

SEVEN THOUSAND SOULS

english dialogue list

CAPTION:

This film was made with support from the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia

CAPTION:

Jindřichovice Mausoleum

Dejan Randjelović, custodian of Jinřichovice mausoleum:

00:00:41:02 7,100 wooden crates...

00:00:44:02 70 centimetres by 35.

00:00:51:12 Number 2135, who knows if he died from typhus, beating, starvation...

Testimony of Stanko Banović, soldier:

00:01:13:17 Our people died from starvation, the cold and inhumane treatment. The Serbian sergeant of the 8th reserve regiment, for example, Milenko from Babušnica, was killed by an Austrian guardsman for not carrying out an Austrian prison guard's order quickly enough.

00:01:46:22 That happened on 15 February 1916.

CAPTION:

*RODOLJUB, the Czech-Serbian Friendship Society,
with RTS and AVALA STUDIOS,
present*

SEVEN THOUSAND SOULS

This film is dedicated to all prisoners of war who never returned home

Commentary 1:

00:03:05:04 In 1914, Serbia was on the brink of collapse, its industries in shambles. 30.000 Serbian lives had been lost during the previous two Balkan Wars. Plagued by political turmoil, the country was sliding inexorably towards civil war. Amid this crisis, a fervent Serbian nationalist by the name of Gavrilo Princip shot and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, triggering an instant response from Vienna. An ultimatum arrived at the Serbian capital.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:03:42:14 The ultimatum reached Belgrade on July 25, and it was clear, as British prime minister Edward Grey said, that it was the worst document one government had ever sent another. It left little room for manoeuvre. The Serbian government, or its members who happened to be in Belgrade, had to react quickly and accepted all the Austro-Hungarian demands, except the contentious points 5 and 6, which were incompatible with sovereignty as it was understood then and is understood now: representatives of a foreign police force would carry out an investigation in Serbia.

Commentary 2:

00:04:21:04 After Belgrade rejected the monarchy's demands, both countries started mobilising their troops. Fear of yet another war spread like wildfire among the weary Serbian army. Their only hope was Russia's promise to come to Serbia's aid in case of armed conflict. But on July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:04:44:07 Serbia repelled the first attacks and pushed Austria back outside the Serbian border. That was a very unexpected defence move by the Serbian army, and Austria subsequently called up a large number of men. This mobilisation was the spark for what was effectively a Balkan war.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:05:07:20 This war was total war right from the start. The very first attacks by Austro-Hungarian troops were accompanied by murders of the civilian population, the burning of villages and brutal treatment of prisoners of war. The Serbian high command and government were bewildered by this approach – it was completely unexpected. It was assumed that the civilian population would be protected.

Swiss criminologist Archibald Reiss has estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 civilians were killed in that first August attack in Serbia and around 4,000 were hauled off to camps. That was a new phenomenon the Serbian government was not expecting. One partial explanation is that the Austro-Hungarian troops were convinced by their superiors that there was a risk of a national insurgency among the population, and the general hatred of Serbs surfaced in the first fighting.

Commentary 3:

00:06:13:16 By the end of 1914, after pivotal battles at the rivers Cer, Drina and Kolubara, the Austro-Hungarian army had been pushed back and would be kept outside Serbia's borders for another eight months. While on the Western and Eastern Fronts, the war escalated into a bloody inferno, there was a semblance of fleeting peace in Serbia.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:06:36:24 The Russian army's war was a mix of big successes and catastrophic defeats, most notably at the Masurian Lakes, when two armies were destroyed and a large number of Russian prisoners of war ended up in Germany and Austro-Hungary.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:06:52:14 Camps started being built in spring 1915. The first prisoners of war arrived during the summer. At Broumov they were mainly Russian prisoners of war, who helped build the POW camp.

Commentary 4:

00:07:06:21 News about prison camps and the influx of captives surfaced in the Viennese press.

From the Viennese press:

00:07:13:16 Work is going on apace between Krims and Martínkovice, where buildings for captured Russians are to stand. As Broumov is to be the site of one of the largest prisoner of war camps in Bohemia, additional structures like water and sewage pipes, hospital facilities etc. have to be built for a possible 100,000 POWs and the necessary guards.

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:07:40:04 The POW camp stood on this site where the Broumov aerodrome is located today. The first buildings were the storerooms and command centre. Buildings for officers, mainly Russian POW officers, stood here. In the middle of the camp was a large building, the only building that wasn't timber, in fact – that was the bakery. Next to it were the showers and a bit further on the hospital, with the POWs' cemetery at the end of the camp. The camp had 320 buildings. The hospital alone had 50 buildings, and around 10 buildings were isolation cells.

