



# THE GREAT WAR



PROVINCIA DI TREVISO  
[www.provincia.treviso.it](http://www.provincia.treviso.it)



Between 1917 and 1918 the **Marca Trevigiana** was crossed and divided by one of the most bloody and hard-fought fronts of the Great War. The first great technological war that devastated the territory, the artistic monuments and the population **(150,000 evacuees)**.

The right Piave was the theatre of operations of the Italian army, the left Piave was the territory of occupation of the Austrian-Hungarian army.

Three important battles were fought here: the "**arrest**" battle that blocked the Austrians, the "**solstice**" battle and the subsequent "**final**" battle of Vittorio Veneto that led to the victory and the armistice .

For this reason the Marca Trevigiana is now in the list of sacred areas of European collective memory.



## THE 1915/1918 WAR

Between **Asiago** and **Grappa** and along the **Piave**, in the coldest winters of the century, there was a unique war in the history of man. Austrian and Italian soldiers fought in extreme climatic conditions, in a constant battle where even nature was hostile. **Shelters and protections studied these area**, as proof of the courage, perseverance and spirit of sacrifice of those called upon to fight a terrible war that has become a legend.



**"... They sent their corpses home tightly wrapped in flags so that they appeared to be integral..."**

From *La collina* by Fabrizio de André



## THE HEROES

**"It is best to live a day as a lion rather than 100 years as a sheep",**

this famous sentence written on the wall of a house in Fagaré in June 1918 had always been attributed to an unknown soldier.

In reality the author of this sentence was an ex fighter, Bernardo Vicario, who in a letter dated 23.10.1931 explained: "... I wrote this legend on the evening of the 14th June 1918, at 19:00, six hours before the bombardments that eliminated my battalion leaving just a few survivors. The late Major Rivoli Cav. Carlo dictated this legend to me and I, as a sapper of

the battalion obeyed his instructions and wrote as best as I could on that wall at the entrance to the village, where the I Battalion of the 201 Infantry Regiment was located..."

From *Aquile e Angeli, sul Grappa e sul Piave*

Piero Tessaro 1997



(...) "I want to tell you about how I spend my time here, how they treat us on the front.

(...) Until we were on the front lines, therefore risking being killed every minute, they treated us a bit better because they were afraid of us and when we advanced they shouted move, move otherwise I will shoot you".

"White flags could be seen from the enemy as they moved towards us. We did the same, we moved towards them, we met them, we shook hands and exchanged cigarettes, tobacco and bread".

"We spent a few hours walking around together as it had become paradise. But all of a sudden a cannon blast was fired into the air from one side to the other, we are forced to separate and we knew that we were enemies once again".

From a collection of letters by G. Procacci 1993



## I WAS TWENTY YEARS OLD

Carlo Orelli had fought in the trenches of the first world war, and survived the machine guns, the snipers and the shots of the Austrian howitzers. Today at 109 years of age he explains:

**"It's not like in a movie.**

**The cannon does not go: boom.** Too far from the trenches. The cannon makes a grumbling noise, a far off sound, then a whistle that becomes louder and louder, closer and closer. The shell is about to arrive. Sometimes it does not even explode immediately. Sometimes it does not explode at all. It is the lottery of death."

## THE WAR BULLETIN

N. 1256  
DATED 29/10/1918  
12:00 HOURS

"The important battle that we were involved in on the Piave on the 27th day, continued victoriously. From the slopes of the hills of Valdobbiadene to the Treviso-Oderzo railway, our troops and allies repossessed the left side of the river in just two days of glorious battles. Troops from the 12th Army took the hills of Valdobbiadene by storm: the 138th French regiment took the Mount Pianar by storm. The plain of Sernaglia is in our possession".

## THE RUINS



"On 27th December, accompanied by Major Pisapia, I visited the plaster cast **Museum of Canova** and my impressions were very strong. The Museum, struck completely by two howitzers, had a sensational aspect. Having crossed the first arch, I was almost paralysed and a knot in my throat prevented me from answering the questions of the major: I am morally wounded. Seeing that place, sacred to artists and venerable to the memory of the great Canova that had spent his life among that marble, transformed into a cemetery!... The wickedness of war had saved nothing".

