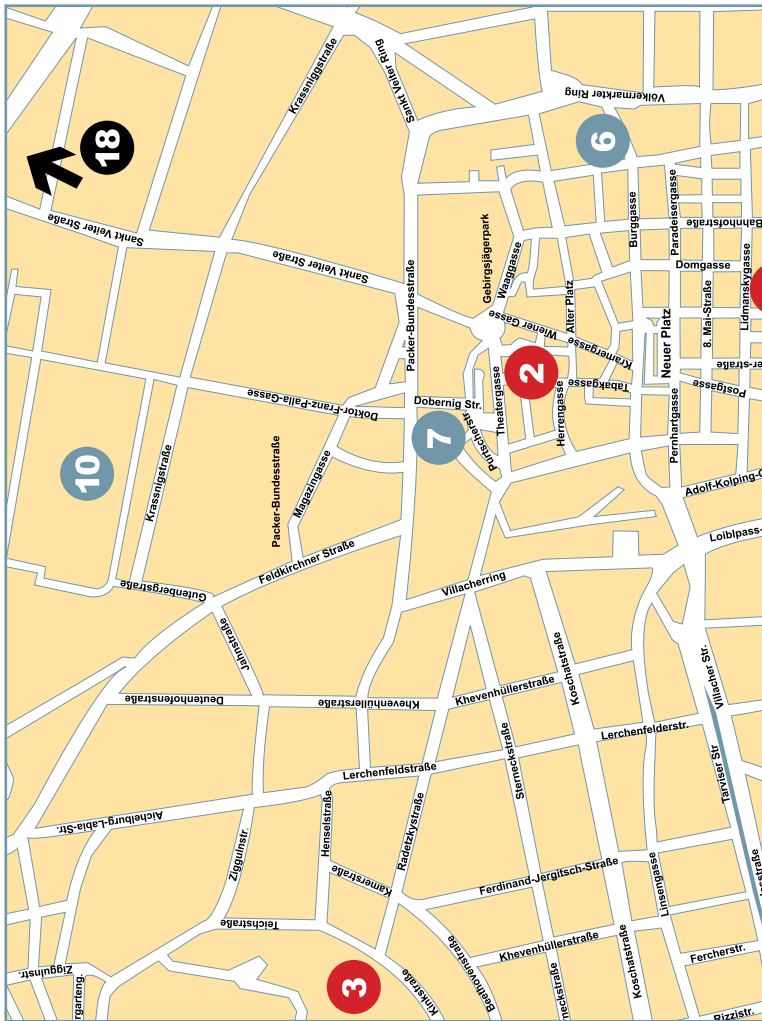
The building at Putschergasse 2 can look back upon continuous usage: In what is today's State court prison, the second floor housed the Gestapo



prison from 1938 to 1945, in which both Jews and political adversaries and supporters of the partisans (also from the area of today's Slovenia) were kept locked up under the most gruelling of circumstances. During the arrest wave following Austria's *Anschluss* to Nazi Germany, and in the course of the "aryanisation programme" many Jews were imprisoned here. For many prisoners, this was the starting point for deportation to Dachau and other concentration camps. Others were awaiting a trial, the outcome of which was known in advance. Increased fighting by the partisans meant overcrowding at the prison took on dramatical proportions, eventually leading to a directive to "shoot all wounded partisans on the spot". To date, the number of people kept captive here during Nazi rule remains unknown.

The rest of the building served as a *Gaugefängnis*, a local prison, in which prisoners of the Nazi judiciary were kept.

As all too often in Klagenfurt/Celovec, the building carries no visible signs of its horrifying past...



18

6

10

7

2

3



Sankt Veiter Straße

Krassniggstraße
Sankt Veiter Ring

Völkermärker Ring

Sankt Veiter Straße

Gebirgsjägerpark

Walgasse

Burggasse

Paradeisergasse

Bahnhofstraße

Domgasse

8. Mai-Straße

Lidmanskýgasse

erstraße

Postgasse

Adolf-Kolping-C

Loibpass

Doktor-Franz-Palla-Gasse

Dobernig Str.

