

## **CROATIAN CIVILIZATION MOVEMENT**

Society for human rights protection

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Brežice, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

## **VELEPOSLANIŠTVO ZVEZNE REPUBLIKE NEMČIJE**

Deutsche Botschaft Laibach

**Werner Burkart**, ambassador

Prešernova cesta 27 - 1000 Ljubljana

Co:

Dr. Bernd Fischer, ambassador FRG in RC

Dear Ambassador,

We have read, with high interests, the following news ("The remains of 20 thousand German soldiers will be transferred into four new tombs", Silva Videk, [www.vecernji.hr](http://www.vecernji.hr) - November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.):

"The remains of 20 116 German soldiers from World War II that were buried at 947 locations throughout Croatia, will be gradually transferred to four locations: Mirogoj in Zagreb, graveyard in Vrapče-Zagreb, and to already existing military graveyards in Split and Pula. The remains of the soldiers resting in Rijeka and Valpovo will be not transferred, because the German association from Osijek takes care of the graves in Valpovo, whereas the Red Cross in collaboration with the organization 'Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge' takes care of graves in Rijeka. That organization estimates that the remains of another 10 000 soldiers are still not recovered.

(2)

- The Volksbund's concept, which is based on maintaining and building of the central graveyards, consists of decreasing very large number of small cemeteries, by exhumation of the remains of the soldiers, and their transfer to larger graveyards, which is the only way to preserve the soldiers' remains and graves - said public relation consultant of German embassy in Croatia, Bruno Boban."

"Volksbund takes care of German soldiers' graves in 45 countries at 824 locations. It is believed that in those graves approximately two millions German soldiers fallen in wars has been buried. In addition, monuments and graveyards from French-Prussian war in 1870/71, as well as more than 64 gravestones from German-Danish wars in 1848/51 and 1864, should not be forgotten. Volksbund staff maintains 238 gravestones, whereas various firms, communal societies, church organizations, societies and private persons take care of 589 gravestones."

With the reference to above cited text, we solicit for the following:

1. audience with officials from Your Embassy,
2. the names of the persons from "Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge", that we could contact.

Croatian Civilization Movement for some time now is involved in the issues associated to Croatian graves from 1945 in the Republic of Slovenia. This is, however, inseparable from the German graves from the same period. We are especially interested in locations Crngrob (Škofja Loka), Krško and Mostec (Brežice). Moreover, our diligent member Dragutin Šafarić, has been engaged in locating those graves for 28 years.

A book delivered with this letter: Dr. Sc. Tomislav Dragun: "Ustaše i partizani: Dr. Nikola Mandić i Stjepan Hršak", Ognjište, Zagreb, 2011.

At the end, I would like to emphasize the following:

In May, 1945 I have been at Bleiburg field with my father, who was police scout. I have a fortune to be in one of those trains, which have not been forever terminated in Slovenia.

(3)

My wife **Marija** (maiden name Takšić, nickname Mira) was a **German** on her mother's side. Her late mother **Elizabeta** (maiden name: **Martin**) originates from **Stari Jankovci** near **Vinkovci** (Republic of Croatia). The main part of her family, after the World War II, continued their lives in Reutlingen (Germany).

A book delivered with this letter: Mira Takšić (Marija Dragun): "**Mirini vinkovački kolači**", Ognjište, Zagreb, 2011.

With high esteem,

Dr. Sc. Tomislav Dragun  
The president