From **Aquile e Angeli, sul Grappa e sul Piave** Piero Tessaro 1997



## ON THE SIDE OF THE AUSTRIANS

"The patrols advanced on the combat front are just twenty or thirty steps away, the first line is just three hundred steps away from the enemies that are well hidden and protected by barbed wi-

re... and all of a sudden an explosion of infantry fire. It has the effect of a liberation, like a bath after having marched through dust. Men can no longer hold themselves back: just like somebody that gets undressed, bags are thrown on the ground, an impetuous advancement begins. From one tree to another, from one protection to another; led by officials."

From R. Musil, **Der parallele Krieg (The parallel war)**



"... infantry battalions move down from our area and run towards to the shaky bridge. Here and there shrapnel falls onto the troops. Men start to shout and some of them fall into the water. But the first have now arrived, a group, a second group. **They are already starting to loose breath. All of a sudden a cloud of black smoke rises half way across the bridge. A target struck completely.** The narrow footbridge is broken and its remains are pushed away by the current. Groups of men fall into the water in fear, they swim, they fight, they drown. Others reach the bank, but fall under the rain of lead of Italian shrapnel".

From **Das Ende einer Arme (The end of an army)** by Fritz Weber, Mursia Editor

## LIBRARY

### BOOKS

**PIAVE. Un anno di battaglie 1917-18**  
Walther Schaumann  
Peter Schubert  
Ghedina and Tassotti Editors

**1918 IL PIAVE**  
**L'ultima offensiva della Duplice Monarchia**  
Peter Fiala  
Mursia Editor

**LA FINE DI UN ESERCITO (Das Ende einer Arme)**  
Fritz Weber  
Mursia Editor

**GRAPPA**  
**Quel monte invincibile**  
Walter Schaumann  
Ghedina and Tassotti Editors

**ADDIO ALLE ARMI (A farewell to arms)**  
Ernest Hemingway  
Mondadori, 1965

### FILMS

**La grande guerra**  
Directed by Mario Monicelli  
1959

**I recuperanti**  
Directed by Ermanno Olmi  
1969

**Uomini contro**  
Directed by Francesco Rosi  
1970

### WEBSITES

[www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/)

[www.worldwar1.com/itafront/](http://www.worldwar1.com/itafront/)

[www.artiglieria.net](http://www.artiglieria.net)

[www.lagrandeguerra.it](http://www.lagrandeguerra.it)

## SEEN AS YOU ARE HERE

Discover the following:

### **WATER AND NATURE**

Along the area three important rivers flow, that used to be used for waterways, in the period of the Venetian Republic: the Piave, the Sile and the Livenza. Currently in summer periods the Piave is used for naturalistic courses: the Sile, the longest waterground river in Europe, surrounded by enchanting Venetian villas, is still navigable. The Livenza is of important cyclist-naturalist interest. Not forgetting the Meschio, to be discovered.

### **WALLED CITIES, CASTLES AND FORTIFICATIONS**

Restored castles, ruins of towers, structures incorporated in the city, protection walls, fortified sites stud the territory, with constant reference to history, to the events of communal autonomy, to the contrasting relations between Lordships. These sites punctuate the Marca Trevigiana everywhere.

### **ARCHITECTURE, A MILLENNARY SUMMARY**

Villas, buildings, religious structures and districts constitute a cultural, historical and artistic patrimony waiting to be discovered. Eight different historical periods create the excuse for a step-by-step course, aimed at discovering an enchanting architectural treasure, along the Western part of the province of Treviso.

### **A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SIGNS OF ARCHAEOLOGY**

The presence of Roman settlements, which are very important in the area of Treviso, is well known - Acelum, Opitergium and Tarvisium, but also Montebelluna - as well as the survival of the road network of ancient connections roads and traces of ancient divisions.

### **WINES AND FLAVOURS**

Rich with wine resources, Marca Trevigiana has defined the first road of wine in Italy, which moves from Valdobbiadene to Conegliano. Typical products of local gastronomy, one for all the unforgettable radicchio of Treviso, can be tasted in the characteristic restaurants of the province.