Wiener Gasse

Alter Platz

Kramergasse

Tabakgasse

Herrengasse

Neuer Platz

Pernhartgasse

Postgasse

Adolf-Kolping-C

Loibpass

Krassniggstraße

Packer-Bundesstraße

Magazingasse

Feldkirchner Straße

Gutenbergsstraße

Jainstraße

Deutenhofenstraße

Khevenhüllerstraße

Villacherring

Khevenhüllerstraße

Koschatstraße

Lerchenfelderstr.

Archelburg-Laba-Str.

Zigguinstr.

Henselstraße

Raderkystraße

Ferdinand-Jergitsch-Straße

Linseingasse

Villacher Str.

Tarviser Str.

Zigguinstr.

Teichstraße

Kamerstraße

Kinkstraße

Beckstraße

Meckstraße

Koschatstraße

Koschatstraße

Fercherstr.

Rizzistr.

Route 1:

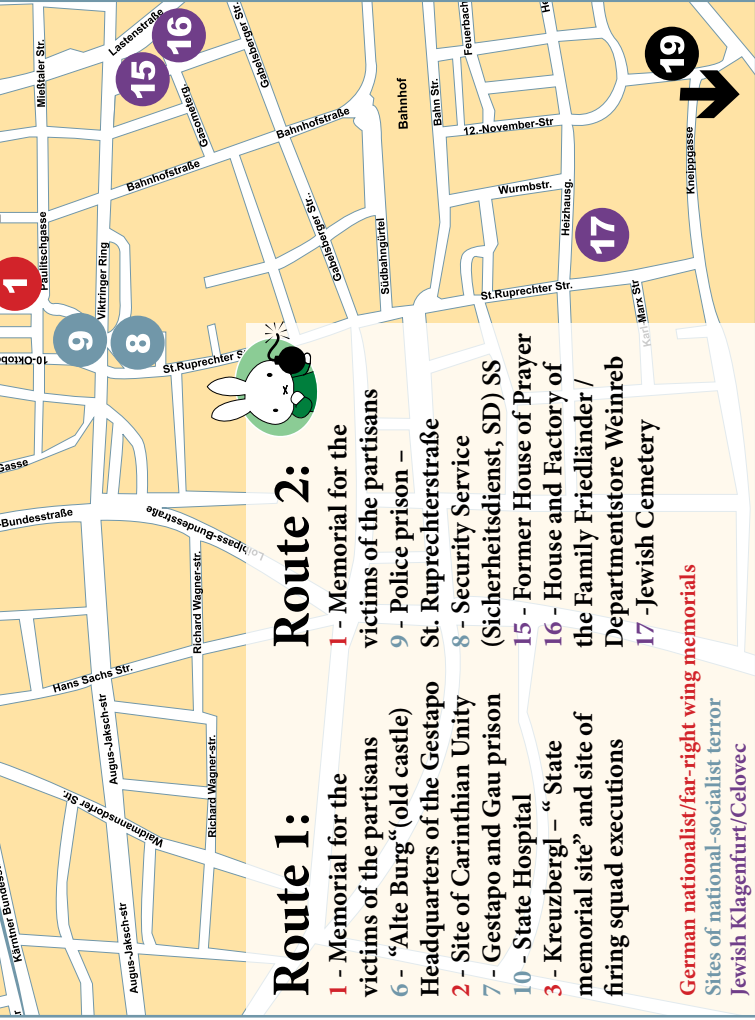
- 1 - Memorial for the victims of the partisans
- 6 - "Alte Burg" (old castle) Headquarters of the Gestapo
- 2 - Site of Carinthian Unity
- 7 - Gestapo and Gau prison
- 10 - State Hospital
- 3 - Kreuzbergl – "State memorial site" and site of firing squad executions

Route 2:

- 1 - Memorial for the victims of the partisans
- 9 - Police prison – St. Rupprechterstraße
- 8 - Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD) SS
- 15 - Former House of Prayer
- 16 - House and Factory of the Family Friedländer / Departmentstore Weinreb
- 17 - Jewish Cemetery



German nationalist/far-right wing memorials
Sites of national-socialist terror
Jewish Klagenfurt/Celovec



Sites of national-socialist terror

8 Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD) SS

The Security Service (SD) was established in 1931 by Himmler and was originally intended to act as the NSDAP's internal intelligence organisation. Later it became instrumental in the surveillance of political adversaries.

