

Design of the monument of the Russian and Soviet soldiers who died in the Slavic lands in two world wars

(historical reference)

Embassy finalize the issues related to the implementation of the approval of the President of Russia and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Borut Pahor of Slovenia the project opening in 2016 the monument to Russian and Soviet soldiers who died on Slovenian soil in the two world wars (hereinafter - the monument. Collegially with the Russian Ambassador in Slovenia D.G.Zavgava and the mayor of the Slovenian capital Z.Yankovicha and employees of City Hall, and Russian diplomats were picked up in Ljubljana for the monument - in the park area of one of the most prestigious areas of the city.

The fate of the peoples of Russia and Slovenia in particular are closely intertwined in the twentieth century. Thousands of our soldiers remain forever lying in the Slovenian land. Their burial of the First and Second World Wars, scattered throughout the country, located in 56 cities and towns, including in Ljubljana. All burials are in good condition. Every year since 2010 the Embassy holds each of them a commemorative ceremony with the laying of flowers. The events, along with Russian diplomats attended by representatives of the Slovenian authorities, veterans' and social organizations, compatriots.

A good tradition was laying wreaths to the monuments of our soldiers during the First and Second World Wars, the high representatives of the Russian Federation, arriving on a visit to Slovenia (in recent years, among them: President of the Constitutional Court of the Russian V.D.Zorkin, President of the Supreme Court of Russia VM .Lebedev, Russian Prosecutor General Yu.Chaika, chairman of the Russian part of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, Minister of Communications and Mass Communications of the Russian N.A.Nikiforov, Special Representative of the Russian President for International Cultural Cooperation Mikhail Shvydkoi Delegations from various Russian regions, the Russian Union of veterans and others.). From 2014, the Embassy in collaboration with the Moscow Center for international assistance "Blagovest" will organize at the monument to our soldiers commemorative events held with the participation of Slovenia in the treatment and rest under the social assistance programs of Russian children from Moscow, Vladimir and other regions of our country .

During the First World War on the territory of Slovenia, which at that time was part of the Austro-Hungarian, Russian troops did not take part in hostilities. When in the spring of 1915 on the current Slovenian territory formed the Austro-Italian front along the river Sochi (ital. Soca, on this one of the bloodiest battlefields of the First World War in 1915-1917. On both sides were killed about 1.5 million. People.), the Austrian authorities were brought here over 40 thousand. Russian prisoners of war. Their labor was used mainly in the construction of military infrastructure to supply the troops on the front line, which was held in the Julian Alps at an altitude of 2000 m. The POWs actually "on virgin soil" laid the train tracks, roads, rope crossings, bridges, etc. In the mountain covered forest areas, clearing the way from winter snowdrifts. It is known that the construction of the road through the pass Vršič in the 1915-1917 biennium. It employs about 10 thousand. pers. and on laying the railway narrow gauge railway near the city of Idrija autumn of 1917 - more than 20 thousand. Russian prisoners of war. Several thousand people were involved in the civil sector - heavy construction and agricultural work.

Many of the prisoners died from overwork, harsh prison conditions, as a result of various natural and man-made disasters (avalanches, the collapse of building structures, tunnels, etc.). Information about the Russian prisoners of war, to build military facilities, very stingy. Virtually unknown to their names, and often - and the place of burial. Austrian archives, which store the data, will be available at the end of the 100th anniversary of the First World War, that is, in 2018. Historians estimate that killed between 10% and 25% were in Slovenia in the years Russian prisoners of war, ie, from 5 to 10 thousand. man.

People's memory of Slovenians still keeps the memory of 300 Russian prisoners of war who died in March 1916 when an avalanche near the town of Mount Kranska-. There, at an altitude of 1200 m, their comrades in the memory of the victims was erected a small wooden chapel, called the Russian. Here at the end of the 1920s. by the post-revolutionary emigration and local residents were held commemorative ceremonies. The special meaning of this tradition has acquired in our time. Since 1992, the annual ceremony at the chapel organized by the Embassy, the friendship society "Slovenia - Russia" and local authorities of Kranjska Gora. In recent years, Russian chapel is perceived as a true symbol of friendship between the peoples of Russia and Slovenia, in ceremonies involving thousands of people, the higher the Slovenian leadership. The Russian

delegation at the celebrations in 2015 was led by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who in those days was on a visit to Slovenia.