Commentary 5:

00:08:25:00 Camps were being set up all over the monarchy, some of the largest on Czech soil, in places with names no-one had ever heard of. Like Broumov. Or — Jindřichovice.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:08:38:19 In the background we can see Jindřichovice and the Church of St Martin. The camp, which consisted of 170, 180 buildings, was spread over this entire area. In front of us is the Rotava basalt quarry, now flooded. The camp stretched from there all the way to the horizon over there. Built at a cost of roughly 7.5 million Austrian crowns, it was to all intents and purposes a town of 25,000 to 35,000 people. At times it may have housed as many as 38,000 POWs. It had its own guard towers, an electric fence around it, a bakery, laundries, a pharmacy...

From the Viennese press:

00:09:26:24 The camp is becoming more and more like a town. The Russians must be delighted with the pretty location of this “recuperation centre”, which offers healthy air and magnificent views in all directions.

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:09:40:11 The buildings mainly served as sleeping quarters. There were rows, not of beds even, but areas where the POWs slept, one right next to another. That was along the sides of the buildings, while in the centre were bunks where POWs slept, again in two rows. So there were groups of 5,000 POWs, and each group had its own jail, its own medical surgery, and in each building there was a latrine.

Commentary 6:

00:10:16:11 Later, survivors would give accounts of the camps' inner workings and horrid living conditions to Dutch journalist Henri Habert. Shortly after the war, the freed soldiers were taken to neutral territory in Holland. It was there that Habert recorded and preserved their stories for posterity.

Testimony of Živojin Janković, corporal:

00:10:38:02 The POWs were crammed into the buildings like sardines. 200 and more had to sleep together in one small building. They could only dream of blankets, mattresses or pillows. We didn't have any, and we had to sleep on the hard floor as best we could.

Testimony of Vasilije Milić, private:

00:11:00:24 We slept on the cold bare floor. There wasn't a single chair, bench or table. When we wanted to eat, we had to sit on the floor or eat standing up.

Commentary 7:

00:11:15:10 The prisoners were forced to build their own barracks. They had to construct entire settlements with inadequate tools.

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:11:23:00 The POWs dug and constructed 12 kilometres of sewers; they built a water main from the upper end of Martínkovice; a well was dug; there was a tailor shop where uniforms were repaired and new clothes, gloves, shoes, caps were made. So the town, this POW camp, was practically self-sufficient. Compared to the town of Broumov, which had around 5,000 inhabitants at that time, this POW camp had 30,000.

Commentary 8:

00:11:53:15 One prison camp grew in the vicinity of Carlsbad, the world-famous spa. This was the notorious camp of Jindřichovice.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:12:02:06 To this day we don't really know why Jindřichovice was chosen for the camp's location. The military apparatus evidently located this camp in this remote area partly because of the German population, because at first Slavs were housed here, so it would be harder for them to escape and come into contact with the Czech population – there were no Czechs here.

Commentary 9:

00:12:25:09 As the war on the Eastern front raged on, it reignited in the Balkans when the Central Powers, Austria-Hungary and Germany, allied with Bulgaria to finally overrun Serbia. Serbian prisoners of war were routinely executed or herded to prison camps far from their homes. By autumn 1915, the stream of prisoners from Serbia and Montenegro arriving at the prison camps of Broumov and Jindřichovice had overtaken the number of Russian captives.

From the Viennese press:

00:12:57:02 On Sunday 14 of this month the first transport of Serbian POWs arrived at Broumov. 30,000 Serbs are to be placed in the Broumov camp instead of Russians. The train arrived on time and was escorted by Bosnian soldiers.

CAPTION:

Quote from the Viennese press:

Commentary 10:

00:13:14:22 The Serbian prisoners arrived at the camp in a demoralised state. They often had no shoes or trousers and wore rags in place of their uniforms. Their wretched condition epitomised the broken state of the Serbian army. Baffled by the Serbs' appearance, the Russian prisoners would doubt that these shadows of men had once been their comrades-in-arms.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:13:40:20 A genuine flood of Serbian POWs arrived after the fall of Serbia in 1915. At that time all deserters, or those who had become lost and were trying to get home, were usually captured by German, Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian forces. We know that tens of thousands, maybe one hundred thousand Serbian soldiers altogether, were taken to Bulgarian, Austro-Hungarian and German camps. The Serbian

authorities often regarded them as dead. They began to be known as *propali* (the vanished): they were not with their units and nobody knew what had become of them.

From the Viennese press:

00:14:26:20 What was originally “Little Moscow” soon became “Little Belgrade”, where the maximum state of 20,000 men has been exceeded.

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:14:35:12 It was still 1915, 1916, when the largest numbers of POWs arrived. And it was in 1916 that the first diseases emerged in the camp due to overcrowding.