The SD had an extensive network of spies and liaison people and cooperated closely with the Gestapo – at the same time monitoring it closely, as with all other party organisations.

During the Nuremberg trials, the SD was denounced as an SS organisation. After 1945, some SD members resurfaced in Western secret services. The SD had two branch offices in Klagenfurt/Celovec: one in Fromillerstrasse, behind today's *Bundespolizeidirektion* (federal police directorate), which was in charge of coordinating activities, and a field office in Pernhartgasse.

9 Police prison – St. Ruprechterstraße

The building in St. Ruprechterstraße, nowadays housing *Bundespolizeidirektion Klagenfurt*, used to be the national-socialist police prison. Up to today, a prison still exists on the premises: the *Polizeianhaltezentrum* (literally: police custodial centre).

On 19 February 1945, the police prison was hit during an air raid in which more than 30 people were killed, among them resistance fighters and forced labourers.



10 State Hospital

Even before the period of National Socialism the idea of terminating “worthless life” was talked about openly in juridical and medical magazines. In the NS period economical reasons were used as primary argument for “forced euthanasia”. The mentally and physically handicapped were merely called a „cost factor“ and as such useless for the “community“. A further reason given was the „elimination of hereditary diseases and bad genes“. In Carinthia almost a thousand persons were murdered and even more transported to “euthanasia facilities“ like the one in Hartheim near Linz, and murdered there as part of the NS Euthanasia Programme.

Even in the hospital itself approx. once a week critically ill persons were murdered in the so-called *Gausiechenhaus*, today the geriatrics department in the Krassnigstraße. After the stop of “euthanasia“ was demanded mainly in Catholic circles, the mass murdering of the mentally ill was reorganised. From 1942 on it took place in decentralised hospitals – namely anywhere staff would consent to do it. This was also the case in Klagenfurt’s *Gaukrankenhaus*. At the beginning, the senior psychiatrist Dr. Franz Niedermoser ➤



Sites of national-socialist terror

► had people killed by injection in the psychiatric department of the hospital itself, later on they were sent to the *Siechenhaus*' rear building in groups, where the murderings attracted a lot less attention. In addition hundreds of forced sterilisations and forced abortions took place in Klagenfurt's Hospital. On the one hand this was done in order to avoid the female forced labourer's absence due to pregnancy, on the other hand to avoid the spreading of "hereditary disease". Among others Dr. Franz Palla. was responsible for the forced sterilisations and forced abortions. Unlike Dr. Franz Niedermoser he was never put to trial, instead, a street was named after him in the immediate vicinity of the state hospital which still bears that name today.

Since the mid 80s efforts have been made to bring back to mind the "forgotten" victims of NS medicine. In 1988, as part of the effort to make the psychiatry more open and transparent, a monument was inaugurated on the grounds of the state hospital to commemorate the victims. The memorial with the writing "for the victims of national-socialism in Klagenfurt's psychiatry" at Klagenfurt/Celovec's state hospital is one of the few exceptions in the context of Carinthias remembrance policy in that it remembers actual victims.

11 Ebenthal/Žrelec camp

Immediately after Austria's *Anschluss* to Nazi Germany, persecution of politically active Carinthian Slovenians, priests, and functionaries of Slovenian cultural institutions began in Carinthia. They were held in custody at the Gestapo prison and partly deported to concentration camps.

From 1941 – when Yugoslavia entered the war, joining the allied forces – repression gained the upper hand, culminating in the forced deportation



of more than 900 Carinthian Slovenians. Their deportation was aimed at extinguishing the Slovenian population on the one hand, and at creating space to facilitate the settlement of German-speaking people from the Val Canale on the other.

The deported were shipped off to the Ebenthal/Žrelec camp of the *Reichsarbeitsdienst* (RAD, Reich Labour Service) and then on to work and concentration camps.

Upon their return in July 1945, those who survived were cooped up in the Jesuit barracks at Domplatz (see also Memorial for the victims of the Carinthian partisans), before they were allowed to return to their homes.

To date, the historical fact of the deportation of Carinthian Slovenians has been given little attention if any at all. Among other things, memorials and commemorative signs pointing out the fact that almost 1,000 people were deported into forced labour or death from here are altogether missing at the location of the camp, Ebenthalerstraße. Nor is there any sign of these atrocities at Domplatz.