### **REBORN IN SPORT**

The Marca Trevigiana is one of the most sporty provinces of Italy.

The variety of natural and physical environments allow for various sports to be carried out.



INFORMATION AND TOURISM OFFICE

### **TREVISO**

Piazza Monte di Pietà 8  
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### **ASOLO**

Piazza Garibaldi 73  
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F 0039 0423 524137  
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### **CASTELFRANCO VENETO**

Via F. M. Preti 66  
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F 0039 0423 771085  
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### **CONEGLIANO**

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iat.conegliano@provincia.treviso.it

### **ODERZO**

Calle Opitergium 5  
T 0039 0422 815251  
F 0039 0422 814081  
iat.oderzo@provincia.treviso.it

### **SAN VENDEMIANO**

Via Liberazione 133/a  
T 0039 0438 403213  
F 0039 0438 403267  
iat.sanvendemiano@provincia.treviso.it

### **VITTORIO VENETO**

Viale della Vittoria 110  
T 0039 0438 57243  
F 0039 0438 53629  
iat.vittorioveneto@provincia.treviso.it



PROVINCIA DI TREVISO

Council Office of Culture and Tourism  
Culture and Tourism Agency

In collaboration with  
The Organisation of Tourist Promotion in Treviso  
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A.S.C.O.M.  
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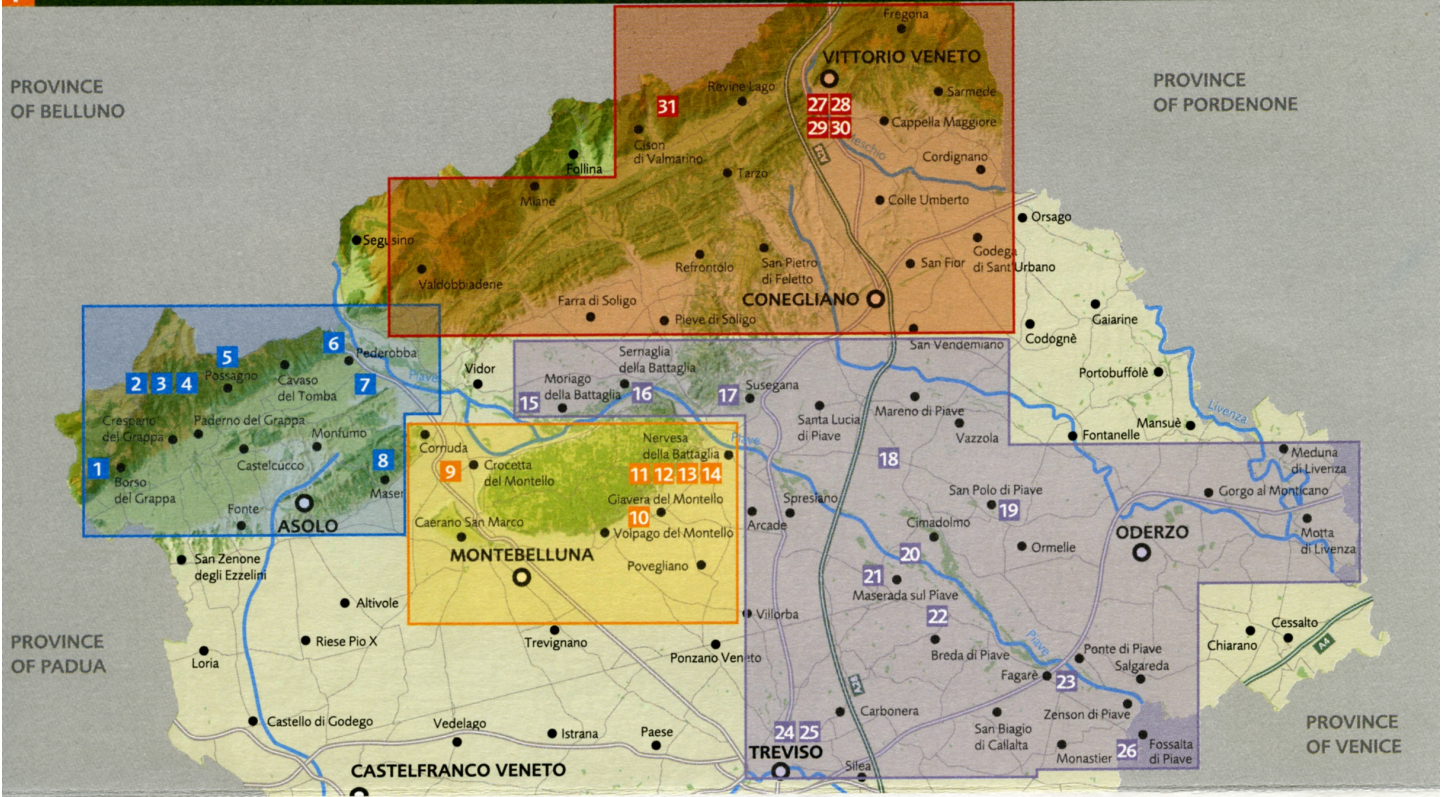
Photographs  
Historical Photographic Archives of the Province of Treviso  
Photographic Department of the Italian Army  
Kriegs Archiv, Vienna