Testimony of Gvozden Andrić, private:

00:14:53:19 I was taken to Jindřichovice, where I spent four months. There were 25 to 30 thousand people in the camp, and among them around 500 or 600 of our officers. The guards would beat us on the slightest pretext or tortured us like animals. I can't say how often they stabbed us with bayonets. The food was bad and scarce in all the camps, so we were always hungry. Many died of hunger and from the cold, because we didn't have clothes or shoes. Before the end of the war we would receive food from the Serbian Red Cross – without this help we would have starved to death.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:15:32:23 Resources were limited. The Austrian forces had not expected such a large influx. There were outbreaks of various diseases, there were problems with accommodation, so the situation as a whole was aggravated by the dramatic influx of Serbian POWs.

In 1915 the Austro-Hungarian government tried to annihilate the Serbian elites, so a large number of Serbian professors, clergymen and everyone who was seen as advocates of Serbian identity ended up in one of the internment camps.

Commentary 11:

00:16:10:00 A priest by the name of Ljubodrag Jovanović was captured and brought to Jindřichovice alongside the soldiers. Later, the church would publish his wartime reflections:

00:16:22:17 *“A black cloud covered our land. In the darkness, a purple light emanated from the blood our martyrs had spilled. And the lifeless bodies of our fallen guardians seemed to be telling us: do not fear, there will be light, for without death there is no resurrection.”*

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:16:43:22 A large number of people were concentrated in the POW camps. This naturally led to suffering, diseases, malnutrition, because it was difficult to supply the camps during the war. The POWs usually received nothing more than beetroot broth or watery soup. Diseases like typhus, malaria started to appear...

From the Viennese press:

00:17:04:24 Whoever has seen the neglected, starving Serbs almost broken by their wartime suffering has noticed some with one foot in the grave.

Commentary 12:

00:17:14:14 Even the hardened Viennese press was moved by the desolation at the Broumov prison camp. An emotional article described the deaths of nine men during one cold day in January.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:17:29:08 The issue of Serbian military and civilian internees in World War I is a marginal issue to this day. Throughout the hundred years from the end of World War I they were completely ignored and the crimes committed against them have never been atoned for.

00:17:55:11 It seems that ever since the end of the war they were not seen as part of the war-of-
emancipation image, which championed soldiers with rifles in their hands... If you look at any Serbian war memorial, there's usually a soldier holding a rifle high over his head. We have barely a handful of monuments to the civilians who suffered... There are precious few monuments reflecting on the role of civilians, let alone civilians who were interned.

CAPTION:

Memorial to the victims of World War I at Jindřichovice

00:18:28:23 But just as the army legislation defines a POW as someone who was captured but continued to carry out his military duty, we can also regard a captured civilian as a citizen of the Kingdom of Serbia even though he ended up in such unexpected and terrible conditions.

And it's very sad that these people have remained shut out from the Serbian nation's collective consciousness for practically an entire century, despite their very profound suffering. These people have been unjustly forgotten, I think, almost completely erased from our general consciousness of World War I.

Testimony of Borislav Nastasović, ambulance man:

00:19:23:09 Life was very hard at Jindřichovice. Food so bad you can't imagine – a small slice of bread, watery soup, and we couldn't complain because we would be punished. The guards would beat us and take away our bread sent to us by the Serbian Red Cross.

Commentary 13:

00:19:45:24 It wasn't just adults imprisoned in the camps. There were also hundreds of juveniles aged between 8 and 17. A school, complete with a Serbian teacher, was even set up at the Broumov camp to which eventually all the children would be brought. Around 2,000 would remain in Broumov until the end of the war.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:20:09:24 Why did the Austrians put old people in the camps when they were of no use to the army, and above all why children, who were just an extra complication? The Austrians would often clear out entire strategic areas and places where there was a risk of a national uprising. And it's likely that they ordered the entire population to be evacuated, which meant that entire families ended up in camps. It was only later that the Austrians realised how difficult it is to keep such diverse groups of people alive.

Commentary 14:

00:20:47:22 There was a dire lack of food not only inside the camp but also in the surrounding villages. The starving children would sneak out of the camp whenever an opportunity arose, trying to scavenge anything they could get their hands on.

Rudolf Šilhan, grandson of Matylda Hartmannová:

00:21:21:24 From what my grandparents told me I know that the camp there was very cruel, inhumane. My grandmother told me about the inhumane treatment there. And one day my grandmother saw some young boys from Serbia there eating potato peel from a drain. She felt sorry for them, so she

gave them a pot of cooked potatoes. They became friends and would come round sometimes to get a little to eat, because it wasn't exactly a time of plenty in the village either.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:22:13:13 Martial law was declared in the entire zone around the POW camp. No contact with prisoners or access to the camp was permitted. The woman who gave Serbian boys food was supposed to have reported them, but instead she helped them, risking her own life.

