Croatia and the First World War
1914-1918 | 2014-2018

Action plan for commemorating the First World War Centenary

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“September 1914

Report of the department command of the V Army dated 2 September 1914, losses: 14,300 soldiers, of which 8,800 wounded and 5,500 dead or missing. Estimate (based on experience): of 8,800 wounded 1/3 have died, i.e. 2,930; 8,800 + 2,930 = 11,730 bloody losses. The rest (14,300 – 11,730) = 2,570 missing, i.e. are on enemy territory: wounded, dead, captured, massacred. Around 9,000 wounded, 3,000 dead and over 2,000 missing – more than 14.000 soldiers.”

Dnevnici austro-ugarskog generala Maksimilijana Čičerića 1892. – 1918. Dnevnik 1914. – 1918. I. svjetski rat, [Diaries of the Austro-Hungarian general Maximilian Čičerić 1892 – 1918. Diary 1914 – 1918 First World War], Danijela Marjanić (prep.), Zagreb: Croatian State Archives, 2012, p. 7.

* * *

“You are called to fulfil the most beautiful, holiest and sublime duty of Your life. You are called to defend Your homeland, Your woman, Your elders, parents and Your children. You are called to protect and defend the throne of your gray ruler, Your good Emperor-King.”

Put do pobjede. Sastavljen za podčasnike i momčad sviju četa hrvatske krvi [Path to Victory. Compiled for the NCOs and troops of all companies of Croatian blood], Zagreb 1916, p. 7.

* * *

“In cover lies something resembling a man. It claws with its arms and legs. Comically, like a puppet when one pulls its hidden strings. Sometimes the chest twitches. The medic has turned the body over on its stomach. Where there used to be a nape a few minutes ago, there is now some kind of black wad, out of which protrudes some hair and a piece of collar. They took out the body wrapped in tent canvas like a pile of linen. Half an hour later they handed over the tin “death certificate” to the cadet. Home Guardsman Imro X., born 1876, village so-and-so, district this-and-that…“ He died in transfer to the dressing station. In his pockets were found a small medal of St Mary of Bistrica, an already-illegible letter written in pencil, ten crowns in paper and some small change.”

Josip HORVAT, *Živjeti u Hrvatskoj 1900-1941.* [Zapisci iz nepovrata To Live in Croatia 1900-1941. Records from the Abyss], Zagreb 1984, p. 62.

* * *

“We fall asleep crying, we wake up crying, we eat crying, thinking why doesn’t the earth open beneath us and swallow us up. **May God send war to those who still haven’t had enough of this bloodshed, and make them homeless**.”

Letter from a Hungarian peasant woman to her captured husband (Peter Hánák, *Povijest Mađarske* [History of Hungary], Zagreb 1995, p. 205).

* * *

“Where were you? In Hell. What did you get for it? A beaten back. What did you fight for? For nothing. Which state won? None of them – they all got a beaten back.”

Grga Turkalj–Guslar, *1609 dana na fronti* [1609 days at the front], Winnipeg 1930, p. 269.

* * *

"You are not democrats precisely **because you do not care for all that this terrible war did to our people**, particularly to our peasants.

You do not in the least bit look at how **our entire people, particularly the Croatian peasant people, have come to hate militarism from the bottom of their hearts**, so much that it cannot be expressed or described. (…)

You do not believe that our peasant was asleep before the war, and **that the same war has mercilessly stirred him, awakened him and made him human.**

You do not even begin to grasp how much courage and wisdom is shown when a hundred thousand or more Croatian peasants leave the front one by one and do not wish to return to it, (…) **only so that they do not have to bring their heads to the bazaar at the command of foreign overlords, ostensibly for the defence of the king and homeland**. (…)"

Stjepan Radić, *Govori u Hrvatskom saboru* [Speeches in the Croatian Parliament], vol. 3, Zagreb 1996, p. 264.

