

Lorenzago

During the Year of the Invasion

1917 – 1918

The Diary of Don Quinto Comuzzi

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This modest publication is released for the 50th anniversary of the death of Don Quinto Comuzzi, for 34 years the Parish Priest of Lorenzago, and it is meant to be a heartfelt honor to a strong and generous pastor who supported the fates of his parish during the difficult situations of the Austrian invasion of November 1917.



Don Quinto Comuzzi

Born in Lestizza (Udine) on November 13, 1879 to Luigi and Regina Bertoldi. He was ordained a priest on June 9, 1906 and he worked with don Luigi Cattaruzza at Villapiccola d' Auronzo. In 1906 he worked at the parish church of Lozzo with don Vincenzo Da Rin Puppel. On December 8, 1908 he arrived at Lorenzago accompanied by Captain Ferdinando Pecco and Francesco Chiamulera as Vicario Parrocchiale in place of don Pietro Da Ronco. From the first of January to the first of July he was the Economo Spirituale. After government approval, on November 18, 1909, he was named as temporary vicario on January 1, 1910 and on June 13, 1910 he took possession by popular election.

He was the principal inspiration for the asilio of Lorenzago and he taught religion at the local Istituto di Avviamento Professionale bringing upon himself the respect of students and teachers so much so the director, Pegoraro, defined him as, "of highest moral and political conduct".

On March 1, 1943, for health reasons, he abdicated the priesthood returning to private life near his brother Monsignor Aleardo, at the parish of Fagagna (UD) where he died on January 26, 1947



The Piazza – Lorenzago del Cadore

Lorenzago in the Year of the Invasion 1917 – 1918

From the Parochial Archives. The world storm explodes. The conflict, in a fearful sequence, sweeps up one nation after another.

Declaration of War

July 1914

28th: The Austro-Hungarian declaration of war on Serbia

August 1914

- 1st: The German declaration on Russia
- 2nd: The German declaration on French
- 3rd: The Belgians Refuse the Germans Free Passage
- 4th: Great Britain declares war on Germany
- 5th: The Austro-Hungarian declares war on Russia
- 5th: Montenegro declares war on Austria
- 6th: Serbia declares war on Germany
- 11th: France declares war on Austria-Hungary
- 13th: Great Britain declares war on Austria-Hungary
- 23rd: Japan on Germany
- 25th: Austria on Belgium

November 1914

- 2nd: Russia declares war on Turkey
- 5th: France on Turkey
- 5th: Great Britain on Turkey
- 7th: Belgium on Turkey
- 7th: Serbia on Turkey

May 1915

24th: Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary

August 1915

21st: Italy against Turkey

October 1915

24th: Bulgaria against Serbia

26th: Great Britain against Bulgaria
28th: Italy against Bulgaria

March 1916

10th: Germany against Portugal

August 1916

27th: Romania against Austria-Hungary
28th: Italy against Germany
28th: Germany against Romania
28th: Montenegro against Turkey

October 1916

2nd: Russia against Bulgaria

April 1917

7th: The United States of America against Germany. Other states of America against Germany

The Diary during the Year of the Invasion 1917-1918
Of Don Quinto Comuzzi
Parish Priest of Lorenzago di Cadore

October 1917

October 24th: The Austro-Hungarians assisted by the Germans break through with great force on Caporetto and penetrate the sacred soil of Italy! (The Battle of Caporetto)

October 27th: The Austro-Hungarians and Germans burn Cividale and occupy it.

October 28th: The enemy with unheard of boldness hastily enter Udine. The city is unpopulated.

October 31st: Our forces retreat to the Tagliamento leaving in the hands of the enemy 180,000 prisoners, one thousand cannons and a large amount of the spoils of war. From the last communication of General Cadorna and the public voice it appears evident that the advantage of the enemy over our forces has happened by betrayal (Seconda Armata?)

November 1917

November 6th: Our Italian forces resist for some days at the Tagliamento protecting the retreat with ease to make a bridge head at the Piave, on the Po or at the Adige. At Lorenzago for seven continual days Italian soldiers retreat from the Carnia passing from Mauria to Lorenzago to Pieve di Cadore. In advance of the enemy horde entire families and the population from the Carnia countryside flee from innumerable hamlets¹. Indescribable is the sadness and the desperation on the faces of all. The inhabitants gave courteous shelter to the soldiers in retreat, in the parsonage there was housed, on some nights, two hundred, in all the rooms, the hallways, on the benches, tables, the floor all settled in like sardines. These officers and soldiers were not looking for comfort only shelter from the cold and the rain which was pouring.

The Austrians are at Forni di Sopra. The Italians resisted somewhat at Cima Mauria in order to have time to retreat to the Piave. There was light combat. About 80 soldiers between both the Austrian and Italian soldiers were injured; they were transported to Forni di Sopra. A few died².

¹ On the Register of the dead for the parish of Lorenzo, from the date of November 1917, the parish priest wrote, "at the hour of 5, during the transport of four pieces of artillery along the road of Mauria, the soldier Giulio Brigoni di Vercelli, class of 1897, 251st artillery battery, died falling under the wheel of the fourth piece". Already from November 4th, foreseeing the arrival of the Austrians, don Quinto prepared to deliver to the Superintendent, Mr. Moschetti, several precious objects among them vestments, crosses and the old flag of the Centenaro d'Oltrepave. The last was lost on the road during the return, in November 1918.

² On the Pass of Mauria our bersaglieri of the 10th and 11th Regiment, under the command of Colonel Ernesto Foglia,, courageously fought against a well trained and resourceful enemy. The Austrians, after several attacks, succeeded to occupy Col Pioi cutting the front of our troops in two between Casera Razzo and Mauria. There were episodes of valor near Forcella del "Pra del Santo", at Col Pioi, near the roadman's cabin and "il Crepo delle Staïpe" where after a distance of years one discovered the skeleton of a gunner still surrounded by the garlands of rusted cartridge cases.

November 7th: A day of pain and dismay! From 9:00 a.m. in the morning until noon Italian soldiers descended from Mauria. From 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon until 5:40 p.m. in the evening: the soldiers, in all around 18,000, passed through a mourning Lorenzago, some soldiers were happily singing and content, without weapons, without knapsacks, without rifles, as if returning from a cheerful march. Oh what a sinister impression! The entire population of Lorenzago was ready to flee their houses and go beyond the Piave. Ready were their cases, trunks, bags and they awaited trucks and orders to flee. At 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon came the order from the Supreme Command at Belluno to suspend the evacuation of civilians. Then the desperation grew. The parish priest encouraged the population, assuring he would not abandon his responsibility, and remain, at any cost, with them. But some civilians, against orders, departed with the retreating troops. The rest of the population is extremely apprehensive and waits for the terrible moment.



“Before the enemy horde many middle class families and entire villages fled from the Carnia...”

November 7th (5:40 p.m.): The last of the Italian soldiers depart: On the road one sees some civilians; the electric lights are turned off. At 6:30 p.m. the first of the Austrian patrols arrive at Villapiccola, around 200 soldiers. They arrive in the town square; the officers give orders to the soldiers! Alone I present myself before them, I greet the

The few survivors returned towards Lorenzago under the fire of Austrian machine guns leaving on the ground 16 dead and 80 wounded. The Austrians had 26 dead and 110 wounded. For many of the heroic defenders of Mauria and Razzo, captured, began a journey without return to an unknown concentration camp, towards other sufferings and unknown heroism devoted to mere survival.

officers and entrust to them the people, the women, the children and kindly invite them to the parsonage.

Accepting my invitation, at 10:05 p.m. the officers enter the parsonage. I greet them civilly, I offer them some wine and coffee and they also show kindness. To my recent recommendations they assured me the soldiers will not harm the people, they are searching only for food, they are very hungry as they have not eaten for two days. Well! I said, we should go to the Sindaco who would take the necessary steps to supply all the troops because some soldiers had entered the houses and ransacked and frightened the people.

My advice was not accepted, saying it was impossible to restrain the disorganized and starving troops. I was limited then to again urge the people, the women and children be shown respect. Of the five officers who came to the parsonage none of them spoke Italian they spoke in Latin but we understood each other very well. We took leave of each other around 11:00 p.m.

At precisely 10:00 p.m. while talking with the officers, a loud noise was heard. At 11:00 p.m. the electric lights at Ponte Nuovo were extinguished. My mother, my sister, my niece and I closed the doors and went to our rooms to rest.

Towards midnight the rest of the army arrived. The troops spread out and assailed the houses: with their rifle-stocks they opened the doors scaring everyone. They entered every room, searching everywhere, taking food, drink, clothes, precious objects, baskets and travel bags which were prepared for departure. Oh, what a night of terror and plunder! Only the parsonage was left in peace.

