

THE MAIN BATTLES IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION DURING THE GREAT WAR

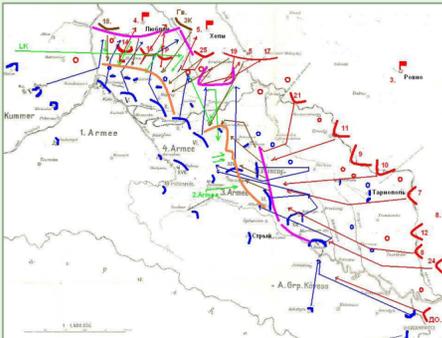
GREAT WAR BATTLES IN THE CARPATHIANS

During the First World War (1914-1918), the Carpathians became a battleground. For the first time, during the autumn of 1914, the Russian army was able to cross the mountain ridges and invade Zakarpattia. In the spring of 1915, the Russian army was operating out of the Bukovina and Galicia regions. But, then in the autumn of 1916, as a result of the "Brusilov Breakthrough", the Austro-Hungarian troops relocated westward, and arrived to the Ciscarpathian and the Carpathians, where they were based until the of summer 1917. After an unsuccessful offensive by the Russian Provisional Government troops in the summer of 1917, the Russians retreated on the line of the Austro-Hungarian border and the Russian Empire.



GALICIAN BATTLE (August 18 - September 21, 1914)

A strategic operation of the Russian South-Western Front, under the command of General M. Ivanov, enabled the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian forces and the capture of Galicia. At the front from the Vistula River to Romania, Russia's 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th Armies (about 700,000 troops) opposed the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Austro-Hungarian Armies (about 830,000 troops). During the beginning of the operation, near Krasnik and Tomashiv, Russian troops failed and retreated to Liublin. At the same time, the main forces – the 8th Army (Commander, O. Brusilov), and the 3rd Army (Commander, M. Ruzkyi), carried out the Galicia-Lviv Operation, and defeated the 3rd Austro-Hungarian Army in the cities Zolochiv and Peremyshliany (Commander, R. Bruderman), and defeated troops of the 2nd Austro-Hungarian Army (Commander, E. Bom-Ermoli). Shortly thereafter, the Russians took the city of Lviv, and surrounding areas, including the Peremyshl Fortress. The losses of the Austro-Hungarian troops amounted to half of all armed forces: 336,000 killed and 120,000 captured, and on the Russian side: 227,000 killed. As a result of the Operation, the Russian Empire occupied Galicia, Bukovyna, and part of eastern Zakarpattia. The first Galician Battle demonstrated the ability of the Russian Imperial Army in gaining victories on a strategic scale, but they were based on the tactical advantage of an enormous dominance in the army size.



Scheme of the Galician Battle

THE SECOND GALICIAN BATTLE

On September 23rd, 1914, the Operation was carried out on the siege of the Przemyśl Fortress by the forces of the 5th and 3rd Russian Armies, during which the Russians lost up to 20,000 men. The 8th Army began moving to Verkhni Sian to cover the Operation near Peremyshl from the town of Duklia, and mountains in the eastern Carpathians. The cavalry of the 8th Army began fighting in the Carpathians with the aim of overtaking the region. On September 24th, 1914, the 2nd Kuban Cossack Division occupied the Uzhotskyi Height and began to descend to Hungary. This division did not gain strength and, therefore, in early October was pushed out by the Austro-Hungarian army, and units of the Hungarian militia.



Scheme of the Peremyshl Fortress

The Austro-Hungarian troops went on attack on September 29th, 1914, and on October 8th the 3rd Austrian Army broke the blockade of Peremyshl. On October 11, 1914, there was the large-scale clash of troops under Khyrivym, which was attended by 13 Austrian divisions

against 8 Russian divisions. After 37 days of warfare, the armies returned to their original positions, yet more than 120,000 troops had died. The only achievement for the Austrians was that they temporarily unblocked Peremyshl, and thus strengthened its garrison of troops to 135,000. The Russians, however, captured enemy forces from the front of the Warsaw-Ivgorod Operation.

BESKYDY BATTLE (November 12th-27th, 1914)

During the Beskydy Battle, which was maneuvered and conducted in winter conditions in mountainous terrain, Russian troops, under the command of General O. Brusilov, defeated the Austro-Hungarian Armies, and crossed the Western Carpathians (Beskydy) in the Duklinsky Gate and invaded Hungary. However, the complete defeat of the armies of Austria-Hungary could not be imposed, and the Russians were unable to consolidate forces in the Western Carpathians. The incompleteness of the Russian operation led to Russian troops resuming their forces and going on the offensive.