Photos of the 28th regiment in Eastern Europe 1917: left grave no. 398, Home Guardsman Avram Savić; right grave no. 397, Lieutenant Ljudevit Hiler. © Croatian State Archives, fund no. 1426. Album 18, photo no. 03922.

Why commemorate the First World War Centenary?

The First World War was the first global conflict with long-reaching consequences for the whole world. The military actions of both sides caused an unprecedented amount of material damage on the areas directly affected by their war, but also the economic collapse of the home front. This was accompanied by an unexpectedly high number of dead and wounded soldiers among all the belligerent sides, many of whom remained crippled for life despite medical care. Changed by the horrors of war, the former soldiers continued to shape the world, striving not to let such things happen again – at least not soon. This general line of thought, common during the first years of the war, was quickly replaced by completely different attitudes. Despite this, the First World War made a deep impression in the individual memories of all contemporaries and after it the world could never be the same again.

Countries with developed democracies incorporated the memories of the sacrifices made by men and women during the First World War into their national corpus. Due to a series of historical circumstances, Croatia has only now received the opportunity to do this. The Centenary is an opportunity to publically express piety towards all the victims of the First World War on the area of the Republic of Croatia, as well as towards those whose resting place lies on Croatian soil.

It is an opportunity to face and examine the political and moral, individual and collective catastrophe faced by Europe, with Croatia as one of its constituent parts, a hundred years ago. It is also an opportunity for Croatia, as a nationally mature country at the doorstep of entering the European Union, to show the courage and will to face its own past, no matter how unknown or poorly understood it may be.

Since, as far as we know, no Croatian body of state authority has posed the question of **commemorating the First World War Centenary (2014-2018) in the Republic of Croatia**, a group of individuals whose focus of professional activity is the First World War was formed in autumn 2012.

The incentive for the gathering was the call for Croatia to join the global project of projecting the names of the soldiers who died in the First World War. Unfortunately, we had to state that Croatia does not possess a list of casualties. Furthermore, Croatia does not even have an approximate estimate of losses during the First World War.

The sad fact that this situation was unlikely to change in the near future was an additional incentive for this action. Namely, there is no science project or separate institution which would systematically engage this issue and make up for the great scientific research deficit inherited from the past.

Almost fifty people knowledgeable on matters of the First World War have gathered around the initial core group, and include persons of various professions from various institutions, as well as independent enthusiasts. Scientists, university professors and museum employees make up the majority of this group. The Croatian Institute of History (HIP) has offered us coordinational support, while the Croatian National Committee for Historical Sciences (HNOPZ) and several professionals have supported our efforts.

The increase in the number of members resulted in the organizing of an Initiative Committee for the Commemoration of the First World War Centenary, whose goal is to encourage cultural and scientific institutions to cooperate, and then coordinate joint projects, so that Croatia can commemorate the First World War centenary in an appropriate and dignified manner.

Given the late involvement of Croatia into this great global and European anniversary, it is essential to implement a multi-stage programme during the following years (2014-2018).

To date, the Croatian State Archives (HDA), National and University Library (NSK), the State Archives in Osijek, Pula, Zagreb, Zadar, Pazin and Dubrovnik have recognized our efforts as worthy of support, as has our oldest and largest cultural organization – the Matica hrvatska. In the meantime an increasing number of cultural and scientific institutions, as well as individuals from across Croatia, have expressed their wish to participate in the working of the Committee. In addition, cooperation with the Austrian Cultural Forum has been established.

* * *

Through this the Initiative Committee for the Commemoration of the First World War Centenary calls Croatia to unite its cultural and scientific potentials, more intensely than has been done to date, so that the First World War and its victims can be commemorated as early as 2014.

The Committee calls the authorities of the Republic of Croatia to give their support to the realization of the suggested projects and thus allow Croatia to participate in such an important European and global manifestation of good will and reconciliation.

Emperor Charles inspects Croatian assault troopers. © Croatian State Archives, fund no. 1426. Album 18, photo no. 03753.

Examples of First World War Centenary commemoration

The First World War Centenary represents probably the greatest ever global and European commemoration of a historical event.

