



## THE GREAT WAR



PROVINCIA DI TREVISO  
www.provincia.treviso.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

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#### VITTORIO VENETO

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PROVINCIA DI TREVISO

Council Office of Culture and Tourism  
Culture and Tourism Agency

In collaboration with  
The Organisation of Tourist Promotion in Treviso  
C.C.I.A.A.  
A.S.C.O.M.  
Town Halls within the province

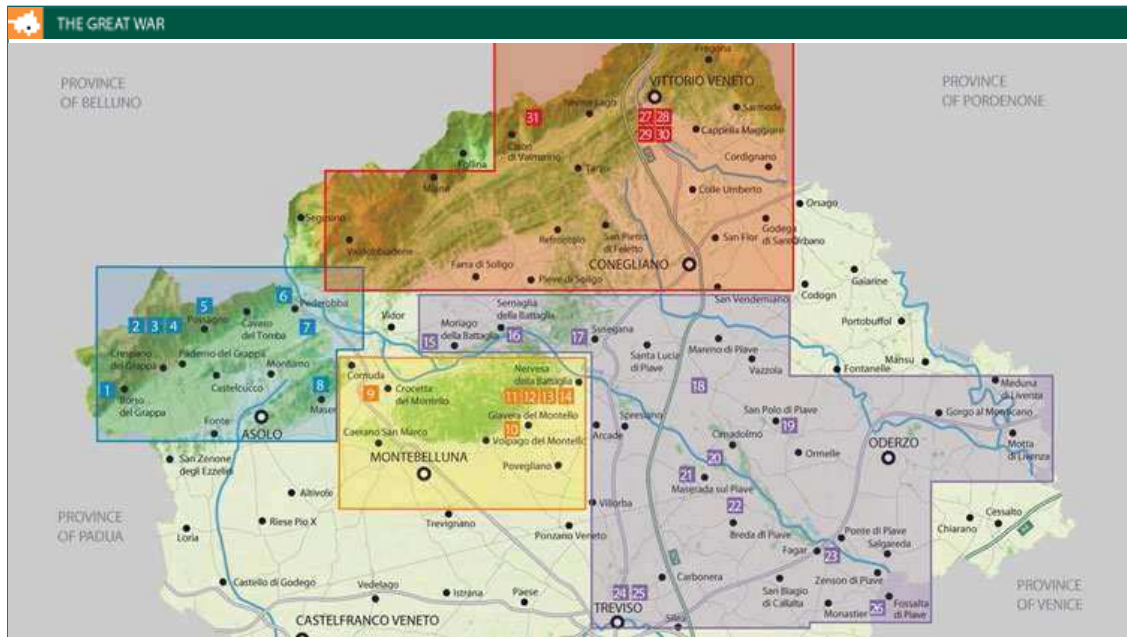
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## LEGEND

**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 +39 0423 544840)  
4 Trenches

**Possagno**  
5 Temple and Plaster Cast Museum (T +39 0423 544323)

**Pederobba**  
6 The French Military Shrine

**THE AREA OF MONTEELLO**

**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 +39 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 (Falze di Piave)  
16 Monument to the Bold ones: "The Caymans of the Piave"

Susegana  
17 The San Salvatore Castle (T +39 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 +39 0422 877167)

**THE AREA OF VITTORIO VENETO**

**Vittorio Veneto**  
27 The Castle of Serravalle  
28 The Museum of Battle (T +39 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, Conegliano, 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

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 this 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 Fagarè 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 wire... 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 Armee (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 Armee)  
 Fritz Weber  
 Mursia Editor

**GRAPPA**  
 Quel monte invalicabile  
 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)