Commentary 15:

00:22:34:14 **The woman who risked her life to help the famished Serbian boys was 27-year-old Matilda Hartmanová from the village of Martinkovice.**

Rudolf Šilhan, grandson of Matylda Hartmannová:

00:22:44:03 They were young boys. As a memento they have her a handmade ring, it was kind of grey and had the year 1915 stamped inside. And on top there was a red stone with five dots. The five dots represented the five boys. And when they left after the camp was closed down they always sent my grandmother a Christmas greeting.

Commentary 16:

00:23:22:10 **Whereas all children were brought to Broumov, adults were sent to various camps, scattered across the Austro-Hungarian and German lands.**

Testimony of Proka Nikolić, private:

00:23:36:04 It was terrible in all the camps, but it was worst in Broumov. It was horrible the way the guards beat us like animals.

Testimony of Spasoje Savić, private:

00:23:46:21 A Hungarian sergeant bayoneted one person who lit a cigarette before he was outside. Even though his arm was badly wounded and he was weak from loss of blood, it never occurred to anyone to take him to hospital.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:24:10:04 There are no documented cases of torture or killing of prisoners like we know from World War II, but there are reports of certain cruel treatment. It was mainly Hungarian soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian army who were the cruelest.

Testimony of Relja Jovanović, corporal:

00:24:35:06 We sometimes went several days without food in Broumov. If we asked for a piece of bread, German and Hungarian soldiers would come into our hut armed with big sticks and beat us like animals. Lots of my friends died as a result of these inhumane beatings.

Testimony of Sava Rajčić, private:

00:25:07:14 The guards treated us inhumanely. They saw us as nothing more than animals and beat us mercilessly even for minor transgressions. Many of our soldiers died from wounds or suffered permanent consequences. The Hungarian guards beat me on the head, legs and arms with sticks because I said that we hadn't been defeated and our king was still commander of our army. As a result I can't move my right hand.

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:25:39:18 The POWs mainly worked on farms in the district. They also worked in the local brick works, lime kiln and other factories. They worked on the regulation of the River Stěnova or turned forest tracks into roads, because they were used for any work. They built a water main in Martínkovice, for example.

00:26:03:09 They also worked inside the camp, where workshops were set up. They made reed shoes for the guards. There was a carpentry shop, a forge... The camp was basically a self-sufficient town.

Commentary 17:

00:26:17:17 In Jindřichovice, the prisoners were forced to build the Sokolov chemical plant along with its entire railway network.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:26:25:14 It's an interesting fact that part of this bridge we see here was dismantled in Serbia as the Austrian army's war booty and brought here. Here it was reassembled and it's still here to this day - it's roughly the central part.

According to some reports, when they were building the chemical plant the Jindřichovice POWs walked there and back every day, that's roughly 23 kilometres in each direction. But I personally think that wasn't true, because the Austrian war industry could not afford to let the POWs get so exhausted if they worked in the chemicals plant, so we think – and there are some photographs that might document this - that the Jindřichovice POWs had some accommodation facility here at the Sokolov plant.

Testimony of Dobroslav Milošević, corporal:

00:27:09:02 The guards forced the prisoners to walk long distances and would hit people with sticks and whips for no reason. Even the injured weren't spared. They were punished by being tied to a pillar for up to four hours, even when it was cold.

00:27:42:01 I saw so many of them suffering on that pillar!

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:28:34:01 We don't have much information about the lives of prisoners in that camp. We can document their work, when they got up, what they had to eat, where they were put to work in the vicinity, the Rotava basalt quarry, the Sokolov chemical plant, harvest work on farms in the area, but it's very hard to document the actual life in the camp, because we practically have just one memory of one of the Serbian POWs who recalls how he swapped the socks he'd been sent from home for food in the kitchen.

Commentary 18:

00:29:13:23 The camp physician at Broumov had a passion for amateur photography. Dr. Georg Langer used every opportunity to capture life inside the camp. He gifted an album with two hundred photographs to camp commander General Mayhofer, who fortunately preserved this historical record.

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:29:37:02 He took pictures of things that interested him as a doctor or as an amateur photographer, so we have surviving portraits of POWs, scenes from daily life, their work, being issued with food, resting...

00:29:58:10 He had a specific sense of humour, so when he took a picture of a POW resting on the ground he called him a drunken layabout. When he took a picture of POWs sharing some bread he added the comment: “Joy shared is joy doubled, but a piece of bread shared is always just half.”

Commentary 19:

00:30:20:00 **Philosopher...**

00:30:21:16 **On the sunny side...**

00:30:24:05 **Morning ablutions...**

00:30:25:19 **Take it easy, Mirko, things will be different in 100 years...**

00:30:30:09 **There's a hair...**

00:30:32:02 **Draga...**

00:30:36:08 **Draga at a concert...**

00:30:50:22 **She was one of only a few women in the camp, and the only one whose fleeting image appears in more than one of Langer's pictures. Draga had followed her captive father all the way from Serbia and volunteered as a camp nurse in order to remain near him.**

Draga tended to all those in need. Both prisoners and guards held her in high esteem.

