



This area, mostly used as a multimedia platform, is dominated by three Austrian-Hungarian artillery pieces: an M5/8, 8 cm, field-gun, a 12cm grenade-launcher and a bronze, 7cm, mountain gun. A wall-plaque, along with a number of previously unpublished pictures, commemorating Josef Kiss is visible by the entrance to this section, while a slide-show of original –era images is played on the hall's back wall.

The permanent display at former "Mulino Spagolla" (Spagolla windmill) is amongst the very best of its kind in the area between the countees of Veneto and Trentino: captivating and rewarding not only for the occasional visitor but also for an audience of more demanding collectors, owing to the superior quality of its items, as much as to the educational criteria employed to display them.



## THE GREAT WAR IN VALSUGANA AND LAGORAI RANGE PERMANENT EXHIBITION

*For info and booking:*

- BORGIO VALSUGANA CITY HALL LIBRARY  
Tel. 0461 754052 - e-mail: borgovalsugana@biblio.infotn.it
- MUSEUM HALLS  
Tel. 0461 757195 - e-mail: ascvot@virgilio.it  
www.mostradiborgo.it

*Opening timetables:*

**From May to September:** from Tuesday to Sunday;  
morning: 10.00 – 12.00; afternoon: 15.00 – 18.30  
closed on Monday

**From March to April and from October to December:**  
Wednesday: 09.30 – 12.00; Saturday and Sunday: morning  
10.00 – 12.00; afternoon: 15.00 – 18.30

PLEASE NOTICE: THE MUSEUM IS USUALLY CLOSED IN  
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. GUIDED TOURS FOR GROUPS  
AND SCHOOL CLASSES BY CALLING 0461 752874.



*Tourist info:*



Azienda per il Turismo VALSUGANA

38056 Levico Terme (TN) | via Vittorio Emanuele, 3 | tel. 0461 727700 | fax 0461 727799  
info@visitvalsugana.it | www.visitvalsugana.it



COMUNE DI BORGIO VALSUGANA  
Assessorato alla Cultura



Associazione Storico Culturale  
Valsugana Orientale e Tesino

TRENTINO



RETE  
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VALSUGANA  
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PERMANENT  
EXHIBITION

# the great war

IN VALSUGANA  
AND LAGORAI  
RANGE



EX MULINO SPAGOLLA  
Vicolo Sottochiesa, 11 - Borgo Valsugana (TN)



“Bersaglieri”, including Bersaglieri’s characteristic bicycle, are also present, while the uncanny ability of the human mind to conceive and develop so many different means of destruction is clearly described by a large, detailed, display of hand grenades. Numerous side-arms and rifles are obviously presented, amongst which stand out a Mod. 1915 “Villar Perosa” Italian machine-gun and a M95 sniper’s rifle.

The so called “Spazio Monelli” is a tribute to the famous journalist and writer, Alpini Lieutenant Paolo Monelli: his uniform and memorabilia were the specific object of a dedicated, and widely recognized, event back in 2008.

Two rare banners, donated by the “Museo Storico di Trentino”, stand out in this hall: the 1876 yellow and black flag, a gift of Archduke Albert of Habsburg to the 1866 Veterans’ Association of Rovereto and the Italian three colours flag, as prepared by the women of Trentino in 1918 to be flown at Castello del Buonconsiglio in Trento.

Military aviation in Valsugana is yet another facet explored in this hall, through the flight suit and medals of the Hungarian ace Josef Kiss, who used to fly from the airport of Cire’ by Pergine and was eventually shot down during a dogfight with opposing Canadian and British pilots in 1918.

Two pieces of aircraft debris, presumably belonging to Kiss’s airplane, along with a propeller from a shutdown Caproni CA3 bomber are displayed in the second hall, which develops over three storeys, obtained from the equal number of floors that used to be the local windmill.

Displayed here are an Austrian trench, complete with barbed wire protection, and the ceiling of an Italian war tunnel, visible through a concave glass panel. Awards and medals, belonging to the Hungarian war hero Arpad Taby, include an “Order of Marie Therese”.

Alpini Sgt. Antonio Boldo’s family donated a display with some of his war-time memorabilia: this soldier was awarded the Bronze Medal for military bravery, having died on May 24 1916 in a hard hand to hand fight at Spera (Valsugana).

## THE GREAT WAR IN VALSUGANA AND ON THE LAGORAI RANGE PERMANENT EXHIBITION

This permanent display, started in 2002 and dramatically improved between 2013 and 2014, is organized into two adjacent halls. In the first one, located by the highly symbolical mural describing the 1914-18 conflict, visitors will find a uniform from the “Corpo Volontari Italiani” (Italian Volunteers Corps), a tribute to the Austro-Italian 1866 war which brought the countee of Veneto to Italy; it used to belong to Alessandro Spagolla, a veteran of the 1866 campaign who was born in Borgo Valsugana.

Both the human and technological aspects of the conflict are thoroughly explored in this hall. A very effective combination of original pictures and static displays takes the visitor into the destruction and anguish suffered by towns and villages in the valley, while showing the constant evolution of the art of war: from uniforms and headgears (field caps and helmets), from firearms to more primitive instruments such as iron trench-clubs.

Rare items are displayed here, to include unusual equipment allowing the use of firearms from concealed positions or sniping equipment, the “armoured hat” prototypes, the helmets precursors, the “Corsi” and “Farina” armours, precursors of modern bullet-proof jackets.

Different facets of the conflict are explored through evocative dioramas, ranging from the use of Austrian grenade-launchers to everyday life in a mountain shelter or in a trench, where a shielded Schwarzlose machine-gun is displayed, with an ingenious ammo belt-reloading mechanism.

Original period uniforms are on display in spacious glass cases: the main one of these, showcasing a section of an Italian field hospital,

equipped with a phone-post and phone checkboard, dramatically recreates the sacrifices and feeling of suffering, typical of those years. An infantryman from a “Death Company”, specifically equipped with “Malfatti” barbed-wire cutters and “Farina” helmet, stands along a “Musketenpatrouille” member, armed with a Madsen submachine-gun and special mountain equipment. Two commissioned officers, respectively from the Landesschützen and Reitende (horse-mounted) Tiroler Landesschützen regiments, are on exhibit together with an Italian infantryman of the “Venezia” brigade in full combat-uniform and the medals of an Italian Commissioned Officer, recipient of a Silver Medal for bravery at Cima Manderiolo.

Mario Scotoni’s (a local patriot) war memoirs are displayed along with a Bosnian Lieutenant Commissioned Officer’s uniform and a Tiroler Kaiserjager medical officer’s original full kit. Mannequins of the imperial “Sturmtruppen” and Italian