As a result of the embassy in the integration of memorable places connected with the history of our country, hiking trails around Slovenia, the chapel has also become a place of pilgrimage for thousands of tourists from around the world.

The memory of Russian prisoners of war kept the name "The Russian Bridge" in the famous cave in Postojna, Russian street in Ljubljana, Russian road through the Alpine pass Vršič and many others.

Currently, in cooperation with the Slovenian Embassy historians are working on the script for a documentary about the fate of Russian prisoners of war in Slovenia in the First World War.

During the Second World War, our people took part in the fighting on the territory of Slovenia. In April 1945, Soviet troops with heavy fighting was liberated Prekmurje region downstream river. Mura, in the extreme north-east of the country. The names of hundreds of victims - the young people call in 1945 from all over the Soviet Union carved on granite slabs mass grave.

In Nazi Germany occupied the north-eastern part of Slovenia in 1941 created a camp for prisoners of war.

In the city of Maribor has survived the building of the camp, where apart from the citizens of other countries were held, and in fact, Soviet prisoners of war were destroyed. Thus, only brought here in September 1941, 5400 of the Red Army in the spring of 1942 survived

147 people., As a terrible fate awaited and several thousand prisoners who arrived in "Stalag 18D" in 1942 POW camps were also in other cities in the north of Slovenia.

In 2014, in the city of Maribor, in the preserved building concentration camps Embassy in cooperation with the Slovenian side of the museum was opened. The ceremony was attended by senior management of Slovenia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Minister of Communications and Mass Communications N.A.Nikiforov, other high officials, hundreds of Slovenians from all over the country.

On the basis of materials collected Embassy about the tragic fate of the Red Army who were tortured by the Nazis filmed a documentary "Unconquered", which was shown by Russian "First Channel" in the year of the 70th anniversary of the Victory Day of Memory and Grief June 22.

A significant number of Soviet citizens during the Second World War, fought in the ranks of the Slovenian partisan movement. Those who were able to escape from the Nazi camps, or to escape from forced labor, being in Slovenia, without knowing the language and terrain, not trying to get lost, and established contacts with the resistance movement, took up arms and showing extraordinary courage, continued to struggle with the Nazis, inflicting them significant damage. When a part of the Ninth Corps Slovenian People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia had accumulated hundreds of Soviet soldiers, they had formed a separate military unit, called "Russian battalion." His feats of arms - undermining communications, rescue headquarters of the Ninth Corps of the environment, participation in the liberation of Trieste, a strategically important city and a major port in the north of Italy, is legendary.

In "Russian battalion" fought the representatives of many nations of our country. Heroically fought our compatriots in other compounds AVNOJ on Slovenian soil.

In 2012, on the basis of archival materials collected by the Embassy and eyewitness accounts of events by Russian filmmakers had filmed a full-length documentary "Russian battalion", which tells about the high moral character of Soviet citizens who fought with the Nazis in the Slovenian land.

The Russian Embassy in Slovenia is actively cooperating with the authorities of the host country, local veteran and public organizations and business to perpetuate the memory of our soldiers. The plans for 2016 - the creation of a documentary film about the fate of Russian prisoners of war, caught in Slovenia during the First World War. Mail the two countries at the initiative of the Embassy jointly issued a commemorative stamp, the other planned cultural and historical events. In agreement with the Fund "Russian world" Embassy made a commemorative medal "100 years of the Russian Chapel", which will be awarded to citizens of Russia and Slovenia, who have made a great contribution to the search and military memorial work in the preservation of monuments of Russian history and culture abroad.

The central event of the year 2016 will be the opening of the monument to Russian and Soviet soldiers in Ljubljana.