Created by  
The Tourism Office of the Province of Treviso

Art project  
F A B R I C A

Translation  
Equa Trading srl

Printing  
Arti Grafiche Conegliano



## LEGEND

### THE GRAPPA AREA

#### Romano d'Ezzelino

1 Strada Cadorna

#### Cima del Grappa

2 The Austrian-Hungarian Military Shrine

3 The Italian Military Shrine and Historical War Museum (T 0039 0423 544840)

4 Trenches

#### Possagno

5 Temple and Plaster Cast Museum (T 0039 0423 544323)

#### Pederobba

6 The French Military Shrine

#### Pederobba (Onigo)

7 Monument to the soldier of Italy

#### Maser

8 The French Observatory "Tazzer"

- The "Marocco" Observatory Forcella Mostacin

### THE AREA OF MONTELLO

#### Crocetta del Montello

9 The King's Observatory

#### Giavera del Montello

10 The British Cemetery

#### Nervesa della Battaglia

11 The Military Shrine of Montello and the Museum of the Great War (T 0039 0422 779996)

12 The Barge of Genio Pontieri

13 The Abbey of Sant' Eustachio

14 Monument to Major Francesco Baracca

### THE PIAVE AND TREVISO AREA

#### Moriago della Battaglia

15 The Island of the Dead

#### Sernaglia della Battaglia (Falzé di Piave)

16 Monument to the Bold ones: "The Caymans of the Piave"

#### Susegana

17 The San Salvatore Castle (T 0039 0438 738241)

#### Vazzola (Tezze)

18 The British Military Cemetery

#### San Polo di Piave

19 Villa Giol

#### Maserada sul Piave (Salettuo)

20 Monument to the 7th British Division

#### Maserada sul Piave

21 Natural and History Civil Museum (T 0039 0422 877167)

#### Breda di Piave

(San Bartolomeo - Località Molino della Sega)

22 Monument to the Boys of '99

#### Fagarè della Battaglia (San Biagio di Callata)

23 Monument Ossuary of the Fallen

#### Treviso

24 Monument to the fallen of Piazza Vittoria

25 Historical Photographic Archives of the Province of Treviso

#### Fossalta di Piave

26 Plate dedicated to Ernest Hemingway

### THE AREA OF VITTORIO VENETO

#### Vittorio Veneto

27 The Castle of Serravalle

28 The Museum of Battle (T 0039 0438 57695)

29 Palazzo Minucci de Carlo

30 Monument to the Fallen

#### Cison di Valmarino

31 Passo San Boldo

## WHERE IS THE PROVINCE OF TREVISO?



Located in the Veneto region, in the North-East of Italy, just a few kilometres from Venice, the Province of Treviso can be easily reached by:

**Motorways:** **A27 Venice-Belluno** (exit at Vittorio Veneto North and South, Cologniano, Treviso North and South, Mogliano Veneto), **A4 Turin-Trieste** (exit Cessalto)

**Airports:** San Giuseppe (TV), Marco Polo (VE)

**Railway lines:** Venice-Udine, Venice-Belluno, Vicenza-Treviso