12 Waidmannsdorf Camp – Forgotten Forced Labour

The Waidmannsdorf district in the southwest of Klagenfurt/Celovec is what one would call a “good neighbourhood”. Nothing reminds of the fact that this was the site of a vast National-socialist camp where so-called „foreign civil workers“, forced labourers, and war prisoners were put up. As historic research has paid little attention to it so far not even the exact location of the camp site or the number of inmates is known.

Sites of national-socialist terror



Rajmund Pajer, who survived the Lendorf concentration camp, at the remembrance ceremony 2007.

13 Lendorf Barracks – SS-Junker School & Concentration Camp

The buildings of the former Lendorf Barracks which are used by the Austrian Armed Forces under the name of Khevenhüllerkaserne (Khevenhüller Barracks) today, used to be SS barracks along with a “junker school” (one of four elite schools for SS officer cadets in the then “German Reich”) and a concentration camp forming part of the Mauthausen complex. The 80 to 130 inmates had to do forced labour in the streets of Klagenfurt/Celovec many a time – nevertheless the concentration camp was “forgotten” after 1945. Only since 2007 (!) a memorial plaque at the entrance of the barracks reminds of the building’s national-socialist past. It also took until 2007 for the national-



socialist fresco in the barracks' dining room to be “mitigated”. A glass slab with the writing “This picture mirrors the national-socialist regime. Its defeat brought Austria peace. To protect this peace is the responsibility of the Austrian Armed Forces” was placed above the picture, which shows a soldier in the uniform of the *Waffen-SS*. The removal of the fresco was not deemed possible on the part of the Austrian Armed Forces due to regulations regarding protection of historic sites and monuments. At least this opportunity was used to remove some of the Nazi devotional objects displayed in the barracks' cabinets.

Former volunteer SS soldiers from half of Europe, who were accommodated at the Lendorfkaserne, have been remembering their garrison town “in gratitude” a lot longer at the Ulrichsberg celebrations.

14 Loibl Concentration Camp – A Laboratory of National Remembrance Culture

The former concentration camp right at today's Austrian/Slovenian border used to be part of the concentration camp Mauthausen. From 1943 onwards prisoners had to slave at the Loibl Tunnel's gallery under inhumane circumstances. As the tunneling was undertaken from both sides simultaneously, part of the prisoners had to march northwards across the mountain pass on a daily basis for the first few months. As from autumn 1943 prisoners were moved to the newly built camp at the Loibl's northern face, which was even more feared than the camp at the southern face due to its worse weather conditions and even worse working conditions. On top of deathly forced labour, there was the SS guards' violence, who liked to torture the prisoners for their own amusement. Most of the time prisoners who were deemed ➤

Sites of national-socialist terror



► unfit for work, were transported to Mauthausen to face certain death; many however were also murdered directly at Loibl concentration camp by an injection of gasoline into the heart. These murders were done by Sigbert Ramsauer. Despite all of this a resistance group emerged in the camp, which managed to smuggle messages to the outside. Time and again attempts to escape were successful. Prisoners who could be freed mostly joined the resistance on their part.

The physician Dr. Ramsauer was sentenced to life imprisonment by a British court martial in 1947, however was granted a reprieve as early as 1954 and was released. He opened a surgery in Klagenfurt/Celovec. Two SS men,



Winkler and Briezke, were sentenced to death. Paul Gruschwitz, the commander of the northern camp was sentenced to 12 years. Karl Sachse, the rapport leader was sentenced to 20 years – both however were released as early as 1955.

These days Loibl concentration camp provides an extremely interesting opportunity of comparing Austria's remembrance culture with Slovenia's (former Yugoslavia respectively) remembrance culture: Whereas in the south, the former camp's grounds were preserved and a large, multilingual monument reminds of the

former concentration camp, in the north only those can find traces of the camp, who know what they are looking for. As a result of the initiative shown by concerned individuals who also organise the yearly commemoration – there are by now at least two large boards with sketches and explanatory notes behind the former customs house. The camp's grounds themselves however are still overgrown by forest. A small plaque at the tunnel entry reminds of the French and Polish forced labourers who were tortured and killed here.