Some countries have until now achieved significant results in organizing the commemoration of the Centenary, and their highest state functionaries were the main initiators of the action plans. The governments of Australia and Belgium started with the preparations very early, followed by New Zealand, Canada and many other countries across the world, of whom we will mention here only our neighbours, Hungary and Slovenia.

The greatest efforts on the state level were carried out in France, about which there exists an extensive, publically accessible Action Plan. The United Kingdom and Germany are not far behind. The state authorities of the listed countries have long since carried out preparations for the Centenary through including a large number of cultural, scientific and educational institutions. Thus concrete results are already visible not only on the state levels, but also on the field of international political, cultural and scientific cooperation.

By briefly sketching the plans of several selected states we shall attempt to demonstrate what importance is given to the First World War on the global and national level.

France

As early as 2011, France has published an extensive report on the French preparations for the First World War centenary, whose production started at the order of Nicolas Sarkozy, then the President of the Republic.[1] The Anniversary programme will begin in 2014 and last until 2020; that is until the centenary of the peace treaties which officially concluded the First World War.

In the commemoration of the First World War Centenary, France sees the possibility of additional international affirmation, which was also judged useful for establishing the political positions in Europe and the world. Thus the gathering of the heads of states and governments in Sarajevo was initiated and scheduled for the centenary of the Sarajevo assassination, on 28 June 2014, supported by an extensive several-day cultural-scientific programme and considerable media attention.

It is important to stress that, in France, the state itself was the initiator of the Centenary commemoration, and the organizer of the central events scheduled for 2014 and 2018.

[1] Joseph ZIMET, Commémorer la Grande Guerre (2014-2020): propositions pour un centenaire international. Rapport au Président de la République. Secrétariat général pour l'administration, Direction de la mémoire, du patrimoine et des archives, septembre 2011.

Three great French projects launched in anticipation of the Centenary

During the last few years France has come a long way in the digitalization of archival material from the time of the First World War. It published the individual documents of 1.3 million soldiers who died in the First World War and this database is already accessible over the Internet. The same applies to the operational documents of French units. The projects of digitalization are now being continued with emphasis on analyzing the registers and private archives from the same period.

France will also push for the declaring First World War battlefields UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

In addition, France is planning a real “mobilization of the cultural and scientific machinery” with the goal of commemorating the Centenary. They plan to hold numerous exhibitions, stimulate the working of the French Library of International Modern Documentation and Information, intensify scientific activities, expand the project of digitalizing the *European 1914-1918*, assemble and publish a list of archival and diplomatic sources for the First World War, and hold exhibitions of archival documents of the French Ministry of Defence.

Special attention will be given to increasing the activities of the International Research Centre of First World War History, The International Group for Research and Discussion of the First World War, the German Historical Institute in Paris, the International Congress of Military History, the International Commission of Military History and similar institutions.

In France, the Centenary is considered to be an interdepartmental task. Therefore a separate body under the name of *Mission du Centenaire* (Centenary Mission) will be established, with its own budget and staff. The working of this interdepartmental body will be monitored daily and will submit its suggestions to the Scientific Advisory Board, whose members will include local and foreign historians and other qualified persons. Finally, the highest state body will name an Honorary Committee selected from the ranks of important persons.

The United Kingdom

The Imperial War Museum is very actively preparing for 2014 and the Centenary commemoration. They have conceived a Centenary Partnership network which has, under their leadership, gathered around 850 non-commercial local, regional and state, cultural and scientific institutions from across the world. Thanks to this partnership millions of people worldwide will become part of the British commemoration of the First World War Centenary, which will be accompanied by numerous cultural-scientific manifestations and activities.

Thanks to this platform its members have, with their joint forces, achieved a more influential public voice and recognition among international cultural-scientific circles. In this way they have used this opportunity to promote a Calendar of Events inspired by the Centenary on a global level, and which will be performed during 2014.