November 8: My mother Regina Bertoldi Comuzzi, my sister Maria, my seven year old niece Gina Comuzzi and I arose at 7:00 a.m. and for an hour worked transporting food. At 8:00 a.m. while I got ready to leave, to take myself to the church to celebrate Holy Mass, I heard a banging on the door. When I opened it before me were two gendarmes with the acting Sindaco Gerardini Giovanni fu Apollonio, the Assessore Luigi De Donà fu Donato, the acting Segretario comunale Tremonti Vittorio fu Maurizio and Mr. Francesco Piazza Varè fu Vincenzo father of the former Sindaco Dr. Giovanni Piazza Varè, a fugitive in Italy.

I was soon escorted to the Municipio by the gendarmes together with Mr. Francesco Piazza Varè where, in a room on the main floor, we were taken hostage, placed into custody by two guards: one in the above hallway and the other at the foot of the stairs, in the vestibule of the municipal building.

The motive for our sequestration was not revealed to us but it was ordered by Captain Opitz, of the 94th Infantry, a man of tall stature, well built, a good presence, he was 45 years old, proud and arrogant, who with a boldness gave the order to the troops to pillage from the pergola to the De Mas house.

Opitz strode around the square accompanied by a large Alsatian dog, with a revolver in his hand firing, from time to time, shots into the air with a sickening arrogance.

Meanwhile soldiers flowed into the square carrying fresh butter, cheese, honey and pieces of meat from cows, goats, sheep, swine, chickens and rabbits. All the food was taken from the local families. Two by two they lit *fuocherelli* in the square and in the outskirts of town to cook the food. Others stopped in all the houses to ravage and consume anything they found. It is enough to say on this day November 8, 1917 there were

roasted and devoured around 100 pigs, many cows and calves. Some of the soldiers became sick and even died of indigestion.

Meanwhile I found myself in custody, in the municipio, some Bosnian soldiers, with true Jewish faces, assaulted the parsonage: breaking the windows and breaking open the doors and the closets, stealing kitchen objects, two collection baskets with little money, seven bottles of 12 year old wine, a barrel with 50 liters of wine, some salami, a dozen chickens, five rabbits, cheese, bread, two cages with cocks, honey and other objects. One, who was drunk, threatened my mother and my sister who had to flee to another house abandoning the parsonage to the Austrian pirates.



Passo Mauria

10:00 a.m.: The square, the country side and the houses are full of Austrian soldiers. Other troops continue to descend from Mauria and to make for Lozzo and Domegge while ascending from Pelos to Lorenzago towards Mauria are around 5,000 Italians, calm, staunch and resigned, many from the 11th Bersaglieri Regiment, who were made prisoners at Rementera and at Laggio: soon after the arrival of the Austrians.

At 2:30 p.m., from the window of the municipal building I was able to send a message to Capitan Opitz to implore him for my liberation and that of my companion. Shortly thereafter we were set free!

At 4:30 p.m. three officers and a military chaplain arrived at the parsonage and they lodged here for two nights. My sister then delivered to an officer our pig which weighed 80 kilograms, fearing it might otherwise be stolen.

The population, notwithstanding the depredation, did not react and remained calm and resigned while the women, to tell the truth, were strictly respected.

November 9, 10, 11: There was the movement of a large number of troops which descended from Mauria towards Lozzo then towards Domegge along the road of Genio. Two hundred Italian prisoners passed through Lorenzago towards Mauria.

November 12: The passage of troops continues. In the parsonage we house nine officers with their attendants.



The cross placed near Col Pioi in 1994 on the site where on November 7, 1917 fell four unknown Bersaglieri. A small sign to remember all the Fallen of Mauria.

November 13, 14: There is the endless passage of trucks and carriages that inevitably have to stop at Pelos and at Lorenzago for the lack of a solid bridge over the Piave. Some, hundreds of them, settle in the “Piatte” south-east of the parsonage. There was a large requisition of hay and grain for the horses which were placed into to as many stalls as possible. Due to the bitter cold the custodians of the horses, the trucks and the carriages light large fires stealing wood and if there was none available taking fences and even doors. From the parsonage they stole three feet of wood, the fence that enclosed the garden and the courtyard and the respective door. Also pillaged was a deposit of boards, property of the Comune. What vandalism!

In the parsonage were lodged ten officers with their attendants and cooks, a cafeteria had been instituted in the kitchen. They are happy: eating, drinking and playing the phonograph, while, me, desperate, with the family are in the den with little to eat or drink. Then I have to give up my bed. Italia mia!

November 14: From 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. ascending to Lorenzago and going towards Mauria are nearly 7,000 Italian prisoners of which there were 170 officers and one Major, made prisoners near Lorenzago, Cimolais and Erto.

They were worn out and hungry from the journey, it had been three days since they had eaten. The officers with their attendants were stopped for a half hour in the church where they were administered a light minestrina made with white farina, rice and potatoes. To the prisoner soldiers in “Rivado”, near the school they were offered thirty quintals³ of cooked potatoes, prepared by the children of the village.

Many officers insisted upon seeing me, and one in particular was more weary than the others, I took him vermouth and two eggs. I stated to the Austrian Commander that this prisoner soldier was sickened by pneumonia: He was given shelter in the military infirmary.

At 6:00 p.m. all the prisoners were made to leave for Forni. Word circulated that nearly half a million Italians had been taken prisoner.

November 15: Arriving from Forni were innumerable carriages, trucks, troops, Compagnie di Sanità, and among them a military chaplain to assist with the funeral of one of their soldiers who died in Mauria by the accidental explosion of a bomb: He was buried in this cemetery at 4:30 p.m. One then finds here a Military Chaplain with the last name Sebèla della Moravia: he is an excellent priest.⁴

³ Metric unit of measurement; 1 quintal = 100,000 grams or 220.46 pounds.

⁴ The soldier is Nikolas Dudas, from Toblach (Dobbiaco), gunner. The Death Register additionally informs us of the detailed manner around the registered Austrian soldiers that fell at Mauria or were wounded in the village and afterwards died.

- F. Kurz, from the district of Saaz-Bohemen, called up at the age of 47, he died on the 17th hit in the abdomen.
- J. Mertlik, from the district of Nachod, 33 years of age, he died at Cima Mauria when a bomb exploded in his hand, he was found on November 21.
- J. Komel, from Gorizia, 30 years old, Captain Major of the 3rd Btg Pionieri di Pettau, he died when hit by an explosion of a grenade, he was buried at Cima Mauria on November 23rd.

There had to be many more fallen Italian and Austrian soldiers, as is demonstrated by the uncovered remains of cadavers or skeletons found months and even years later.

- On March 13, 1918 was found in a trench at Mauria the buried body of Luigi Migliorini from Stellata (FE), Bersagliere of the 3rd cp XXVII Btg del 11th Bersagliere.
- On August 3, 1918 the soldier J. Strefanko, from the district of Nyitra (Hungry) was buried at Lorenzago, he died on the road from Mauria returning from the front. He was buried with the assistance of Feld Kurat of Auronzo Kasimir Supicic.

Many Russians and even some other Austrians, died during the occupation, they were buried at Lorenzago: we know a Russian prisoner with the last name Lissanoff died from eating poison mushrooms, and on October 18, 1918 a certain F.R. Breonzilda was buried, the class of 1898, of the 8th Regg. Fant. Many other Russian prisoner, fell during the year of the enemy invasion, they were buried in different locations. We also know that many Fornesi found many dead bodies and buried them along the sides of the mountains and that the schools and the municipal building of this village were overwhelmed with wounded.

November 16: The movement of troops, carriages and trucks continue. The square and all the country side are overcrowded while officers and soldiers occupy the kitchens, bedrooms and other rooms. Entire families have to be placed for various days in one room, without eating and resting all together on the floor. The population is dismayed, no one knows what the day may bring. Oh, what desolation!



German infantry in transit from Fadalto to the front along the Piave.
(Archivio della guerra di Vienna)

November 17, 18, 19: The passage of troops continues, they arrive in carriages and trucks but are not able to continue to Lozzo seeing the difficulty of crossing the wooden bridge constructed over the Piave near “Pezzè”. Requisitions of food, grain, hay and animals as well as wood, in general everything that could be found in the houses.

At 4:45 p.m. passing through Lorenzago are 250 Italian prisoners.

In the house of Piazza “de Lissandro”, already a cooperative storehouse, it is stripped of all the furniture, the floors, doors and balcony are broken, for two days, in one room, are confined 32 military men, brought here from Valle and Cibiana to be interned. Among them is a *Diacono-Dottore in belle lettere*, dressed in civilian clothes: Benetazzo Marco from Padova and one Giuseppino from Turin living at Corso Palestro #14.

I received permission to visit them: They were very steady being they had to stand as there was no where to sit and coming from the room was an unbearable stench. I requested the Military Commander to have the room aired and cleaned and the men be spread out into other rooms and that it be done in my presence.