From the Viennese press:

00:31:32:01 A total of 6,000 men arrived in the transports of Serbian POWs on the 11th of this month. Like those interned here before, these Serbian POWs were again a picture of extreme neglect.

Testimony of Živojin Janković, corporal:

00:31:46:09 The POWs weren't given anything to eat during the journey from Serbia. Starving to death, they sometimes went to farmers' houses to beg for a piece of bread, but the German soldiers followed them and beat them with sticks and took the food from their hands... To lessen the torment of hunger they even ate raw meat from dead animals lying by the side of the road. Otherwise there's no way they would have survived.

From the Viennese press:

00:32:13:10 The public are strictly forbidden to make friends with the POWs or converse with them and so on. Any such contact will result in long-term problems and severe punishment.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:32:27:13 In the predominantly German town of Broumov there was a Czech family, the Linharts, originally from Police nad Metují. Josef Linhart had a tailor shop in Broumov and in 1915 he was called up to the Austro-Hungarian army.

Ivan Hendrych, grandson of Klára Linhartová:

00:32:41:00 My mother was born in Broumov, the youngest of three daughters of Josef Linhart and his wife Klára. Unfortunately, this idyll was ended by World War I, when he was called up to the army. He was sent to the Serbian front and was killed in the Austro-Hungarian offensive at Stara Pazova in October 1915.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:33:09:23 The start of October brought a major offensive from two sides that was devastating for the Serbs. Certain locations were systematically bombarded, with the Austro-Hungarian and German air forces marking the targets. These were new phenomena. The amphibious assault began at around five in the morning on October 7. German units attacked Banovo Brdo and crossed the River Sáva. Austro-Hungarian units were supposed to attack the central part of Belgrade, because they wanted to take the

biggest symbol of Belgrade, the fortress. But not everything went according to plan. The first wave of the attack was repelled, with the attackers killed or taken prisoner. And we have testimony of how Serbian soldiers proudly led Austro-Hungarian prisoners through the streets of Belgrade. Around 1,100 Austro-Hungarian soldiers died during three days of fighting.

Commentary 20:

00:34:05:20 It is assumed that the tailor Josef Linhart was also killed during the battles of bloody October. The widow he left behind was named Klára.

Ivan Hendrych, grandson of Klára Linhartová:

00:34:15:06 At that moment she became a war widow with three children to provide for, so she needed to get some kind of job. I don't know if she was given work in the new camp as a war widow or whether she simply applied to work as a cook.

Commentary 21:

00:34:36:13 Despite having lost her husband at the hands of the Serbs, Klára cooked for the Serbian captives in order to provide for her children. Day after day, she prepared the same thin beetroot soup with dumplings made out of little other than flour and water.

Testimony of Jerotije Župac, sergeant:

00:34:52:08 The food during the day was like this: morning – a litre of chicory (black water without sugar); afternoon – a portion of sugar beet or cabbage; evening - a portion of flour soup (probably acorn flour).

Commentary 22:

00:35:10:03 The food was never more than meagre. Hunger drained the men's spirits. But despite the circumstances, some of the prisoners befriended Klára and her children.

Ivan Hendrych, grandson of Klára Linhartová:

00:35:20:02 I know from what my mother told me that they made friends with some POWs. The POW she remembers best was called Milija.

She was friends with this Milija, who always used to tell her: You're a little *magarac*, which she explained meant a little donkey. It was a fond memory for her.

Commentary 23:

00:35:44:20 We don't know much about Milija, only that he was a schoolteacher who survived captivity, perhaps because of Klára.

Ivan Hendrych, grandson of Klára Linhartová:

00:35:55:12 After the war Milija even sent a postcard to 'dear Klára', and it says on the picture where he is.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:36:14:11 Klára worked in the camp practically for the entire war. She left a unique legacy of photographs from inside the camp, and in particular interesting photographs of Serbian POWs in theatre costumes.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:36:29:22 At first, the American Christian organisation the YMCA looked after the POWs. An American called McPherson came here and worked here till 1917, when the United States joined the war, and he taught the POWs all kinds of things. For example, he brought them books, spectacles, he taught them to read and write because many of them were illiterate. He even taught them to play football and brought them musical instruments and even taught them to play them, taught them how to grow vegetables and so on.

From the Viennese press:

00:37:07:06 A local person from Velká Ves near Broumov and 11 Serbian POWs in Broumov have died of typhus.

As a result of this outbreak, the authorities have ordered the complete isolation of the camp: any contact between the guards and civilians is forbidden until further notice.

Testimony of Dobrosław Milošević, corporal:

00:37:29:02 The POWs slept on straw mattresses that were changed once every 6 months and were infested with bugs. The rooms intended for relaxation were full of lice and fleas, and they couldn't be aired at all.