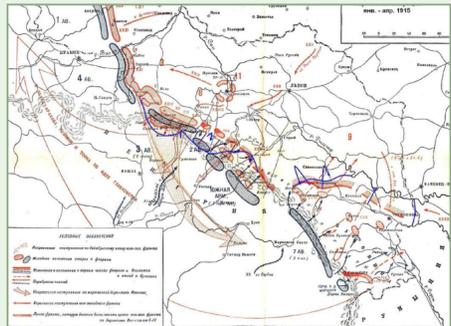


Regietów. Military cemetery

BATTLE OF LIMANOVA & LAPANOVA

In early December 1914, the 3rd and 4th Austro-Hungarian Armies in south-east Krakiv defeated the 3rd and 8th Russian Armies and forced them to retreat 60 kilometers from Krakiv, and depart 50 kilometers from the western Carpathians. After the battle of Limanova, the advance of the Russian troops to the western direction was finally halted, and the challenge in crucial Austro-Hungarian regions was settled. In addition, the outcome of the battle in Limanova was determined by maneuvers, and therefore, was one of the least bloody battles.

CARPATHIAN OPERATION (February 1st - April 24th, 1915)



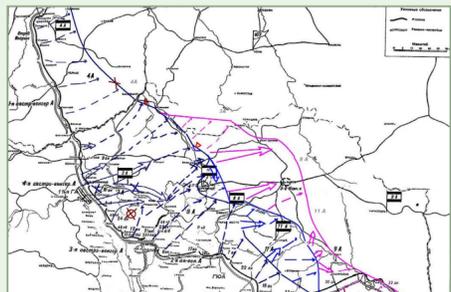
Scheme of the Carpathian Operation

In response to the the Russian South-Western Front plan to cross the Carpathians into the territory of Hungary and withdraw Austria-Hungary from the war, the Germans threw army units from eastern Prussia and Serbia into the cities of Mukacheve and Uzhhorod, where a new Southern Army was created (Commander, O. von Litzinhen), consisting of six infantry divisions, three of which were German. From January 22nd-24th, the Austro-German troops launched an offensive against the Russian 8th Army (Commander, O. Brusilov), towards Sambir and Stryi with the aim of unblocking Peremyshl and make an attack on Lviv. Under the onslaught, Russia's South-Western Front was forced to withdraw its troops to the Dnister and Prut rivers. In February, on the left flank of the Austro-Hungarian Eastern Front, the German 9th South Army (Commander, A. Makenzen), was set up to attack Stanislaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk).

During March, the South-Western Front launched an offensive against Budapest. The entire 8th Army, and the left flank of the 3rd Army, conducted the battle. Despite attempts of the Austro-German troops to unblock Peremyshl, on March 22nd the garrison, numbering 120,000, capitulated. The troops of the 11th Russian Army, which carried out the siege, were divided between the 8th and 3rd Armies, which then went on the offensive. Harsh, bloody battles ensued, which ended inconclusively.

During the Carpathian Operation, Russian troops lost 1 million men, and Austro-Germany, 800,000. As the Carpathian Operation forced Austria-Hungary and Germany to concentrate significant forces on the Eastern Front, it enabled England and France to intensify their military operations in other areas of hostilities.

HORLITSE BREAKTHROUGH IN 1915 (THIRD GALICIAN BATTLE) (May 2nd - June 23rd, 1915)



Horlitse break-through scheme

For the purpose of defeating the Russian South-Western Front (Commander, M. Ivanov), and the return of the Galicia that was lost after the Galician Carpathian operation in 1915 by forces of the Field-Marshal-General A. Makenzen (3rd, 4th, 11th Armies), the counter-offensive against the Russian 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th Armies was carried out. Due to the great advantage in force (five times the artillery and twice the infantry), the main attack in the Horlitse region, led by A. Makenzen, was able to inflict a significant defeat on parts of the Russian 3rd Army and implement a deep break-through (140,000 Russian soldiers were captured). During the 2nd stage, in which the German-Austrian troops occupied Lviv, and all of Galicia, the Russian armies were pushed back nearly to the old Austro-Russian border. The losses of the Russian armies of the South-Western Front during the 3rd Galician Battle were 650,000 people. During the Horlitse Operation, the Russian Army lacked ammunition supplies, weapons and military accoutrements, and for the first time used the tactics of destroying infrastructure and property during their retreat.

The victory of the Germans in Galicia created the prerequisite for Bulgaria's entry into the war on the side of the Central Powers. At the same time, Romania was forced to abandon the entry into the war, but in its bargaining with the Entente, increased its requests. In addition, it was possible to consolidate the strengthening of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy which was close to the collapse.