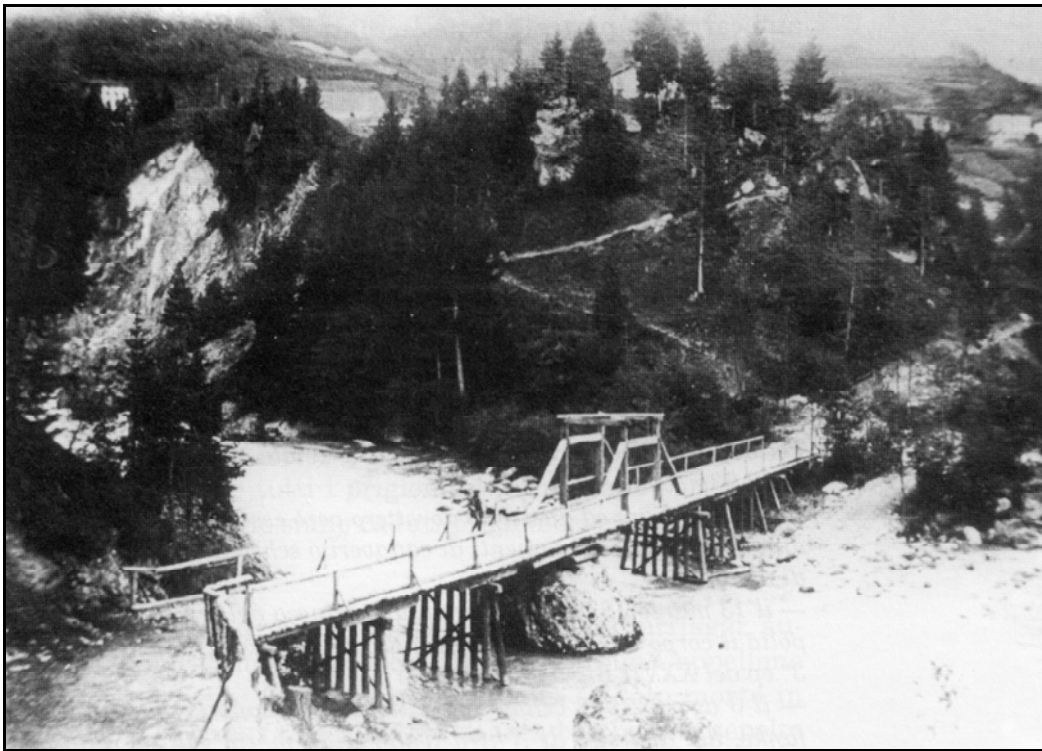
November 21: The afore mentioned 32 men are sent to Tai di Cadore. The movement of troops and carriages continues. Every night in the parsonage lodges eight or ten

officers with their attendants. They build two wooden bridges one near the other, one over the Piave south-west of Pelos, behind the new school and the other for pedestrians over the Piova in “Pezzè”.

November 22, 23, 24: The population is calm and resigned, afraid of what is to come. One begins to feel the scarcity of farina, bread, salt and tobacco. The troops and the carriages begin to evacuate the village.

November 25: The men are forced to clean the square and the country side while the women are to clean the houses. It is indescribable the filth brought on by the Austrian soldiers! It took fifteen days of work to clean everything! Arriving in the village are 150 Russian prisoners who are assigned to work on the bridges and roads.

A bit of calm returned to the village, the population felt a strong sense of solidarity. We resumed the holy services and festivities that had been suspended. The ground floor of the bell tower is obstructed with cases of Italian ammunition. One gives the signal of the holy service with the sounding of the bell.



November 1917: The foot bridge over the Piave built by the Austrians near the site called “Sote Stafol”. It was built in the early days of the invasion to help transport troops because the Ponte Nuovo had been destroyed by the Italian troops in retreat. The foot bridge was put back into use during World War II by orders of the Germans after the partisans had destroyed the Ponte Nuovo.

December 1917

December 1: They begin to lack food, even matches. One sees the coming of darkness.

December 4: In the company of a child Bortolo Piazza fu Cesare I approach Tai di Cadore crossing the Piave near Domegge over a dangerous footbridge constructed of simple boards. At Tai I presented myself to the Comando Superiore Militare to whom I make known the damages suffered by the population of Lorenzago because of the invasion (it was the first village invaded in Cadore). I asked for food, farina, bread, salt, sugar. They made me the promise and recommendation to count on potatoes because in Austria they are appreciated like *savoardi* (finger biscuits).

December 5 – 10: All of the men, together with the Russian prisoners, are forced to gather bombs, ammunition, rifles, cannons, machine guns, etc. Everything was deposited in the La Chiesa della Difesa which was already full: At the door was placed a guard. The munitions, among which are grenades and explosive gel, are dangerous for the village.



Austrian officers in front of the Albergo Verdi during the year of the invasion.

December 12: From November 8 to today the military command in this Comune and the communities of Vigo and Lozzo, alternatively was held by a military lieutenant in a room of the house at Costola #17. This day arrived from Auronzo Major Rodolfo Von Dahamen of the Teichschloss bei Bad Aussee. He appeared to be about 40 years old. A man rather complimentary and irritable, with a sensible, human heart.

Soon I introduce him to the population.

The Commander is transported to the house of De Donà fu Luigi sometimes known as Osvaldo at #18, having been abandoned by the owners who have fled into Italy, beyond the Piave.

December 13: I have the sense that they will be requisitioning all of the bells. I quickly notify the Pievano of Vigo and Lozzo of this sad news.

December 17: I, as the parish priest, together with the Fabbriceria and the acting Sindaco, present a petition and strongly protest in writing, demanding that they leave the bells detailing the illegality of this requisition, they belong, according to canon law and recognized by the Civil Authority, to the Church: and they who dare to carry them off will incur ecclesiastic censure.

December 22: I ask the Commander Tappa to treat well the workers assigned to the gathering of munitions and opening the roads blocked by snow. I asked that some bread and a small daily pay be distributed to them allowing for the holiday. I ask for permission to sound the small church bell to call to service, in place of the larger bells. I was granted permission.

December 25: It was the solemn festival of Christmas: The morning bells sounded at 3:30 a.m. with the small bell. Sparse was the cooperation of the faithful. In attendance at the solemn mass of 10:00 a.m. were the Major with the Lieutenant Major together with many Austrian soldiers. The service proceeded as in years past. At Vigo and Lozzo the early vigil at 5:00 p.m. and the first mass, on the 25th, at 6:00 a.m.

December 27: Finally, to the workers, was distributed a loaf of bread and every worker was awarded a corona⁵ for daily pay. The first distribution of Austrian nourishment to the Italians.

December 31: Since the end of November I had been concerned with the well being of the population but also trying to set up postal connections with Italy and the prisoners in Austria. Some letters sent by way of this Command to the Red Cross of Geneva, in Switzerland, arrived at their Italian destination. I was then interested in the neighboring villages.

⁵ Corona - (Austrian Crown) A silver or gold coin with the bust of Franz Josef I, the Emperor of Austria from 1848 to 1916 and King of Hungary from 1867 to 1916, on the face which were produced just prior to World War I.

January 1918

January 3: From a list of workers aged 15 – 18 the parish priest was to release those who were invalids and sickly. He prevented the Italian soldiers in convalescence from being released: Antonio Marino Gerardini di Giulio and Marino Da Pozza di Agostino.

January 10: We get word that soon the occupied land will become liberated. Noble hopes!

January 14: Arriving in Lorenzago are 300 Russian prisoners which are added to the other 400. They are unmannerly and starving, entering the houses demanding bread and potatoes, at night stealing potatoes, banging on doors and windows. They are forced to work on the roads and the bridges, to cut wood, and dig just south of the cemetery because the headquarters wants a garden.



Russian prisoners at Lorenzago.

February 1918

February 4: Requisition N. 60 comes, cows are led to Pieve. There is great desperation among the population. Who is it that protects their belongings making to requisition them to others.

February 26: It was ordered to take to the headquarters all the unserviceable copper. 2.80 quintals was delivered to the headquarters. From Linda and Giulia Tremonte were sequestered 30 pieces of copper with the excuse they had concealed it in the house of Venanzio Tremonti, as well as potatoes from Bettina Tremonti and Giovanni and Maria

Piazza fu Lucio. They ran the danger of being interned for offenses against the Austrians.

February 27: Advice was given to present to the headquarters a list of all the individual damages suffered as result of the invasion. The damages presented were assessed at nearly 400,000 lire.

February 28: The Commander recognized the list of damages (Around 400,000 lire) as being extremely exaggerated. He gave notice they would recognize only the damages proven by bills issued by the Commander Predecessor or lieutenant. The Austrian soldiers took possession of anything they found: cows, pigs, horses, chickens, rabbits, carts, carriages, hay, grain, tables, chairs and other home furnishings, wood for fires, and for their destructive pleasure. They stole laundry, sheets, dresses, shirts (as there were many without shirts). They would leave some checks for animals that sometimes had offensive and ridiculous German writings. There came a new requisition for copper. 3.25 quintals of copper was taken to the headquarters.