Commentary 24:

00:37:49:09 **Dirt, fleas and lice were the main culprits in outbreaks of typhoid fever. Even with all efforts to maintain hygiene, deadly epidemics kept spreading.**

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:38:01:19 The first records of deaths are from 1916, but the biggest numbers of deaths are in 1917 and 1918, the last two years of the war, when the food supply was minimal and there was hardly any medicine, and not just for the POWs but the civilian population in the vicinity as well. There were practically no medicines for the POWs, and the biggest problem was the typhus epidemic that broke out in 1917, when apparently 40 people died every day.

00:38:51:06 Almost every day there were funeral processions from the camp to the cemetery here, where POWs were buried either in single or mass graves.

Local civilians from Jindřichovice would always take part in this ceremony. Even the local Catholic priest took part, mainly to accompany Italians on their final journey.

So this was a kind of funeral ceremony that used to take place practically every day towards the end of the war.

Commentary 25:

00:39:27:03 **Among those buried in the camp cemetery is Blagoje Šućurović, from the Serbian village of Šljivovica. He had a brother, Ljubomir, and a cousin, Velimir, neither of whom survived the war.**

Darko Šućurović, relative of Blagoje Šućurović:

00:39:40:16 All we know about Ljubomir is that he was captured at the end of 1915 and taken to the Broumov camp. He died there on 1 June 1916.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:40:01:10 The camps were much too big. Badly supplied, with a large mass of people in one place for a long time, they were places of great suffering and, above all, infectious diseases.

Commentary 26:

00:40:14:06 The Šućurović family got word that Ljubomir had perished in Broumov. But they knew nothing of the terrible conditions in the camp.

Djordje Šukilović, nephew of Blagoje Šućurović:

00:40:23:08 Prisoner, poor man... Look, a priest...

00:40:43:06 A doctor examines him... poor guy, he looks terrible...

00:40:50:08 Look, the shoes, this is what they were wearing when they were captured. Animals are not as cruel to each other as humans are. We're all flesh and blood. All of us. So many atrocities. Even the torturer is somebody's son. Even he sucked at his mother's breast.

Commentary 27:

00:41:21:18 As Serbian custom dictates, Ljubomir's great-grandson would put up a roadside monument to honour his ancestor.

Darko Šućurović, relative of Blagoje Šućurović:

00:41:30:11 It's hand carved, a big stone with an inscription saying that Ljubomir was captured by the Austrians in 1915 and died on 1 June 1916 in Braunau, Bohemia, at the age of 37. The memorial was erected by his father Jevrem, his brother Vladimir and his son Ostoja who was born in 1913. Ljubomir only saw him once before he went off to war.

00:42:09:00 Velimir and Blagoje were also captured. We know that Velimir died in a camp in Hungary.

Djordje Šukilović, nephew of Blagoje Šućurović:

00:42:18:20 Our neighbour here was there with him. He died of hunger at the age of 21. He used to say: we ate grass through the barbed wire. Our neighbour had a gold watch and he sold it there in the camp, and thanks to that he stayed alive.

Commentary 28:

00:42:46:12 Blagoje's bereaved family never learned of his fate.

Darko Šućurović, relative of Blagoje Šućurović:

00:42:50:16 There is no trace of Blagoje from the start of the war. If he died, or was killed, where he is buried – we don't know. Even in the book of Great War victims it is written that Šućurović Blagoje died as a prisoner of war, with a question mark.

Commentary 29:

00:43:11:18 Today, we are able to fill in the blanks: Private Blagoje Šućurović died in Jindřichovice on January 9, 1918. He was just 32 years old.

Djordje Šukilović, nephew of Blagoje Šućurović:

00:43:24:10 Back then nobody looked for him. I am very grateful to you that we now know where our ancestor ended up.

Petr Bergmann, author of "Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918":

00:43:47:03 2,500 POWs, most of them Serbs, died in the Broumov camp.

From the Viennese press:

00:43:58:24 A large number of Serbs, starving and exhausted by the torments of war, die almost every day.

Commentary 30:

00:44:08:08 The most common cause of death was listed as consumption. On the 16th of January, 1916, another 20 Serbs were buried.

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:44:20:04 There were major epidemics, mainly typhus, with as many as 100 people dying per month in Broumov.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:44:37:12 In practically all POW camps, whether they were run by the Central Powers or the Allies, 10 to 12 per cent of all POWs died. There were some 30,000 to 40,000 people in Jindřichovice, which is more or less in line with the 10 per cent casualty rate. Most of them died from illnesses, of course, and towards the end of the war from malnutrition, because as the end of the war approached the conditions got even worse, and what's more the climate wasn't ideal, even the Russian POWs called it Siberia, because the conditions here, especially in autumn and winter, were miserable even for those POWs.