BRUSILOV BREAK-THROUGH (June 4th - September 20th, 1916)

On June 4th, 1916, the 8th, 11th, 7th and 9th Armies under the command of O. Brusilov began the most successful Russian military operation of the First World War, and marked the emergence of a new form of simultaneous break-throughs on several sections of the front. The superiority of the Russian armies, with an infantry 2x greater in size, and 1½ more artillery, the Russian troops broke through the defense of the Austrian Army under the command of the Archduke Fridrikh. On June 7th, the 8th Army (Commander, O. Kaledin), captured Lutsk, on June 18th, the 9th Army (Commander, P. Lechytyskiy) took Chernivtsi, and on August 11th, Stanislaviv.



Soldier of the Great War

The offensive continued and the troops led by O. Brusilov captured Volyn, Southern Galicia, Bukovyna, and again approached the Carpathians. However, they were not supported by the other fronts' armies, interruptions to ammunition had began, and they met a powerful resistance thrown from the Western and Italian fronts of 34 divisions. In mid-September, Russian troops stopped at the line: Zolochiv – Halych – Stanislaviv – Vorokhta.

Throughout these operations the losses of the Austro-Hungarian Army reached 1.5 million, and a loss of 500,000 Russian troops. The strategic initiative passed to the troops of the Entente countries, and the German command was forced to finally stop the attack on the French Verdun and move to a positional war. Italy was rescued from defeat, and Romania was on the side of the Entente countries.

KERENSKY OFFENSIVE 1917

The offensive plan foresaw directing the main attack by the forces of the 11th and 7th Armies to Lviv, and supporting an attack of the 8th Army to Kalush. The support of the offensive of the South-Western Front was to provide active offensive actions of the Northern Front in the direction of Kovno (now the city of Kaunas), the Western Front on Vilno (now the city of Vilnius), and the Romanian Front on Fokshany, Dobruzhuzh.



Nowy Sącz, Malopolska Voivodeship

The offensive began on July 1, 1917, by the forces of the 11th and 7th Armies, but in its course was unsuccessful and in two days became bogged down. On July 6th, the 8th Army initiated the offensive and after two days of fighting breached the defensive line, capturing Halych and Kalush, and on July 13th went to Kropivnyk Village on the Limnitsa river. However, there were no combat effective units for the continuation of the offensive due to the disintegration of the army by revolutionaries, and the losses of the 8th Army were up to 40,000 troops.

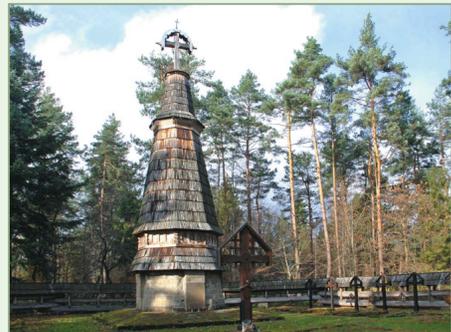
On July 19th, 1917, Austro-German troops under the command of A. von Vinkler went on the counteroffensive along the Lviv-Ternopil railroad (so-called Ternopil breakthrough), and broke through the front of the 11th Army, which caused the departure of the 7th and 8th Armies. The setback of the Russian army turned into a panic escape, which was accompanied by robberies, violence, and murder of local populations.

The retrograde movement of the troops of the South-Western Front stopped at the critical line of the Brody – Zbarazh – Zbruch River. As a result of an unsuccessful offensive, the Russian army left Galicia and lost its combat capability; its total losses as a result of the operation amounted to about 150,000.

INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

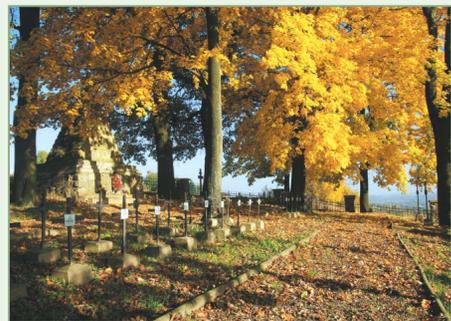
POLAND

Warsaw Scientific Society (Towarzystwo Naukowe Warszawskie)
ul. Nowy Świat 72 (lokal 06), Warsaw, 00-330, POLAND
e-mail: sekretariat@tnw.waw.pl
http://www.tnw.waw.pl



Military cemetery in Gladyśzów

Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation (Instytut Pamięci Narodowej — Komisja Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu (IPN))
ul. Wołoska 7, Warsaw, 02-675, POLAND
https://ipn.gov.pl/