March 1918

March 11: Instant requisitions from the Costola house. From there they seized 54 kilograms of copper under the pretense it had been hidden, sheets of canvas, wool covers, 10 kilograms of wool, and 4 quintals of potatoes. This requisition was made believing they would find Italian military items. Angela Costola had spread the word the medical lieutenant Mollica had left, in the infirmary, 400 sheets to be distributed to the poor, meanwhile these had been seized and divided among various women. Angela obtained some old, ragged military clothes, she would talk freely with Austrian soldiers and Italian prisoners, one of which was a spy to whom she confided too much and had been under the watch of the Commander.

March 13: Villapiccola is under siege, all of the houses are assaulted, an immediate requisitioning of furniture, beds, furnishings, laundry, chairs, cutlery, etc. belonging to the Villa Resta, Pallavicino, Facheris Clavello. The items were taken to the headquarters and placed on ten wagons. On this occasion the soldiers stole even objects of private property. Great was the sadness of both men and women.

March 14: The house of Gerardini was taken over. Found was a large booty apparently from the afore mentioned villa. Three wagons were taken to the military headquarters.

March 14 evening: Major Dahmen told in a complaisant manner the booty from the seizure; he said that there would be similar requisitions tomorrow night at Villegrande and that Angela Costola would go to suffer very grave punishment if the sheets from the infirmary were not found, and grave if they were found.

March 14 night: An interrogation was instituted of every single member of the Costola family for the things requested and for the gossip made by Angela. The priest emphatically protested the brutality of the seizure, defining it illegal because it was made without the presence of a trustworthy person from the Comune, telling him that if tomorrow it was repeated at Villegrande the people would rise up. Not wanting to frighten the women. The sheets were to be taken to and placed in the parsonage without any clamor, provided that Angela was released of any charge. "They were given four days for the recovery of the sheets, the women brought 151 sheets to the parsonage. The major was satisfied, having been made to believe that there were only 200 sheets and not 400, and that more than 50 had either been destroyed by the women or given to the Austrian soldiers. I was believed", as such recounted don Comuzzi

March 15: A poster of declaration for covers, beds, woolen clothes, linens and rags to support the military. They collected many rags and placed them in the square, and then they were loaded into carts and taken to Toblach, in Austria.

March 19: In the early morning Angela Costola was led by the gendarmes to Pieve di Cadore; from there she was sentenced to three months in prison to be served at Belluno. "I disapproved of the sentence without true cause or an advocate for her liberation".

March 20: I repeated my pleas for the liberation of the imprisoned detainee without true cause. Ermagora Costola received a brutal payback when sacks of potatoes were taken away from her.

March 24: Announcement of declaration for skins, leather objects and military clothing from Ville Facheris and Resta Pallavicino.

March 28: At 10:45 a.m. a burst of powder in the vicinity of the first houses of Lozzo. A terrible scene: in Lozzo five houses were destroyed. It shattered windows in Pelos and Lorenzago. There were no casualties because everyone had fled in time. "There was a great fear in everyone".



The old Alberg Trieste where in the garden, during the spring of 1918, were buried the bodies of Russian prisoners who died of hunger.

April 1918

April 5: The houses were searched for food. They requisitioned linens and anything to support the military. Three women Maria Mainardi Bozzetto, Pierina Mainardi and Antonia Mainardi De Donà, were found to be hiding some items. They were placed in jail for several hours. Their items were sequestered and only after several days returned (May 21, 1918).

April 7: The teacher Lodovico Fabbro was sent to Pieve di Cadore to be interrogated as a person of suspect. “As soon as I learned of this I went to the headquarters asking the Major for the return of Fabbro”.

April 8: The church at Villegrande was seized and munitions collected from Cima Mauria had been placed in it since November 1917; only under today’s date has it been cleared away.

April 14: At the hour of 10:00 a.m. was celebrated a solemn mass of thanksgiving in the Church della Difensa for the removal of the dangerous munitions and to implore the Blessed Virgin for the victory of our dear Homeland, with another public promise to celebrate another solemn mass if before winter there would be granted victory and if we would be liberated from the yoke of the enemy. The priest gave a patriotic-religious discourse, “many feared I might be heading for trouble on part of the enemy”.

April 17: A sergeant of the gendarmes came from Pieve to ask for an account of the sermon.

April 18 – 19: “I warned the teacher Fabbro to be very cautious and to not pass through the square many times during the day, to not talk with many middle class people and still less with soldiers and to not present himself often to Commander Tappa to ask for news, to ask for pay or meat, because he is being watched and therefore he may be able to run into disfavor. He did not pay attention to me! I also had it pointed out to him by Vittorio Tremonte and Giuseppe De Donà fu Vincenzo. Other people also warned him, but he did not listen to anyone, it seemed he desired to be interned and to one day be praised as a victim of the Austrians.

Many children are forced to go to Mauria together with soldiers, gendarmes, officers and Russian prisoners to collect cartridge cases, empty boxes, and rags. One day some began to sing patriotic hymns, they were threatened with being sent to work in Comelico: what would have happened if days before the priest had not vigorously urged the defense?

April 20: “A beautiful morning caused me to celebrate mass, near the corner of the house of Guglielmo De Mas, I saw a group of children and the Adjutant Major (Figurich) who had been giving them orders. I stopped in the middle of the street waiting to ask the Lieutenant: “As the parish priest I have some rights to give orders to the children of Lorenzago, I shall not let them leave on any account if they are going to work outside the district and I shall remain here in the middle of the street and in this way they shall not pass and be sent to work in Mauria!” When it was done, Giuseppe De Donà fu Vincenzo who heard my words said: “You have too much courage!”



Young women of the Oltrepave in typical dress of the time.

April 21: I knew some of the youth in Mauria had too friendly a relationship with the Austrians, receiving from them cigarettes, the watch words in church had been set, be respectful, not talkative and do not become friendly with the enemy! They are still the enemy!

April 22: From the headquarters of Tappa, on orders of the Austrian Supreme Command in Udine, they were to gather in a municipal room all the Sindaci, Segretari, and parish priests from Vigo, Lozzo and Lorenzago to communicate the announcement of the requisition of sheep, all the wool and also beds and pillows and of all the bells over the weight of 50 kilograms. The priests openly protested especially in regards to the bells. The parish priest of Vigo, Don Pietro Peruzzi, was placed under house arrest with a guard placed at the door.



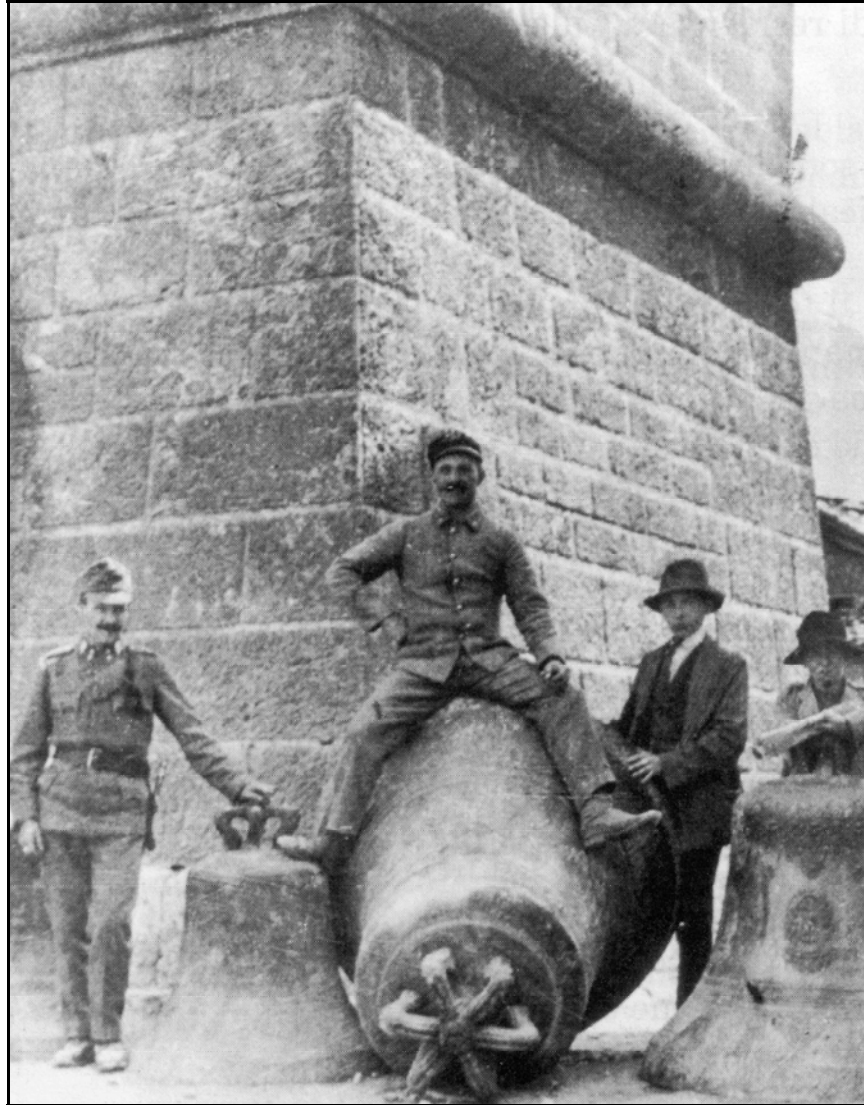
The prison camp of Katzenau: a rare image from August 31, 1918 with some of the interned. In the center is the teacher Lodovico Alfonso Fabbro of Lorenzago.