Testimony of Sava Rajčić, private:

00:45:23:21 We weren't given either clothes or shoes and most of us had only foot-rags or went barefoot. It was terribly cold. There were two stoves in each building, but they were rarely lit. You can imagine how cold it was, if you think that the buildings were really big and made of wood, with the wind coming through gaps between the panels, so we were so cold at night we couldn't sleep.

Dejan Randjelović, custodian of Jindřichovice mausoleum:

00:45:50:13 A good many died of hunger, cold, typhus or other illnesses and they had to work hard. Most of them were young soldiers up to 25 years of age.

00:46:25:24 At that time they couldn't make coffins fast enough, so they were put into coffins and then tipped out into pits. And those who carried their friends' coffins often ended up in the same coffin the next day.

00:47:01:16 Too many young lives were wasted, ended.

00:47:18:13 Let them never be forgotten.

PhDr. Danilo Šarenac, historian:

00:47:33:06 Serbian historiography often stresses that civilians were taken off to camps as genocide, to annihilate the Serbs as a nation, but the situation is much more complicated. We can see that although there were mass deaths in the camps, it often was not deliberately planned – the occupying administration simply wasn't prepared for the situation. As the Austro-Hungarian representatives said to Serbian prisoners of war, we are blockaded by the Allies, meaning there was not enough food in Austro-Hungary, and now we are blockading you. That means that the ones who suffered most were the prisoners of war and not Austrian citizens.

CAPTION:

Martínkovice prisoner of war cemetery, Broumov

Petr Bergmann, author of “Lager Broumov/Braunau 1915-1918”:

00:48:42:03 Over there is the entrance gate to the cemetery where over 2,500 POWs, and probably some guards as well, are buried. The POWs built this memorial in 1915, when more and more started dying. In fact, it's the last trace of the camp, because nothing else remains of it.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:49:28:09 These areas were the cemetery of the Jindřichovice prisoner of war camp; over there is the old part of the cemetery, *Alter Friedhof*, or the Orthodox part where they started burying Serbs and Russians in 1915 and 1916 and then, when there were Italians as well, the cemetery was gradually enlarged with this new part. Behind me you can see a Catholic cross, so this is the Catholic part where Italian POWs were buried.

In total, 2,465 Serbs and Montenegrins, 56 Russians, and 1,301 Italians died in the camp. So the total number of victims of the Jindřichovice camp buried in this cemetery is 3,855.

Commentary 31:

00:50:16:21 1918, the final year of the Great War, brought a number of heavy offensives on various battlefronts. Drained of its lifeblood, Europe's economy was in a state of collapse. Yet people could feel that the war was nearing its end.

From the Viennese press:

00:50:32:18 The prisoner of war camps at Milovice and Jindřichovice in the Ore Mountains will be closed shortly, followed by the camps at Cheb and Broumov.

Commentary 32:

00:50:46:21 Only two weeks after this newspaper article, on November 11, 1918, World War I was over. The deadliest conflict in human history to date had claimed nearly 10 million lives. Millions more were missing. Serbia alone had lost a third of its entire population, almost half its men. But for many of the prisoners of war, the suffering was far from over.

From the Viennese press:

00:51:15:11 A large number of seriously ill soldiers were found in the local camp's hospital, evidently forgotten about when the camp was closed. The nurses had mostly left, so the seriously ill unfortunates who sacrificed their health for their homeland were left to their fate.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:51:38:14 We are now at the oldest building, the only surviving building of the Jindřichovice camp. Dating from 1917, it was originally a water reservoir for the camp. After the war ended, it was designated in the mid 1920s as one of three mausoleums for fallen soldiers from countries in the new state of Yugoslavia.

Commentary 33:

00:52:05:15 During the late 1920s, at the request of the Yugoslav government, the new Czechoslovak army disinterred the dead Serbian prisoners from cemeteries throughout Bohemia. Their remains were relocated to what would become the Mausoleum of Jindřichovice.

Dejan Randjelović, custodian of Jindřichovice mausoleum:

00:52:21:18 Here, in small crates, are the remains of Serbian and Russian soldiers: 7,100 Serbs and 189 Russians who died in the Austrian camps. After the war they were exhumed and placed in the crypt here.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:52:38:16 That makes a total of around 7,300 remains, which makes this area, or this mausoleum, the biggest World War I burial ground in the territory of today's Czech Republic.

Commentary 34:

00:52:52:00 The mausoleum was inaugurated in 1932. The Serbian King Alexander ordered cypress trees to be brought from the Hilandar Monastery on Mount Athos and planted around the memorial. Though located in the Czech Republic, it is considered territory of the Republic of Serbia. It is the second-largest Serbian cemetery in the world.