Foto: Nadja Danglmaier

15 Former Jewish House of Prayer

The only thing left reminding of Klagenfurt's Jewish community in Platzgasse 3, which counted between 250 and 300 members in 1938, is a memorial stone at the edge of a parking lot. The building was adapted as a house of prayer by the Carinthian Jews at the beginning of the 1920s. Community members from the whole province gathered here on festive days. The rabbi's dwelling was on the first floor. During the interwar period this position was held by Ignaz Hauser (as from 1923) and Joseph Babad (as from 1935). Both managed to leave the country and went to the USA in 1938. In the course of the November pogrom the building was the first target of marauding gangs which terrorised the Jewish community. Furniture and objects were systematically smashed and thrown into the streets, the books burnt. Im-



mediately after the *Anschluss* the Gestapo had confiscated the building and the state-run anti-semitic terror had begun. Already in March 1938 many of Klagenfurt's Jewish men and some Jewish women were arrested, many of them were deported to Dachau and held for several weeks or months. Jewish youths were forbidden attend to higher schools, the systematic plundering of the propertied class began. Most of the Carinthian Jews were forced to relocate to Vienna in the course of the same year, where many of them were deported to concentration camps and extermination camps. An incomplete (!) list (Walzl 1988) shows that at least 48 of Klagenfurt's community members were murdered during the Shoa. Klagenfurt's Jewish community was never rebuilt after 1945 – too few Jewish men and women had survived in Austria or wanted to return to the anti-semitic climate. The building in Platzgasse 3 was destroyed by a bomb during the Second World War.

16 House and Factory of the Family Friedländer / Departmentstore Weinreb

Elias Friedländer's dwelling house and knitwear factory used to be in the Gabelsbergerstraße 15, not far away from the Platzgasse, just a short way towards the station. The Friedländers' factory building was the W.I.Z.O's (Women's International Zionist Organisation) domicile. Here, they gave weekly talks or hosted cultural and social events, an important gathering point for Celovec/Klagenfurt's Jewish community. However, there is nothing left to be seen of the house today: There is a parking lot on the factory premises, and the Friedländers' former dwelling house is now a Chinese restaurant.

The Friedländer family played an active role in Klagenfurt's communal life. Elias' sister Lotte (mar. Weinreb) shall be mentioned representatively. ➤

Jewish Klagenfurt/Celovec

➤ She was active in the Zionist movement until her escape to Palastine. Under the enormous pressure of Eichmann's emigration policy, she tried to save as many people as possible. The Weinreb's departmentstore in Platzgasse 14 (today Gasometergasse 6) was "taken over" or, rather, violently occupied as early as the 22 March 1938 by the NSBO (*Nationalsozialistische Betriebszellenorganisation*, predecessor of the *Deutschen Arbeitsfront*, DAF= German Labour Front), or rather violently occupied. A "provisional leader" was imposed, cash and bank accounts were seized. The company was liquidised hereafter.

The *Kärntner Heimatbund* (KHB), the national-socialist predecessor organisation of today's KHD (*Kärntner Heimatdienst*), "arianised" the building in Gasometergasse 6.

17 Jewish Cemetery



The Jewish cemetery which was laid out in 1895 is in the municipality of St. Ruprecht (southeast of the city centre) – anyone who would like to visit it has to get the key from Klagenfurt's municipal administration (Presidium or cemetery board) before, as the cemetery is surrounded by a high wall and locked at all times. Jewish men and women were already being buried outside the Christian cemetery's walls even before the area was officially made a Jewish cemetery. A plaque from 1926 reminds of the burial of



Jewish soldiers and a nurse, who died during the First World War. In 1938 the cemetery was not destroyed by the national-socialists. Merely bomb hits damaged the grounds. In 1958 the cemetery was given back to the *Chewra Kadischa*, the Jewish burial society which had been reestablished in 1948. However *Chewra Kadischa* did not have the funds for the renovation. In 1959 Emil Preis, one of its leading proponents, turned to the city for help, who in turn assessed the grounds' land tenure and established that the cemetery had formally always been communal property. On 3 July 1964 the local council finally decided to renovate the cemetery. The city has since taken over the care of the grounds whilst the *Israelite Religious Community Graz* is responsible for burials. However many of the, approx. 140 grave stones, which give a specific overview of the history of the Jewish community in Celovec/Klagenfurt, are strongly weathered (again) nowadays.

