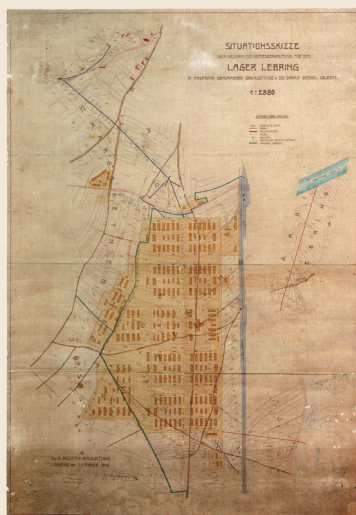


The military camp



Soon after the outbreak of war at the end of July 1914, the Austro-Hungarian military administration set up camps to house war prisoners. In December 1914, the construction of the huge Feldbach/Mühldorf camp was started in Central Styria, and in March 1915 the decision was made for a camp near Lebring and Lang, which was built by about 1,500 war prisoners and civilian workers in only two months. It comprised more than one hundred buildings including the necessary infrastructure (among other things water tanks at the foot of the Buchkogel in St. Margarethen, canalization, a railway track between the station Lebring and the camp's slaughterhouse including stables as well as a camp post office). The electricity was supplied by the nearby river power station located along the river Mur. Initially, war prisoners from Serbia, Russia and Romania were housed here, with a maximum number of 3,000 men. After Italy entered the war in May 1915, Italian war prisoners were added, and the construction of camp hospitals with 2,000 beds

for wounded and infected soldiers and prisoners began. In addition to the prisoners, up to 15,000 men were soon accommodated on the fenced camp area of 75 hectares, mostly soldiers of the Imperial and Royal Army with different nationalities, but also a cadre of miners and about a thousand local skilled workers. The war prisoners were used for construction projects in the surrounding area. The camp also served as a training centre for the Bosnian-Herzegovinian units of the Imperial and Royal Army, who were known for their special bravery and loyalty to the Emperor, especially the soldiers of Infantry Regiment 2 (the so-called "Zweier Bosniaken") based in Graz. The turbulent last weeks of the war in November 1918 also brought about the dissolution of the Imperial and Royal Army. The camp in Lebring was first plundered by the Bosnian-Herzegovinian soldiers and later by the local population. In February 1919 the military administration handed the camp over to the province of Styria, which had the numerous barracks removed. Since then, settlements, industrial plants, roads and agricultural land have expanded on the former camp grounds.



MILITARY CEMETERY LANG/LEBRING



Mit Unterstützung von Bund, Land und Europäischer Union

Bundesministerium
Landwirtschaft, Regionen
und Tourismus

LE 14-20
Entwicklung für eine lebendige Region

Das Land
Steiermark
Kultur, Europa, Sport

Europäische
Landwirtschaftsförderung für
die Entwicklung des
ländlichen Raumes
Hier verbindet Europa mit
die ländlichen Gebiete



The camp cemetery



The numerous fatalities from the Lebring-Lang military camp, caused by poor hygienic conditions, hunger, cold and epidemics, could soon no longer be buried at the parish cemetery near the church of St. Margarethen. Therefore, in September 1915, the military station command contacted the Leibnitz district administration with an urgent request to approve its own camp cemetery and to find a place for it. After extensive negotiations, the War Ministry acquired a wooded parcel of the Eybesfeld estate located to the south of the camp, with a circumference of about 7,200 square metres, and laid out a fenced military cemetery, which already in 1917 needed to be expanded due to the high mortality rate.

The provided number of graves documented at the military cemetery Lebring-Lang varies. The official commemorative plaque at the entrance to the cemetery mentions a total of 1,670 graves, which refers to 1,233 soldiers of the Imperial and Royal Army (including 805 Bosnians) as well as 437 Italian, Romanian, Russian and Serbian war prisoners. Several monuments of different nationalities commemorate the soldiers and war prisoners buried here. Very impressive are the crosses for the

members of the Christian confessions of faith, which are set up in close rows, as well as the grave markings of the Moslem Bosniaks with a carved fez, the characteristic headgear, on top. With the "Islam Law" of 1912, the Muslims in the Austrian part of the Habsburg Monarchy were recognized as a religious community, had religious self-determination and were represented by imams within the Imperial and Royal Army. Also, Johann Matella (1874–1962), who had taken care of the grounds and the graves for decades, found his final resting place in the military cemetery.

Every year on the afternoon of the last Sunday in October, a simple church memorial service is held at the cemetery, attended by representatives of the authorities, the army, Rotarians, the executive branch, the Black Cross, and other organizations. In the commemoration year 2014, the Hengist Cultural Park designed a permanent exhibition consisting of ten display boards (design: Andreas Karl) on the grounds of the military cemetery. The exhibition deals with the history of the military camp and military cemetery during the First World War as well as the European peace projects of the 20th century.



GPS: 46.840556, 15.529056

--- You can reach the military cemetery from North and South via the B67 or the A9 (exit Lebring).



Kulturpark Hengist, Hauptplatz 61, 8410 Wildon,
info@hengist.at, www.hengist.at, 0676/5300575