The Partnership allows its members the following benefits: using a common Centenary logo, free use of 100 digital services offered by the institutions involved in the project, inclusion in a specially designed timeline of the First World War, use of aids for learning, communication and the utilization of archival collections. In addition, the platform is envisioned as a place of exchanging professional opinions.[2]

It is estimated that the United Kingdom will spend around 50 million pounds on commemorating the First World War Centenary. Between numerous events we consider it worth mentioning the educational programmes which will encompass all secondary education institutions owned by the state, and which will be aimed at expressing piety towards all those who died and honouring their memory. In order that children understand more clearly how terrible the war was, visits to former battlefields in France – now memorial areas – are envisioned.[3]

New Zealand

The main portal of the New Zealander website for commemorating the First World War Centenary states: "The events of 1914–18 touched nearly every New Zealand family, every community, every school, every workplace and every club or group, as seen in cenotaphs and memorials around the country today".

NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY PROGRAMME LOGO

Information on the number of participants of the First World War in which around 10% of the New Zealanders (around 100,000 people) took part can be found in the same place. 18,000 of them died, and around 40,000 were wounded. The stated numbers are considered by the New Zealanders to be an irreplaceable loss for such a small nation.

The New Zealand government has founded an interdepartmental group under the leadership of the Ministry of Culture, with the goal of commemorating the victims and Centenary of the First World War, and with the participation of four further relevant ministries: the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Veterans, Ministry of Maori Affairs, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The representatives of the aforementioned ministries have appointed an Inter-Agency Steering Group that coordinates activities and is responsible to the interdepartmental group. Finally, the Programme Office at the Ministry of Culture is making an official programme for commemorating the Centenary on a state level, and is striving to include various regional initiatives into it.

So as to prompt a wider circle of the population to participate in the conceived programmes, a Panel of notable New Zealanders who enjoy public support has come together.

[2] Source: http://www.1914.org/
[3] http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2216074/First-World-War-Centenary-Children-school-visit-trenches-mark-100-years-outbreak-First-World-War.html

Projects initiated in anticipation of the Centenary: a Cenotaph Database[4]; joining the Commonwealth War Graves Commission[5]; commemoration of those died at Samoa and Gallipoli, as well as on the Western and Middle Eastern fronts; commemoration for Bess the horse and several thousand other horses used during the war etc.

The goal of the New Zealander action is to:

- Develop a better understanding how military heritage formed a national identity;
- Develop a better understanding of how the First World War influenced the New Zealander family, especially the women and those who served in the war;
- Draw attention to the long history of New Zealander contribution towards global peace and security;
- Further develop relations with the other countries of the Commonwealth.

Croatian Home Guards on the Isonzo Front. © Croatian State Archives, fund no. 1426. Album 18, photo no. 03997.

[4] http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx
[5] http://www.cwgc.org/

Croatia and the First World War Centenary – areas of activity

> *"Divisional coroner Palčić (…) counted in Bistrica Lesna Primary School yesterday's dead from hill 313. The first battalion of the Zagorje regiment which was on the left flank suffered the most: 72 death certificates from the first battalion lay on the table of the divisional coroner apprentice Palčić, who peeled those dead men's papers from their yellow metal binders and piled the material into the files and arrays of divisional losses. From the second battalion the second and third companies suffered losses. In the second platoon of the second company, seven remained lying on the field: Corporal Pesek Mato and six Home Guardsmen. (…)*
>
> *The death certificates pour on the table of the divisional coroner like rain, accompanied by the letters and appeals of the dead Home Guardsmen, and apprentice Palčić reads it all, registers it, and it's all perfect and there is no more medicinal or legal remedy for it, nor complaint nor appeal. (…)*
>
> *Brigades and divisions of dead men have walked through these crosswords and they march on into infinity, mute, stooping, miserable, innocently sentenced to death."*
>
> Miroslav Krleža, *Bitka kod Bistrice Lesne*, u: *Pet stoljeća hrvatske književnosti* [The Battle of Bistrica Lesna, in: Five Centuries of Croatian Literature], book 92, Zagreb 1973, p. 29, 32.