Cemetery



18 Annabichl Cemetery

The majority of those murdered in Klagenfurt/Celovec during National Socialism were buried in the Annabichl Cemetery, which was founded in 1902, in the Northern part of the city; mainly in areas I and IV which were paupers' graves at the time. The graves of approx. 1000 victims of national-socialism were in their majority abandoned, reallocated and relet – unlike



the military personnel's graves. Up to now approx. 700 names of those buried here are known. They were mainly victims of euthanasia, forced labour or military jurisdiction; or they were resistance fighters murdered by the national-socialists.

In the centre of the cemetery is a huge memorial site which was built in 1987. Underneath a pagoda-like wooden roof, there is a bronze plaque with all the names of the military personnel who are buried here. Among them German, Slavic, Italian and other names. There is no possibility to determine, who of them fought for or against National Socialism.

The military cemetery stretches past this memorial site and leads to a further memorial: There is a red star on top of a large stone on which is written in Cyrillic writing: "Here lie the soldiers of the Soviet Army who died in action during the Fatherland War 1941-1945. Rest in peace." Further at the back, there is a small British Army cemetery.

Time and again deployments are staged at the large Annabichl Cemetery with its thousands of graves. Every year on 10 of October for example, on which "the fight for the German unity of Carinthia against the Slavic threat" during the *Kärntner Abwehrkampf* from 1918 to 1920 is commemorated.

More space was demanded for these deployments in the course of a reorganisation of the memorial site – this space was made by covering up hundreds of graves with stone slabs. This way Carinthian notable politicians and Austrian Armed Forces celebrate the German nationalist victory over the "Slavic threat" on top of hundreds of Russians', Serbians', Slovenians' and Soviets' graves every year.

Memorial for the partisans

19 Peršmanhof in Koprein-Petzen/Koprivna pod Peco

The Peršmanhof near Eisenkappl/Želenzna kapla accommodates the only museum in Carinthia which is dedicated to the the partisans' antifascist fight. Paying a visit is highly recommended!

(Tel.: +43 (0) 4238/25060, <http://www.persman.at>)

On 25 April 1945 the courtyard was the scene of one of the last huge war crimes in the region when a SS police unit committed a massacre there, murdering 11 members of the Sadovnik family and the Kogoj family. The partisans – the NS henchmen's alleged target – had already moved on or retreated when the units approached.





A small bronze memorial which shows three partisans found its new place in front of the small museum. Its history is typical for the way Carinthians officials deal with the antifascist tradition: Originally the memorial was erected at the St. Ruprecht Cemetery near Völkermarkt/Št. Rupert pri Velikovcu but some citizens of Carinthia „faithful to their country“ (i.e. German nationalists) resorted to the use of explosives in 1953 to end the „provocation“. Thirty years later the partisan association (*Partisanen Verband*) finally reerected the memorial without any communal aid in front of the secluded Peršmanhof this time. In 1962 the Austrian Republic – which by paragraph 19 of the state treaty is obliged to preserve the graves and memorials of allies and partisans – had an “innocuous” bowl commemorating the victims placed on top of the now way oversized pedestal at the graves of the 83 resistance fighters buried in St. Ruprecht.



SOURCES:

- Nadja Danglmaier, Helge Stromberger: Orte der nationalsozialistischen Gewalt in Klagenfurt. 2006. (Part 1: http://www1.yadvashem.org/education/german/bogrimklagenfurt_teil1.pdf, Part 2: http://www1.yadvashem.org/education/german/bogrimklagenfurt_teil2.pdf)
- <http://www.kdu.at>
- August Walzl: Die Juden in Kärnten und das Dritte Reich. 1987. Klagenfurt
- <http://www.u-berg.at>



Route 3

1 - Memorial for the victims of the partisans

9 - Police prison – St. Ruprechterstraße

8 - Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst, SD) SS

16 - House and Factory of

the Family Friedländer / Departmentstore Weinreb

15 - Former House of Prayer

6 - “Alte Burg“(old castle)

Headquarters of the Gestapo

2 - Site of Carinthian Unity

7 - Gestapo and Gau prison

German nationalist/far-right wing memorials

Sites of national-socialist terror

Jewish Klagenfurt/Celovec