



Republika Slovenija

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Grobišče talcev v Dragi pri Begunjah

The burial ground of hostages in Draga, Begunje

Dolino Draga je v drugi svetovni vojni zaznamovala bližina gestapovskega zapora in mučilnice v Begunjah, kjer je nemški okupator zaprl več kot 11.477 ljudi, večinoma osumljenih sodelovanja v osvobodilnem boju. Skoraj polovico so jih odgnali v druge zapore, taborišča in koncentracijska taborišča, kjer so mnogi umrli.

Begunjski zapori so bili pojem hudega. Trije zaporniki so umrli za posledicami mučenja ali ran, šest se jih je rešilo trpljenja s samomorom. Pri zaslišanju in mučenju niti nosečnicam, otrokom in ranjencem niso prizanašali. Okupator je v povračilo za posamezne partizanske akcije ustrelil ali obesil 849 zapornikov. Največ, 189, so jih postrelili v tukajšnjem opuščnem peskokopu, prvo skupino avgusta 1941. V največji skupini, 3. januarja 1942, je bilo 36 fantov in mož, sozaporniki so morali izkopano jamo med streljanjem razširiti. Z avstrijske Koroške so z avtobusi vozili ljudi na ogled streljanja talcev; med gledalci so bili tudi otroci.

Streljanje v Dragi so opustili po maju 1942. Gestapo ljudem namreč ni mogel prepričati, da kljub prepovedi na grobove ne bi prinašali rož in sveč, zmanjkovalo je prostora in v bližini so bili partizani. Borci Kokrškega odreda, svojci in domačini, predvsem mladina iz Begunj, so že leta 1944 na dan mrtvih pripravili žalno slovesnost z recitacijami in pesmimi, ob križu in zvezdi je stal partizanski zastavonoša.

Prve ustreljene talce so upepelili v Gradcu v Avstriji, 165 pa so jih pokopali v skupne grobove na kraju streljanja. Po osvoboditvi so na grobišče prenesli še posmrtno ostanke 20 borcev ter nekaj talcev od drugod. Na 94 nagrobnikih, postavljenih na 11 skupnih grobov, je vklesano 192 imen in dva neznana talca. Po zasnovi arhitekta Edvarda Ravnikarja je bilo grobišče v Dragi s kipom talca Borisa Kalina urejeno kot spominski park v 1950. letih.

O tragični zgodovini doline poje ponarodela Avsenikova pesem Tam, kjer murke cveto. Slavko Avsenik edino te pesmi iz svojega opusa ni dovolil prevesti v nemščino.

During World War II, the Draga Valley was marked by the proximity of the Gestapo prison and torture chamber in Begunje, where the German occupiers imprisoned more than 11,477 people, most of them suspected of having been involved in the resistance movement.

The conditions in the Begunje prison were horrific. Three inmates died from the effects of torture or their wounds; six ended their suffering by committing suicide. In retaliation for several partisan actions, the occupiers shot or hanged 849 prisoners. The largest number, 193, were shot in the abandoned sand pit here, with the first group in August 1941. The largest group, on January 3, 1942, consisted of 36 men; their fellow prisoners had to widen the pit during the shooting. People came by bus from Austrian Carinthia to watch the execution of the hostages. Among the spectators were also children.

The shootings in Draga ceased after May 1942. The Gestapo, after all, could not prevent people from bringing flowers and candles to the graves despite the ban; space was running out, and partisans were nearby.

The first Draga victims were cremated in Graz, Austria, while 165 were buried in mass graves at the site of the shooting. After liberation, the remains of 20 fighters and some hostages from elsewhere were transferred to the cemetery. On 94 headstones, placed on 11 mass graves, 192 names and two unknown hostages are inscribed. Designed by architect Edvard Ravnikar, the cemetery in Draga, featuring a statue of a hostage by sculptor Boris Kalin, was converted into a memorial park in the 1950s.



Grobovi talcev v Dragi 1945. Foto Slavko Smolej.



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