Sławęcin, Gmina Skołyszyn, Jasło County, Podkarpackie Voivodeship



Konieczna. Military Cemetery

National Institute of Museology and Conservation of Collections (Narodowy Instytut Muzealnictwa i Ochrony Zbiorów)
ul. Goraszewska 7, Warsaw, 02-910, POLAND
e-mail: biuro@nimoz.pl
https://www.nimoz.pl/



Biecz, Gorlice county, Malopolska Voivodeship

SLOVAKIA

Institute of Nation Memory (Ústav pamäti národa)
Miletičova 1053/19, Bratislava, 820 18 SLOVAKIA
e-mail: info@upn.gov.sk
https://www.upn.gov.sk



Cemetery of St. Anna, Bardejov

Institute of Military History (Vojenský historický ústav),
Krajná 27, Bratislava, 821 04, SLOVAKIA
e-mail: vhu@vhu.sk
http://www.vhu.sk/



Military cemetery in Smlino, district of Bardejov, Presov region

Slovak National Museum (Slovenské národné múzeum).
Vajanského nábrežie, 2, 810 06 Bratislava, SLOVAKIA
e-mail: programy@snm.sk
http://www.snm.sk

HUNGARY

Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Magyar Tudományos Akadémia).
Széchenyi István sqr. 9, Budapest, 1051, HUNGARY
e-mail: mta@titkarsag.mta.hu
https://mta.hu/english



Monument to the Hungarian heroes of the First World War in Budapest

Public Foundation for the Research of Central and East European History and Society
Határ út 35, Budapest, 1122, HUNGARY
e-mail: elsovilaghaboru@elsovilaghaboru.com
http://www.elsovilaghaboru.com



Kaposvár. Rákóczi square. Memorial to the 44th Infantry Regiment

Hungarian national Museum (Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum).
Múzeum krt. 14-16, Budapest, 1088, HUNGARY
e-mail: info@hnm.hu
https://mnm.hu/en/

UKRAINE

Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance (Український інститут національної пам'яті)
Lypska Str., 16, Kyiv, 01021, UKRAINE
e-mail: uinp@memory.gov.ua
http://www.memory.gov.ua



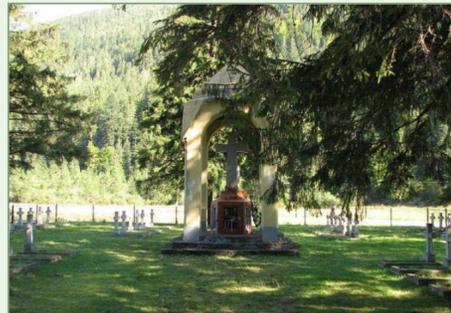
Military burial in Molodkiv village

Center for Studies in the Liberation Movement (Центр досліджень визвольного руху)
National Museum-Memorial "Prison on Lonsky", 3rd floor
Bandery Str., 1, Lviv, 79000, UKRAINE
Trichsviatyetska Str., 4, of. 430, Kyiv, UKRAINE
e-mail: history@cdvr.org.ua



Military cemetery in Kalush

Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Інститут історії України НАН України)
M. Hrushevskoho Str., 4, Kyiv, 01001, UKRAINE
e-mail: institute@history.org.ua
http://history.org.ua



Austrian military cemetery of the First World War in Tatariv village

Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (Українське товариство охорони пам'яток історії та культури)
Lavrska Str., 9, build. 19, Kyiv, 01015, UKRAINE
http://pamjatky.org.ua/

Ivano-Frankivsk Regional History and Educational Society "Memorial" named after V. Stus (Івано-Франківське обласне історико-просвітницьке товариство «Меморіал» імені В.Стуса)
Tarnavskoho Str., 22, Ivano-Frankivsk, 76000, UKRAINE

Searching society of war's victims "Memory" (Товариство пошуку жертв війни «Пам'ять»)
Medvedetskoho Str., 7/7, Lviv, 79000, UKRAINE
e-mail: l.memoria@ukr.net
http://www.memoria.com.ua