PhDr. Vladimír Bružeňák, historian:

00:53:14:11 There are even 88 little coffins from Holland containing Serbian POWs who died in 1919.

Commentary 35:

00:53:24:11 In 1938, their remains were also transferred back to Jindřichovice. At the German border, the guards halted the convoy of coffins. The Wehrmacht soldiers paid their tributes with resounding gun salutes and a funeral march. Just three months later, these same German troops would invade and occupy the Czech Sudetenland, and with it Jindřichovice. But that is a whole other chapter.

Dejan Randjelović, custodian of Jindřichovice mausoleum:

00:53:53:24 Young people should know that their ancestors fought for freedom, that they laid down their lives for Serbia, whose creation was not easy and straightforward. And they should preserve what their ancestors left for them.

Commentary 36:

00:54:08:20 After the war, Milija returned to Serbia and continued working as a teacher.

00:54:15:21 The cook Klára Linhart, mother of three, married a merchant named Karel Valenta, who had five children of his own.

00:54:26:08 Matilda Hartmanová, who had helped the starving Serbian boys, survived both world wars and lived in good health to the age of 80.

00:54:36:12 Camp physician Georg Langer made his way to Vienna, whereafter his trace disappears from the military archives.

00:54:44:08 The Serbian priest Ljubodrag Jovanović continued to serve his church. Ten years after returning home, he wrote down his most haunting recollection. It was the memory of a 12-year-old boy calling him over to his deathbed.

00:55:03:24 *"I stepped closer and stroked his hair.*

On the bed, above his head, I noticed three letters: T.B.C. — Temperature 39,9.

00:55:18:18 *- What can I do for you, Milivoje?*

00:55:23:03 *- I would like to ask something of you, Father, because I can feel I'll be dead within the hour! — he replied.*

00:55:32:09 *- I want to wear a Serbian soldier's cap on my head when I die.*

00:55:37:11 *- All right, I'll get you a soldier's cap, not for you to die in but to wear when you get back on your feet.*

00:55:48:07 *Little Milivoje thanked me and said:*

00:55:51:22 - You know, Father, when someone dies in here, the medics grab all his possessions. Please don't let anyone take my cap.
00:56:06:02 I want to be buried wearing it...
00:56:10:15 ... as a Serbian soldier.
00:56:14:24 - Why do you want that?
00:56:18:19 - Because I'm sure, Father, one day the Good Lord will look into my grave. And when He sees how small I am, He will punish our enemies for separating me from my mother.
00:56:33:14 Milivoje went quiet. After a while, he gathered his last strength and said:
00:56:42:17 - I die with faith in God... who will punish our enemies.
00:56:51:21 Little Milivoje exhaled, and his life ended."

CAPTIONS:

*Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names.
John F. Kennedy*

*Director:
Sanjin Mirić*

*ROLL:
Screenplay:
Sanjin Mirić & Vít Hlášenský*

*Camera:
Zdeněk Tripes & Bořek Minařík*

*Editor:
Sanjin Mirić*

*Commentary read by:
Jim High
Kevin Clarke
Michael Pitthan
Robert Orr*

*German text read by:
Ondřej Kavan*

*Make-up:
Ivo Strangmuller*

*Music director:
Pavel Hruběš*

*Production:
Rodoljub z.s.
Jelena Ćirić
Petr Bergmann*

Stunts:

FILMKA, Ladislav Lahoda

Jan Astl

Matouš Brichcín

Expert assistance:

Vladimír Bružeňák

Petr Bergmann

Danilo Šarenac

Cast:

Jelena Ćirić

Lordan Zafranović

Protoiereus Srdjan Jablanović

Vid Luković

Milorad Luković

Zuzana Hrušková

Natálie Želinská

Zdeněk Ryšavý

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Zoran Andjelković, naive painter
Michaela Miričová
Aleksandar Djurić, SINGIDUNUM Praha
Veso Djorem, LUKA LU Praha
Municipality of Martinkovice*

*Locations:
Vojna Monument near Příbram
Former Broumov children's camp*

*Archive materials:
Sokolov Museum
Petr Bergmann
Arhiv Srbije
RTS
YMCA
Danilo Šarenac*

*The film featured music by:
Boro Dugić
Ponoćna elegija
Zov za ljepotom
Nebeska Srbija
Heroj
Tren
BALKANIKA, Sanja Ilić
Anathema
Dolina Suza
Simonina
Korana
Za kraj*

*Slavonic March by P. I. Tchaikovsky
4th, 5th and 6th symphonies by Gustav Mahler
Mojkovačka Tužbalica, played by Bojana Peković
J. S. Bach, Sarabande, played by Lukáš Pospíšil
Djordje Marinković, Tamo daleko, played by Dečiji hor Kolibri, Masashi Yamanaka.*

A service is held every year on the Serbian national holiday of Vidovdan in memory of the victims of the Great War.

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