April 22: To this parish priest was delivered the first envelope of letters registered by the office of the Red Cross in Udine, it came from the Boscaioli Lorenzaghese Militarizzati at Como and Bergamo, having the dates 27 – 30 of November 1917, and from Udine the 22 – 28 of March 1918. “I carried them myself to their destination to the great joy of the families”.

April 23: There is a great displeasure at the requisition of the bells. We begin to suffer hunger. Many families mill corn and the chaff of oats; the potatoes are refined. Polenta has become precious. We suffer nobly, in silence.

April 24: They distribute to us 700 grams of oats to the most destitute at a ratio of L. 0.75 per kilogram.

April 27: There are young boys from Comelico who go in search of corncobs to mill to make bread.



The Austrians transported all of the bells from Cadore. Memorable are the words of the parish priest of Vigo, Don Pietro Peruzzi: "Many pieces make up our bells, many pieces will be your Empire".

May 1918

May 2: We are allotted a little barley for planting.

May 10: They commandeer some workers to be sent to work at Toblach. They are: Piazza Francesco di Lisandro, Pioto Rusalemme, Mario Tremonte, Leopoldo De Michiel, Tremonti Gio Batta di Luigi, Vincenzo De Michiel, Remigio De Lorenzo, Bruno De Marco, Vittorio Tremonti, Marcello Tremonti. The parish priest intervenes, reaching the headquarters, protesting and asking that at least the children be released. I was not listened to. The conversation ended but with the threat from the priest: "The youngest are to return on Saturday".

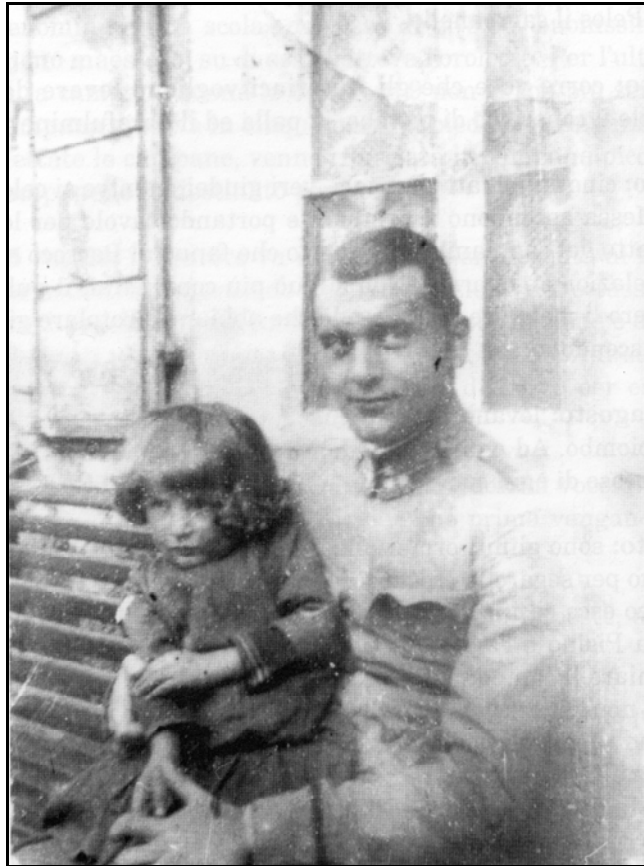
May 11 evening: Workers return from Toblach. Gio Batta Tremonti, Remigio De Lorenzo, Bruno De Marco because they were too young.

May 14: A petition was presented for the return of Leopoldo, Vincenzo and Vittorio Tremonti.

May 17: An announcement of the requisitioning of linens, leaving three pieces per person.

May 20: The parish priest and the Sindaco Giovanni Geradini fu Apollonio themselves bring, a written petition, asking the two commanding colonels at Auronzo that they accept the linens already brought, voluntarily, by the Lorenzaghese, assuring the Commanders would remain satisfied. It was said a response would arrive by telephone.

May 24: The response never came. The people today are forced to take the linens to the school at Pelos. The parish priest presented himself at that time to the lieutenant colonel asking if he was satisfied with the linens that had been brought, and to return to the poor families several pieces of linens that they had already brought. That was done.



During the year of the invasion, 1918, an Austrian officer with the son of Vittorio Tremonti, Alfonso, on his knee.

May 25: An announcement for the removal of the bells, and the organ from the parsonage house was requisitioned.

The parish priest presented himself to the headquarters, protesting saying: “Napoleon commandeered the bells, stripped the churches. Now Austria wants to have the bells, the organ, take the candle sticks from the choir loft and break them like a sheet of glass thrown on the stones. Soon you will empty the churches, then quickly it will go in pieces. The canons made with the bells will work against Austria”, and I left leaving them confused.

May 26: A requisition for wool. They came and found nearly a quintal.

May 27: The teacher Fabbro is asked to suggest to the children to make a petition to the lieutenant colonel for the release of one bell, the third.

May 28: A squad of soldiers arrives to remove the bells. The parish priest asks the commander that they at least leave the third bell which also serves as a time piece. The request was forwarded to the Supreme Command in Udine, easily the fourth would be able to remain.

May 29: General mourning: six soldiers climb the bell tower at 11:15 a.m. the large bell, made in 1913, weighing 19.05 quintals was thrown from the bell tower shattering on the ground. At 6:00 p.m. the medium bell, weighing 13.56 quintals, was thrown it also broke into pieces.

May 31: They came to take the bell from the Chiesa della Difesa, weighing 1.50 quintals made in 1702 of very good metal, and a silvery sound; then the small bell weighing 5 kilograms was taken.

June 1918

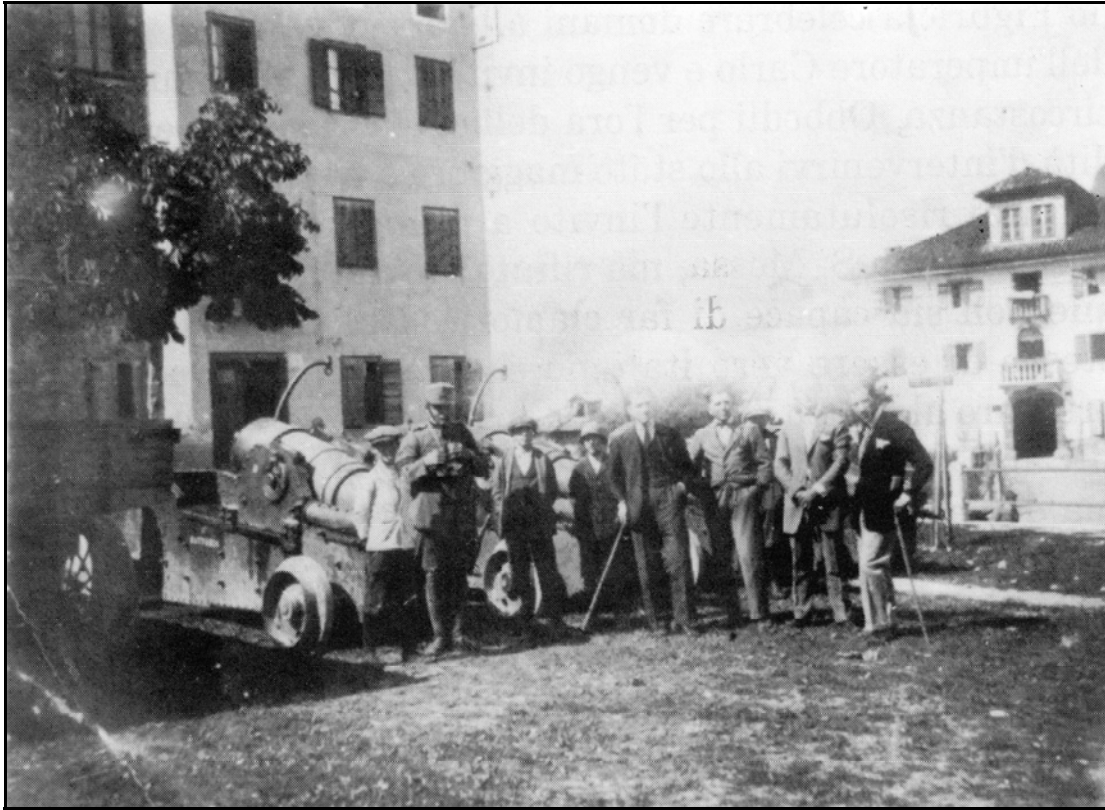
June 1: Early in the morning the teacher Lodovico Fabbro fu Gio Batta was taken into custody and led to Katzenau-Lienz, together with Giuseppe Valmassoni and the lawyer Ettore Barnabò from Domegge. The parish priest presented himself to the headquarters to protest and ask the motive for this action: he was told this was taken as a precautionary measure.