As can be gleaned from the aforementioned short overview of the preparations for the First World War Centenary in several countries, it will be a truly historical global and European commemoration of an exceptional event, which as such deserves the full attention of all states and all levels of authority. We consider it essential that Croatia joins the global initiative, because only in this way can it demonstrate and prove the existence of unbreakable links with Europe and the world.

In Croatia there were individual attempts to point out the importance of commemorating the First World War centenary, but these attempts gave no results. It is for this reason that the Initiative Committee was established, because only the synergy of cultural and scientific institutions and researchers can compensate for the temporal and organizational deficit.

The Grand Project of Compiling and Digitalizing Archival Material Abroad and the Production of a Digital Register of Croatia during the First World War

As our first priority, it is necessary to initiate the resolution of problems accumulated during many decades because adequate archival material of military provenance from the First World War was not preserved. The majority of the necessary material is kept in the Austrian State Archive in Vienna, while a smaller part is in state and military archives in Budapest. Without these materials it is not possible to begin a quality, scientific analysis of topics from Croatian military history.

Thus we consider it our first task to create a **digital registry of Croatia in the First World War**, publically accessible to all interested users. That registry would form the backbone of future scientific research, and would also allow Croatian citizens to search for their forebears who participated in the First World War.

The digital registry would encompass the following databases:

- **Registry of Austro-Hungarian military units in the First World War**
  This registry would contain a list of the units from the Austro-Hungarian Army (*K. u. k. Armee*) raised from the area of the modern Republic of Croatia. Their wartime history would be reconstructed, and all relevant data found in the archives would be listed.

- **Registry of skirmishes, actions and battles**
  This registry would list all combat actions of the First World War in which units from the area of the modern Republic of Croatia participated.

- **Registry of Military Losses on the Area of the Republic of Croatia during the First World War**
  This registry would list all individual losses of military units of the Austro-Hungarian Army from the area of the modern Republic of Croatia. It would include individual lists for those killed, missing, captured or poisoned by gas (*Verlustlisten*).

- **Registry of Croatian Officers in the First World War**
  This registry would contain a list of the officers of Croatian units, as well as all the biographic information found during archival research.

- **Registry of Archival Material**
  This special database would contain a list of all the archival material in local and foreign archives (above all in the Austrian State Archive and the Hungarian War Archive) that concern Croatia.

- **Registry of Naval Material**
  This special database would contain all the material in local and foreign archives, museums and private collections that concern the Imperial and Royal Navy on the territory of the modern Republic of Croatia.

Conclusion of the Committee on the archival cooperation with Austria

The primary archival material from which a digital database would be constructed is kept mostly in the Austrian State Archive in Vienna. The material on the operative functioning of Austro-Hungarian units from the territory of Croatia, as well as data on killed, wounded, missing or poisoned soldiers encompasses around 90 meters of material, i.e. around 900 archival boxes. The urgent production of 120,000 copies is needed for the first phase of the Committee's work.

Due to its volume this task cannot be done and/or paid by any institution of the Republic of Croatia without assistance from state institutions of the highest level. Thus the Committee will **contact the President of the RC and the Premier of the RC** with the suggestion that the Republic of Croatia **URGENTLY** achieves an intergovernmental agreement with the Republic of Austria. As an example of the operation of such an agreement, one can take the agreement between Hungary and the Republic of Austria according to which Hungary is granted direct access, usage and copying of the material of the Austrian State Archive with regard to matters concerning Hungary.

In order that the execution of this plan can be carried out as soon as possible, the Committee is ready to help with the production of professional expertises, where the Croatian State Archives (HDA), will play an important role, because it is best acquainted with models of inter-archival cooperation.

Science

The scientific achievements stemming from commemorating the First World War Centenary will mostly depend on the readiness of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport to financially support individual events that will be suggested to them within the frame of the regular system of financing. Since application to the announced tender offers hinders the timely planning of individual actions within the frame of such an extensive programme, especially when international cooperation is involved, the Initiative Committee suggests the finding of a different model of financing.