USEFUL LINKS

The digital State Library of Upper Austria
https://digi.landesbibliothek.at

Historical Site devoted to World War I
http://www.austro-hungarian-army.co.uk

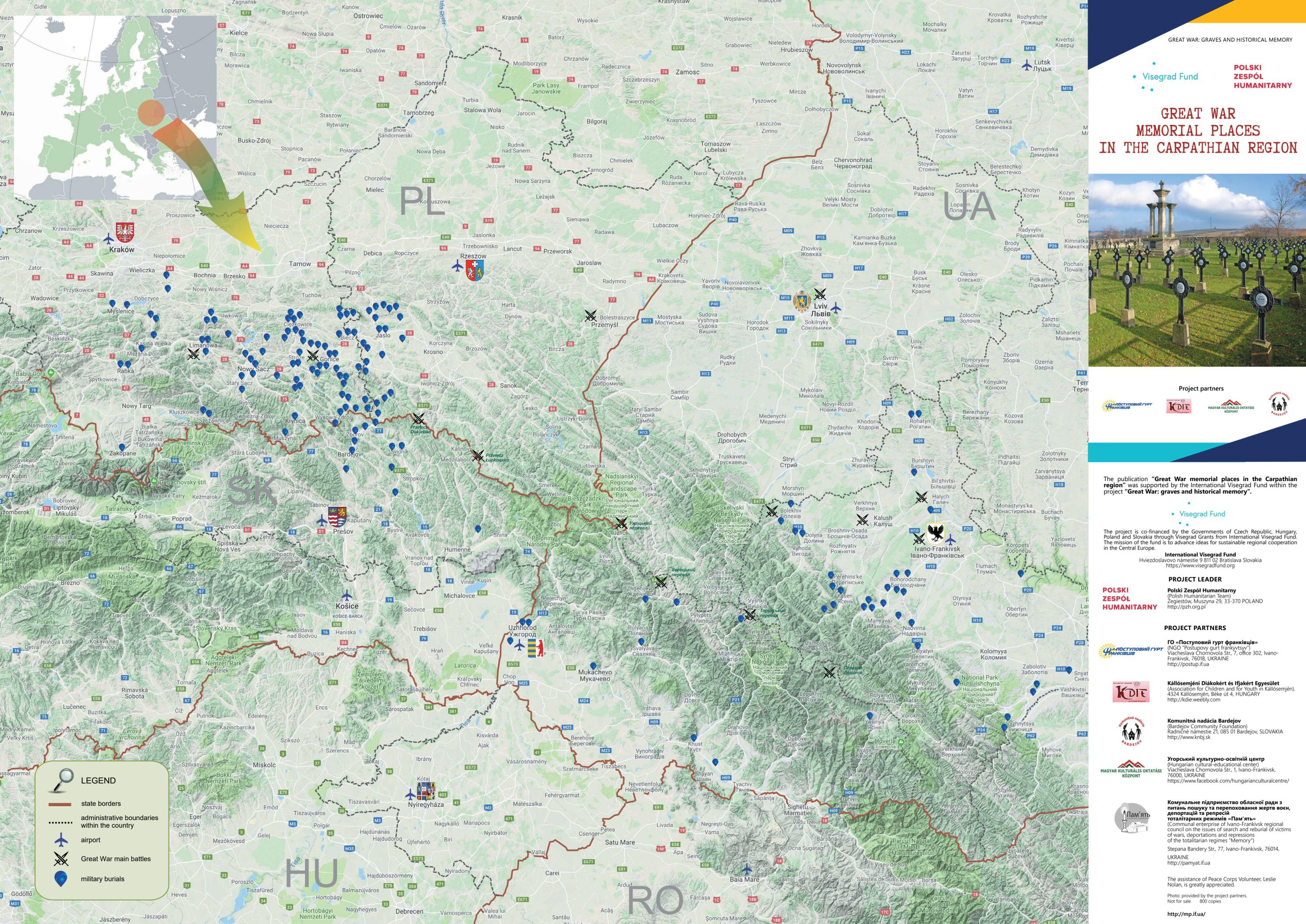
Austrian National Library
http://anno.onb.ac.at

Military Central Archives of the Czech Republic
http://vuapraha.cz

History of Austro-Hungarian monarchy
http://ah.milua.org

"Memory without Borders" project
https://www.crac.findbuch.net

Fallen in World War I
http://wicy.webd.pl/polegli/



GREAT WAR MEMORIAL PLACES IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION



Project partners



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 (Association for Children and for Youth in Kállosemjény).
 4324 Kállosemjény, Beke út 4, HUNGARY
<http://kdie.weebly.com>

Komunitná nadácia Bardejov
 (Bardejov Community Foundation)
 Radničné námestie 21, 085 01 Bardejov, SLOVAKIA
<http://www.knbj.sk>

Угорський культурно-освітній центр
 (Hungarian cultural-educational center)
 Viacheslava Chornovola Str., 1, Ivano-Frankivsk, 76000, UKRAINE
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<http://pamyat.f.ua>

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