June 2: Almost all of the workers fled from Toblach making their way home, where they were hidden. They were sick, and like skeletons.

June 4: The bells from the Chiesa della Difesa are removed as are the two large bells from the parochial church. Meanwhile they left, those used to call to school, a small bell and a hand bell.

June 5: The parish priest was called to the headquarters to be told the petition or protest from last December for the release of the bells was rejected and on May 28 the new request for the release of one of the bells was presented.

They distributed, to the entire population, 4 quintals of corn: 3 quintals and a corona per kilogram in exchange for one quintal of butter and cheese, in a ratio of 3 kilograms of grain for 1 kilogram of cheese. The hunger is great; there is general desperation; people are eating weeds, they mill bean shucks, bran, corn cobs to make bread and polenta.



Some of the cannons abandoned by Italian soldiers during the retreat and gathered by the Austrians in the Piazza of Lorenzo. In the background is Albergo Verdi.

June 6: They requisition from us 33 heifers. The parish priest takes the initiative to make the number fewer, while arrives a phonogram from the Headquarters at Auronzo that orders the requisition of another five cows. He asked that at least the burden of this last request not be placed on Lorenzo, and he was listened to.

June 10: They asked for and sought workers to go to Austria and Germany for 6 coronas a day. No one presented themselves.

A petition because the prisoner Luigi Mainardi di Raimondo a resident of Calalzo was transferred to Lorenzo.

June 11: The fugitives from Toblach are warned to provide themselves with a medical certificate declaring their inability to work

June 12: The lieutenant colonel alerts the parish office of a notice from the Supreme Command of Udine, with the signature of Field Marshall Borojevic, a favorable response arrived to the question of the release of one of the bells, the small one of 5 quintals.

June 14: The parish priest, together with the Sindaco, petitions for the return, from working at Toblach, Francesco Piazza di Lisandro, which was received with promise.

June 17: A meeting in the Municipio seated with the Commander, the parish priests and Sindacos of Vigo, Lozzo, Lorenzago to receive the orders of requisition of cheese, hay and workers. I asked about the rations for the workers.

June 22: They have requisitioned another 12 cows from families composed of two people that have not had damages of that sort. They have hit the most poor.

June 25: They have interned the two brothers Antonio and Leopoldo De Michiel. For days they had interned the teacher Lodovico Fabbro, they valued the prayers and the intervention for their freedom.

June 27: The fugitive workers received orders to present themselves to be taken again. The two youths Vittorio Tremonti and Vincenzo De Michiel, were advised today they were sick, they were released. The parish priest lent 300 coronas to the Fabbro family. These were sent to maestro Lodovico at Katzenau.

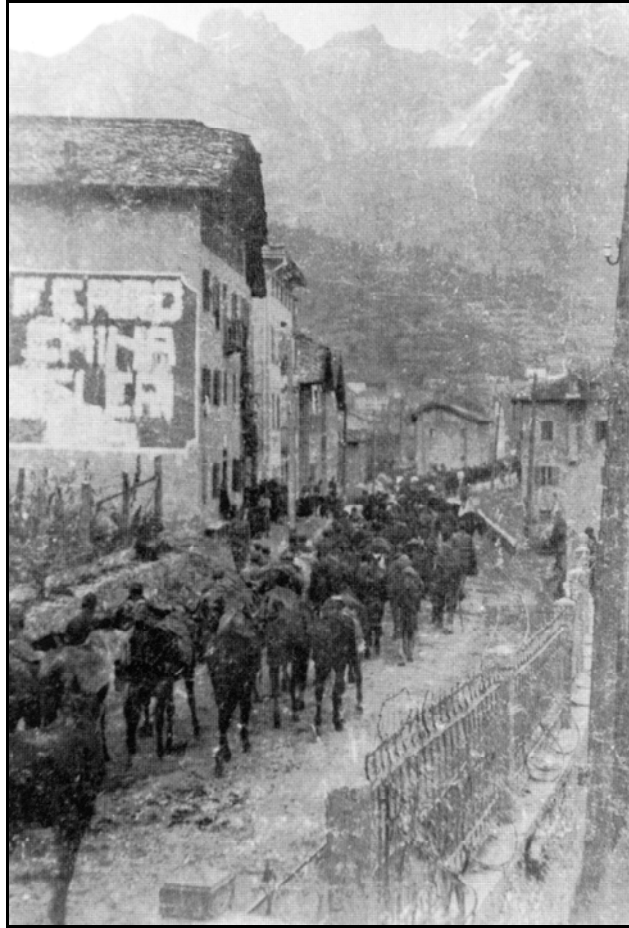
June 29: The soldier Antonio Marino Gerardini di Giulio found himself declared unfit for service in the Italian army and for reason of sickness was released to go home. There was a distribution of 350 grams of corn per person. The families that have prisoners in Austria or in Germany are sent to address the deputy Loero for a bread subscription. The Comune and the families would pay the expenses.

July 1918

July 1: Giuseppe Gerardini fu Apollonio and Francesco Tremonti fu Valentino descend from Friuli in search of corn for the Comune, they return on July 4 with 30.40 kilograms on their own behalf.

July 5: Around 50 people descend from lower Friuli towards Palmanova and Codroipo in search of corn and grain and return with 30 or 40 kilograms in exchange for linens, cloth, cheese, butter, oil, soap and money. The grain was sold for 5 lire per kilogram and the corn for 3 lire. The travelers came, some on foot others in trucks and some by railroad. The passports were made at Tolmezzo, having been refused by the Headquarters at Auronzo, who released only some after two months of asking.

July 10: Gabriele Fabbro, Ettore De Donà, Vincenzo Cadorin descend with a horse and cart into Friuli, arriving at Lestizza and return on the 19th with the cart empty. During these days they descend by the hundreds, especially women on foot. Many taking advantage of the ruts in the road left by the Austrian trucks from Ampezzo.



November 4, 1918, Austrian troops in retreat crossing through the village of Lozzo.

July 11: The commander looks for the silverware from the Villa Facheris and Pallvicino, the parish priest is accused of theft, as such he orders a through search of the parsonage, a thing the Austrians are careful to do well.

July 12 – 14: Three times Francesco Gerardini is forced to confess and be responsible for the silverware under the threat that tomorrow or at least the day after tomorrow he will be presented before the war tribunal at Pieve. In reality Francesco had no knowledge of the silverware.

July 15: The Commander is convinced by the parish priest that the silverware had been taken to Milan by the administrator of the Villa, Angelo Gerardini, the brother of Francesco, without the knowledge of the latter.

July 24: Two soldiers are assigned to remove the bells, at 8:00 a.m. they climb the bell tower and cast out the bell called “La scola” weighing 8.50 quintals having a beautiful and majestic sound; from it sounded the time. For the last time the bell sounded the hour of 8:00 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. nothing was heard. The bell broke into five pieces at the foot of the bell tower.

The bells cast off, the small bell is release and the hand bell was destined for Pelos.

July 25: The parish priest goes to Auronzo to present himself to the Commissario Civile protesting the imposition of taxes; instead asking for payment of damages incurred by the population and the good people to be set free, in the evening he consulted with the acting segretario to go together with the Sindacos of Vigo and Lozzo to expand a general protest against the tax.

July 26: The parish priest advises to speak out, to not pay the taxes under the conditions they do not refuse to pay the good people for their damages.

July 27: The protest against the taxes was sent, to the Colonel at Auronzo. It was rejected.

July 27: An announcement was sent that the organ would be requisitioned and the large pipes would be removed. I was obliged to give notice of the year it was made, and who is the person who could play it.

The parish priest protested both verbally and in writing.

August 1918

August 2: A voucher for the removal of the bells was delivered and a copy of the orders from De Boroovic to leave, in the bell tower of Lorenzago, the small bell and to deliver the hand bell to Pelos.

August 4: The rumor spreads that the Austrians want to take from the bell tower the lead cover, the altarpiece and the lightening rod.

August 8: While we were celebrating mass five soldiers, true Jews, climbed the bell tower and, taking planks, lift the roof of the bell tower. The spite the parish priest and the people have is enormous. They were no longer able to contain themselves; the entire gathering angrily cursed them, saying they had to come down from the bell tower.

August 10 – 12: They removed the covering throwing to the ground the lead slabs. With the booming sound of the fallen slabs, every heart responded with a painful echo.

August 12: By now they arrived at the steeple. They had prepared to saw the cross under the pall.