With regard to the lack of research on the period of the First World War in Croatia, the Committee considers a gradual inquiry based on a selection of topics of decisive importance for every individual war year to be essential (see the Events Calendar on p. 19-22). Thus this decisive period of Croatian history would still be analyzed, which would be a significant step forward compared to the current state of things.

It is our intent to transfuse each of the suggested conferences and round table discussions into an edition, and to make sure every exhibition is accompanied by a printed catalogue. In this way Croatia would receive its first **history of the First World War in five volumes.** Thus, it is our goal to create a basic literature which could later be expanded by specialist and scientific studies of various disciplines, and in this way create a respectable bibliography on the First World War in Croatia.

Libraries

The Committee believes that libraries, led by the National and University Library (NSK) could greatly assist the development of scientific research projects through the digitalization of the Croatian press from the period of the First World War. Although some libraries are already fully engaged in the process of digitalizing their library funds, others are considerably behind, which should definitely be corrected.

In addition, libraries are a precious source of data for the creation of a Bibliography of works on the First World War, which would encompass scientific and professional books, as well as other scientific, professional and synoptic works on that period. Croatia also lacks a complete list of contemporary printed matter (newspapers, periodicals, magazines), which should definitely be remedied, and a selection of the most relevant press articles should be made, because it is impossible to produce a complete bibliography due to the sheer volume of the material.

Museums

The Initiative Committee has to date developed an excellent cooperation with several museums whose employees are also members of the Committee. Since some of our members are very prominent members of the museum community, we hope to achieve a successful cooperation with the Museum Documentation Centre (MDC) as the leading institution of that sort on the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

It was our intent to call all museums to cooperate through a general questionnaire about the possession of material related to the First World War. The gathered data would form a Registry of Museum Material that would greatly ease the preparation of pertinent exhibitions.

Of course, depending on the response and readiness to cooperate it would be preferable to set up as many exhibitions as possible in coordination with planned academic conferences and/or round table discussions so that a more complete picture of the researched topic can be formed. The established coordination would also serve as a platform to popularize the work of scientific and cultural institutions included in this programme.

If possible, it would be good to organize an exchange of exhibitions between large cultural centres (Zagreb, Pula, Split, Zadar and Osijek) and the guest appearance of certain exhibitions or parts of larger exhibitions in smaller towns throughout Croatia.

Despite this a significant part of Croatia will not be included in the commemoration of the First World War Centenary, but all those interested will be able to see what is happening where on the common Events Calendar that will be visible on all websites devoted to the anniversary.

Education

The area of education bears great responsibility to promote the values of the creation of Europe as a union of equal nations derived from a common history marked by wars, through the Croatian school system on the eve the First World Centenary. In doing so it is important to stress the role of Croatia in the formation of modern Europe and how European and worldwide war events influenced the formation of the Croatian nation and state.

We consider it necessary to prompt children and youth to get acquainted with the lives of their forebears, direct and indirect participants in the First World War, so that they can understand how war destroys families and society in general. This can be achieved through illustrated lectures, reading Croatian and foreign literature, the recollections of the participants of that period or in another way appropriate to the age of the target group.

The method selection also depends on the age of the children, but the most important goal is for them to understand the importance of the First World War for the our current time and the influence of that period on the events in which they also indirectly participate.

Matica hrvatska

The Matica hrvatska has already expressed its readiness to participate in the commemoration of the First World War Centenary by including the infrastructure of its Administration and Palace in Zagreb in the effort, and also through mobilizing its network of Branches, which cover the entire area of the Republic of Croatia, as well as by organizing and co-organizing manifestations within the framework of the Centenary commemoration.

Thus the Administration will call the Branches of the Matica hrvatska to research the local heritages developed from the First World War, such as gathering information on memorials, oral histories, written materials and other heritage from that time period.

Volunteer Network

As it has already been highlighted, a large amount of archival material should be processed so that Croatia can finally determine the basic facts from the history of the First World War, without which it is impossible to conduct further investigation.