The parish priest exited and confronted the Capitan Figuric, a professor of Italian at Pisino saying: "I am displeased at what you are doing! Uncovering the bell tower! It was more work to remove it than the value of the metal, you will not win battles with that lead. I assure you that we are all strongly irritated. We are not able to take any more. Remove the pall and you will see the people rise up in an instant, the women will rush with pitch forks and in ten minutes they will be dispersed everywhere". He went to the headquarters and talked to the Lieutenant Colonel. "I went and received word the pall would remain intact", as recollected don Comuzzi.

August 13: The lead weighed in at about 22 quintals. The bell tower was recovered with an oil cloth covering.

August 16: “I was obligated by Capitan Figuric to celebrate mass tomorrow at the hour of 9:00 a.m. for the birthday of the Emperor Carlo and I was invited to lunch at this event. I obeyed the hour of the celebration for the convenience on the part of the Major and the Austrian troops.

I purposefully refused the invitation to lunch with these words: “I shall celebrate the Holy Mass, but I refuse the invitation to lunch not being able to speak of my Italian pride: I feel myself to be a true Italian and it is impossible for me to toast your Emperor Carlo”.

The Captain responded: “I do not insist on tomorrow’s lunch but on Sunday you will have to come”. I would reply: “No, don’t invite me again, because I would be coming against my will”. He added: “If you don’t come every time you are invited it will be bad for you and worse for the people”.

I prohibited a dance that he wanted held in the Villa Facheris. I was punished with the reduction of rations given to me and everyone.

August 17: The national Austrian celebration, the celebration of the Mass with participation by the Major; eight girls danced with the Austrians.

August 20: At 6:00 a.m. the Bishop arrives, on foot from Lozzo, having refused a carriage the Austrian commander had offered. All of the population greets the venerated Pastor giving him great reverence and being satisfied with his visit and his words of comfort.

August 21: The Commander sent lunch to His Excellency and offered him a carriage to return to Vigo. The Bishop, being very tired, accepted.

August 22: The Bishop is called to Belluno to confer with the bishops of Portogruaro and Vittorio.

September 1918

September 5: We receive information that the Austrian military has arrived and will also remove the small bell; it is not worth protesting. At 11:00 a.m. it was lowered from the bell tower. The small bell destined for Pelos was also taken to Austria.

September 8, Sunday: The mass is announced with a hand bell by the children traveling around the village. Austrian soldiers mocked this act arousing the ire of the people.

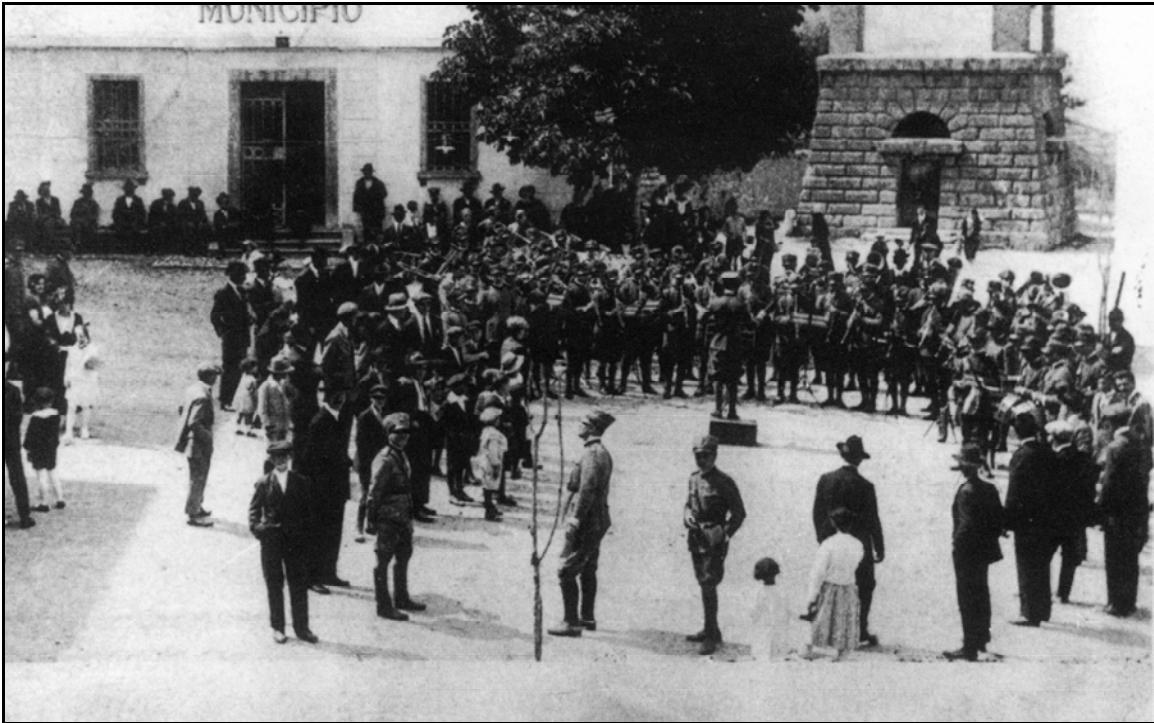
September 11: A small hand bell is placed in the bell tower.

September 19: A party departed for Friuli in search of grain. Rampant was the illness called “*Grippe spagnuola* (Spanish influenza)”. A high fever, headaches with a cough, and difficulty breathing. We are lacking a doctor or medications. The sisters Maria and

Olivia De Lorenzo departed for Lestizza in search of corn together with many others from the village and elsewhere. Upon their arrival in this village they were advised of the death of Ida, sister of Don Quinto. On September 28th his other sister, Melania, died struck by the "*spagnola*".



November 5, 1918, the first Italian Bersaglieri arrive in Cadore along the old road called "Cavallera".



A liberated Lorenzago, the fanfare of the Royal Army lined up on the square of the village.



February 25, 1925 the blessing of the new bells of Lorenzago.



The mothers of the fallen soldiers during 1915 – 18 at the dedication of the memorial stone near the school.

Commemorative Inscription to the Lorenzaghesei who were Killed during the First World War

For the Fatherland

De Dona Dino
De Lorenzo Fabio
De Michiel Emilio
De Michiel Demetrio
Piazza Giulio
Tremonti Arcangelo
Tremonti Gilmo
Piazza Pietro
Tremonti Gellio
Benetta Giovanni

Il Comune
Ai Suoi Figli
Che Balda Giovinezza
Per l'Italia
Eroici Immolarono

Cadorin Giocondo
De Lorenzo Ado
De Marco Angelo
De Marco Silvio
De Mas Giulio
Fabbro Rodolfo
Gerardini Gabriele
Gerardini Marino
Piazza Gaetano
Rusalemme Giuseppe

Frutti
Il Cruento Olocausto
Eternamente
Pace ed Amore
1915 - 1918

Declaration to Honor Don Quinto

We write to you a declaration of gratitude for the interventions of the parish priest for the favors to the people, signed by all the families:

To the Most Reverend Priest don Quinto Comuzzi – Lorenzago di Cadore.

“We the undersigned, with gratitude and for the pure truth, attest as follows ready to confirm before whosoever:

It was the month of March. Young parishioners from Lorenzago were forced by the horrible Austrian gendarmes, by order of the local commander and forced to work to clear snow at Passo Mauria. They were treated like prisoners, by the soldiers and officers, some of whom knew the Italian language. One beautiful day the young workers, feeling they could no longer tolerate the Austrian yoke and wanting to demonstrate their fierce patriotic love, began to sing The Hymn of Garibaldi. They had never done this before. The officers became irritated at this song and shortly threatened saying: “Now you are rose-colored and healthy, but this coming summer you will be pale and gaunt; meanwhile tomorrow you will be sent to work in Comelico”.

Lucky for them our meritorious priest, the subsequent morning, confronted in the public square the Austrian lieutenant major, while giving orders to the young men, objecting with scathing words to their internment. So much that the young men were sent back from working at Passo Mauria. Pity us if we did not have a defender and protector in the parish priest; it is certain, many of us would have died from hunger and of fear.

The Austrian troops commanded by Captain Opitz entered Lorenzago on the night of November 7, 1917, and those starving bandits assaulted all the houses, stealing, plundering food, clothes, linens, hundreds of swine, calves, cows, arousing in all grave fear and throwing on to the streets many families. They were more like barbarians! The local Austrian Commander, assigned to the people, did not even offer a ration of farina. It was our priest who, during the enemy invasion, he knew to keep alive in our hearts the flame of patriotism and with warnings and some sermons left a true Italian feeling. He would permit the young men, even in church, they would sing patriotic and religious hymns, not minding the presence of the Austrians. And on the day of November 6 of this year he invited all of the people to a solemn service of thanks to God for our liberation and the splendid victory over the enemy; he praised in his patriotic lectures Italy and the victorious King, and he permitted in the interludes of the service the organist to play the hymn of Mameli and Garibaldi. Our priest lent himself tirelessly in front of the harsh Austrian Command, in the favor of the people in general and in particular.

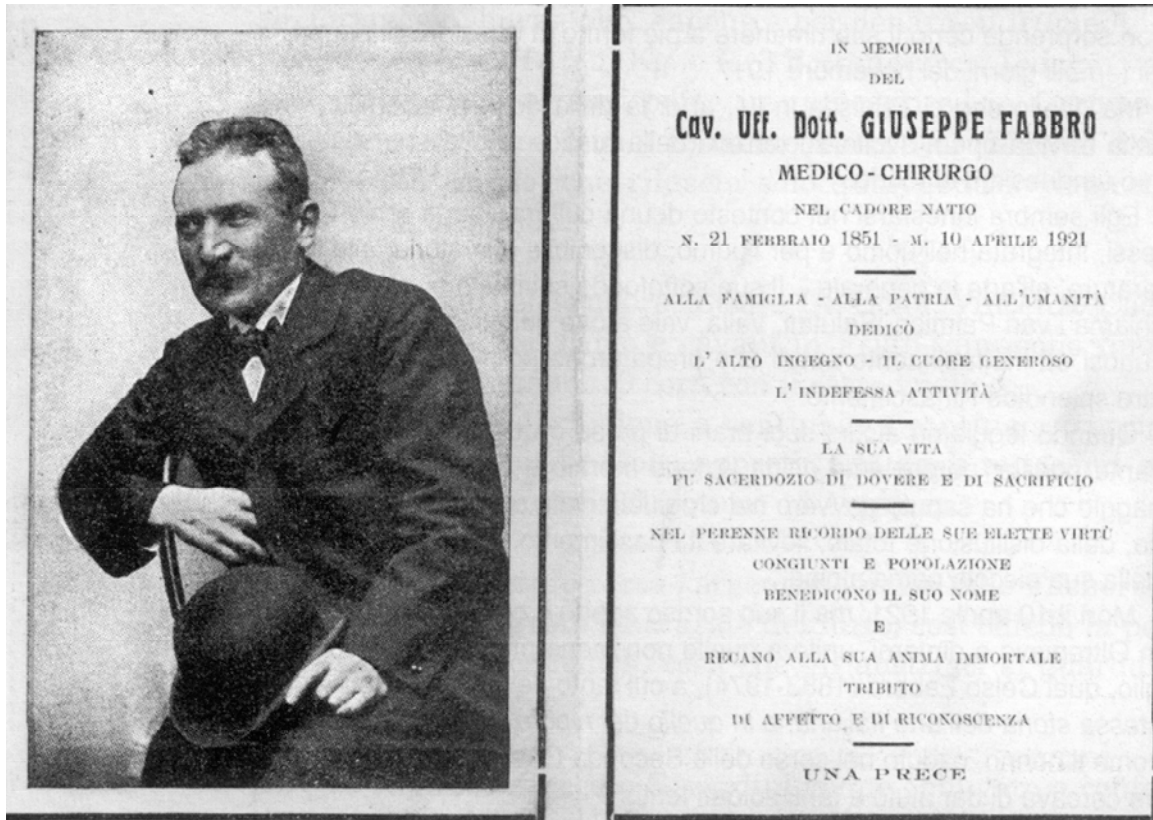
Albeit during the first days of the invasion he was held in custody in the Municipal building, by two sentries, along with Francesco Piazza Varè and they sacked the parsonage and threatened the interned because of their lively protests, they were not discouraged. It was the first that he occupied the place, to have administered to the workers a piece of bread; and in the most critical periods in which there was great suffering from hunger he was able to have them distribute rations, albeit misery, one hundred of the most needy people and to the sick a little broth and some meat. He prevented requisitions, and if he was unable to impede he vigorously protested, he publicly warned the population to hide those objects that would be requisitioned. He protested and begged for the release of three innocent people who were interned. He

protected families and individuals. He prevented the prisoners be interned, that the young workers be returned from working at Toblach who were dying of hunger and that some people be brought before the War Tribunal. He protested and highly disapproved every requisition, every abuse of power, committed and conceived by the Austrian tyrants. He protested the imposition of the taxes and advised non payment, if first the Austrians did not pay for damages caused and payment to the people. He made for the return at least in part: food, personal objects, linens, clothes legally or illegally taken. All indiscriminately, even strangers oppressed by the enemy, appealed to the Priest Don Comuzzi, sure to find counsel, support and a defender.

We publicly declare the deserved approval and the highest gratitude of all of the people of Lorenzago to our priest for his patriotic works and his blessed accomplishment during this painful year of domination by the enemy.

Lorenzago, 6 December 1918

This declaration was signed by 121 people from the community of Lorenzago di Cadore.



Giuseppe Fabbro, the Doctor who Remained at His Post

He did not abandon his patients in the difficult moments of the Austrian invasion of 1917.

It is understandable in the dramatic predicament after Caporetto, when even in Cadore, the world seemed to be collapsing on the shoulders of the rich like that of the poor, many found themselves in ambiguous doubts.

To take with them every transportable property and to take refuge in the country, escaping from the stormy wave of the Austrian invasion which seemed to slither into the Cadorine mountains and to rain on the Veneto plains without attrition or any sort of shame? Or to remain in their villages, to guard their own houses, testifying in which methods the rights of property and nationality?

Then in the painful contest giving evidence in some way to the genuine military and civil ordeal, they were not lacking, and since the beginning, to love internal arguments on the rights and the duties of a choice that, in one sense or in the other, appeared however suffered and motivated.

But whoever was invested in the public role the dilemma became still more stringent and painful. What is the true duty of a Sindaco, a priest, or a doctor?

We know that many community administrators, in the hour of peril, would prefer to move themselves to the interior of the Fatherland, establishing special offices in position to keep in some way the line of emigration and provide news and subsidy to those who have lost house, friends and hope.

The Sindaco of Lorenzago G. Piazza Varè, made an example of himself, he did not locate himself at Marina di Pisa, where he turned over the function of *Commissario prefettizio* of his community's invasion, and even less for those of Vigo, Lozzo and Domegge?

In truth those who remained, willingly or unwillingly, near their own house did not see with a clear eye to escape the danger. Don Pietro Da Ronco, a diligent guardian of the sacred Cadorine memories, was not certain they kept/held with the abdication practiced by many public administrators and boasted always with pride the fact all the Cadorine priests, with exception of two who were old and sick, remained with their flock at their battle station. And with him was the only doctor from Cadore to confront the risks of the Austrian invasion, Giuseppe Fabbro, who placed the interests of the community before those of his own.

He knew well the risks that went opposition: requisitions and oppression of every type, necessity to work in degrading and inhumane conditions, frustrations both of material and of morale.

Yet those obstinate, fiery Cadorino, of great talent and of incredible eclecticism, confronted and overcome the difficult tests.

Born on February 21, 1851 in Lorenzago, he always showed a great deal of interest towards classical studies, he attended the *Intituto Foscari* at Venice: the records authentic he earned the *licenza liceale* while hardly 16 years old and a *laurea* at only 21 years of age. Appreciated for his specialist studies which (for example on pellagra) and already seen by many to be destined for international fame, he wanted to remain attached to his Cadore, becoming the municipal doctor at Perarolo, Auronzo, Vigo, Lozzo and Lorenzago.

Belonging to a famous family in Cadore, with a middle class distinction middle class that gave witness and always claimed this land to be Italian, it was certainly not a surprise he remained on a firm footing in these valleys in the terrible first days of November 1917.

But what strikes one about him, beyond the scientific doctrine and the fervent work he carried out over this land by his daily practice, was his very humanistic background.

He seemed interested in the contest of an open culture to more interests, integrated in the man and for the man, the availability to history, to literature, and the arts. His spiritual and cultural foundation recalls those of the like of Palmieri, Salutai, Valla, worthy to say those men always curious and ineffably open who prepared and incubated our splendid Rinascimento.

When we read some of their lines of poetry or his poems we clearly perceive the moral faith and civil of a person who knew truly in the crucible of war, in sickness the total disillusion, to raise the political and cultural renaissance of this small alpine homeland.

He died on April 10, 1921, but his smile and good natured life still live in the Oltrepiave and its environs, united to one no less prestigious than his son, Celso Fabbro (1883-1974), to which Cadore owes much as does Italian art history, and his grandson Giuseppe, a doctor like his grandfather, who fell during the course of the Second World War while trying to give help to fallen soldiers.

Comune di Lorenzago

Inhabitants	950
Refugees	2
Born in 1918	18
Died	23

In November 1918 there were cases of death due to exhaustion.

Prior to the invasion there were:

- 450 cows;
- 25 horses;
- 150 sheep;
- 700 courtyard animals

In December 1918 there existed:

- 55 cows;
- No horses;
- 60 sheep;
- 100 courtyard animals,

The difference is due to the Austrian requisitions.



Lorenzago del Cadore