The Initiative Committee is fully conscious of the vastness of the information tied to the research and reading of the archival material of Croatian military units that participated in the First World War.

Because of this we take this opportunity to warn that the assistance of a larger number of volunteers will be necessary, without whom it would be impossible to transfer and process the data into computer databases. The volunteers would perform their work under the professional and scientific guidance of the Committee.

Croatian Home Guards in the company of nurses. © Croatian State Archives, fund no. 1426. Album 18, photo no. 04018.

Ceremonial-Memorial Activity

State level

The Initiative Committee believes that the Republic of Croatia should, like all other countries, commemorate the victims of the First World War on the state level.

For this purpose, the wartime histories of Croatian units should be compiled within the frame of database work, as should a calendar marking the actions in which they participated, so that an organized memorial commemoration of particular events from the period of the First World War can be achieved.

The committee calls for the evidencing of military cemeteries from the period of the First World War on the territory of the Republic of Croatia and the military cemeteries of Croatian regiments abroad (Italy, Slovenia, Ukraine, Russia…). Most of them require thorough reconstruction, and the state of the individual graves of prominent military personalities is also questionable.

Local level

The Initiative committee hereby calls units of local self-government to join the commemoration of the First World War Centenary, primarily through the renovation of memorials and soldiers' graves. Their work and engagement would be of national importance for the production of a registry of military cemeteries and memorials from the period of the First World War on the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Prompting the memories of older residents would be of exceptional importance to this effort, because numerous memorials were destroyed in the meantime, and have disappeared without a trace. Cooperation with private persons is also important for the gathering of archival documents, photographs and similar materials from family collections, all with the goal of renewing the memory of the Croatian units from the time of the First World War.

Conclusion of the Committee

The Initiative Committee will address the Ministry of Veteran's Affairs of the RC in writing, with the suggestion to establish an official body for the caretaking of military cemeteries from the period of the First World War on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, as well as for the caretaking of the graves of Croatian soldiers and prominent military personalities abroad.

In doing so the importance of finding solutions for putting the neglected graves of prominent Croatian war leaders buried in the Central Cemetery in Vienna in order, among which those of field-marshal Svetozar Boroević (1856-1920) and general Stjepan Sarkotić (1858-1939) are the most famous, will be stressed, as well as that of their long-term maintenance.

The possibility of including other fields into the Commemoration of the First World War Centenary

Tourism

French bodies of state authority have reported that every year more than seven million people, half of them foreigners, visit First World War battlefields in France, which brings the state an annual income of 45 billion Euros. They also announced that a strong increase of visitors is expected with the coming of the First World War Centenary, which also implies increased profits.[6]

Since Croatia also boasts areas suitable for historical tourism that include a First World War component, we believe that it would be good for the Republic of Croatia to join European trends of scientific and cultural-historical tourism, and at the same time promote Croatia.

The Committee considers that the area of Pula is most appropriate for the first efforts, since Pula was the base of the Imperial and Royal navy and thus possesses a relatively well-preserved fortification system. With the help of the Ministry of Tourism and the Croatian National Tourist Board, it would be possible to transform this area into a world-famous destination that could also help the development of tourism on the whole territory of Croatia.

Officers of the 28th Home Guard regiment. © Croatian State Archives, fund no. 1426. Album 18, photo no. 03843.

[6] Joseph ZIMET, *Commémorer la Grande Guerre (2014-2020)*, p. 29.

Croatian Radiotelevision

Croatian Radiotelevison, being a public institution, could follow the efforts of all participants of the First World War Centenary commemoration so that information on the importance of that anniversary can reach as great a number of Croatian citizens as possible.

The popularization of the activities of state bodies and institutions on the area of science and culture would be achieved through reports from individual events (academic conferences, exhibition openings, wreath-laying). The members of the Initiative Committee could be professional consultants during the production of various programmes on the First World War designed within the CRT.

The Artistic Framework of the First World War Centenary

The Initiative Committee will invite the Ministry of Culture of the RC to join the production of the artistic part of the First World War Centenary Events Calendar, and to encourage its other components to act, and also to finance the offered programmes.

In this way the global anniversary would receive a worthy artistic framework in the Republic of Croatia.

A Home Guard of the 28th regiment. © Croatian State Archives, fund no. 1426. Album 18, photo no. 03904.

The Preliminary Calendar of the First World War Centenary in Croatia (status: March 2013)

This Calendar includes only those events for which the approximate date is known. A larger number of events are planned for which that information is currently unknown, and which will be inserted as soon as it becomes available.

2013

OCTOBER	Academic conference “1913 – The Last Year of Peace” Croatian State Archives, Zagreb, one day, 20 participants

2014

JUNE	Academic conference “Varaždin and northwest Croatia in the Great War 1914–1918” HAZU Institute for Scientific Work, Varaždin, two days, 40 participants
JUNE	Exhibition “Baron Gautsch” Maritime and History Museum of Istria, Pula, June – October
JULY	Laying of wreath at the Mirogoj memorial for those who died in the First World War
AUGUST	Round Table Discussion “First World War in Slavonia” Association of Historians and Keepers of the Native Heritage of Slavonia, Syrmia and Baranya, Štitar, one day, 15 participants
SEPTEMBER	Round Table Discussion on the Balkan Front Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
SEPTEMBER	Library exhibition National and University Library, Zagreb, one month

OCTOBER	International academic conference “1914 – The First Year of War in Croatia and the Monarchy” Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, three days, 40 participants

2015

FEBRUARY	International academic conference on the Eastern Front Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
MARCH	Exhibition “First World War in Picture”, on the occasion of the launching of a digital archive of photos from the period of the First World War Croatian State Archives, Zagreb
APRIL	International academic conference on the Treaty of London Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
JULY	Laying of wreath at the Mirogoj memorial in memory of those who died in captivity during the First World War
AUGUST	Academic conference “Marcel Kiepach – life and work” Križevci Historical Society, one day, 10 participants

2016

APRIL	Round table discussion “On military tactics, technology and war strategy” Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 15 participants
MAY	Exhibition “K.u.k. Kriegsmarine” Maritime and History Museum of Istria, Pula, May – September
JUNE	International academic conference on the Imperial and Royal Navy Faculty of Philosophy, University of Pula, one day, 20 participants

JUNE	Laying of wreaths at the Naval Cemetery in Pula
OCTOBER	International scientific conference “How to Survive a War? – Everyday Life during the First World War” Department of History, University of Zadar, one day, 20 participants
NOVEMBER	Round table discussion on Franz Joseph I Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
NOVEMBER	Exhibition on the occasion of the centenary of Franz Joseph’s death Croatian State Archives, Zagreb
DECEMBER	International academic conference “Peace initiatives – an Illusion of Possible Imminent Peace” Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 15 participants

2017

APRIL	Round table discussion “The Entry of the USA into the First World War” Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
MAY	Round table discussion on the May Declaration Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
OCTOBER	Round table discussion “Revolutions in Russia and their Influence on Croatia” Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
NOVEMBER	Laying of wreath at the Mirogoj memorial
NOVEMBER	International academic conference on the Italian Front Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 15 participants

2018

JANUARY	Round table discussion “Wilson’s 14 points – Reality and Illusion” Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 15 participants
MAY	Exhibition “After Four Years of Service...” Maritime and History Museum of Istria, Pula, May – October
JULY	Round table discussion on the Corfu Declaration Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, one day, 10 participants
OCTOBER	Academic conference “Population and War – (Socio)demographic Aspects of the First World War in Croatia” Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, one day, 20 participants
NOVEMBER	International academic conference “1918 – the Last Year of War and the Beginning of an Illusion of Peace” Croatian Institute of History, Zagreb, two days, 30 participants

Croatian Home Guards in Eastern Europe 1917. © Croatian State Archives, fund no. 1426. Album 18, photo no. 03776.