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Memorial Center Lipa remembers

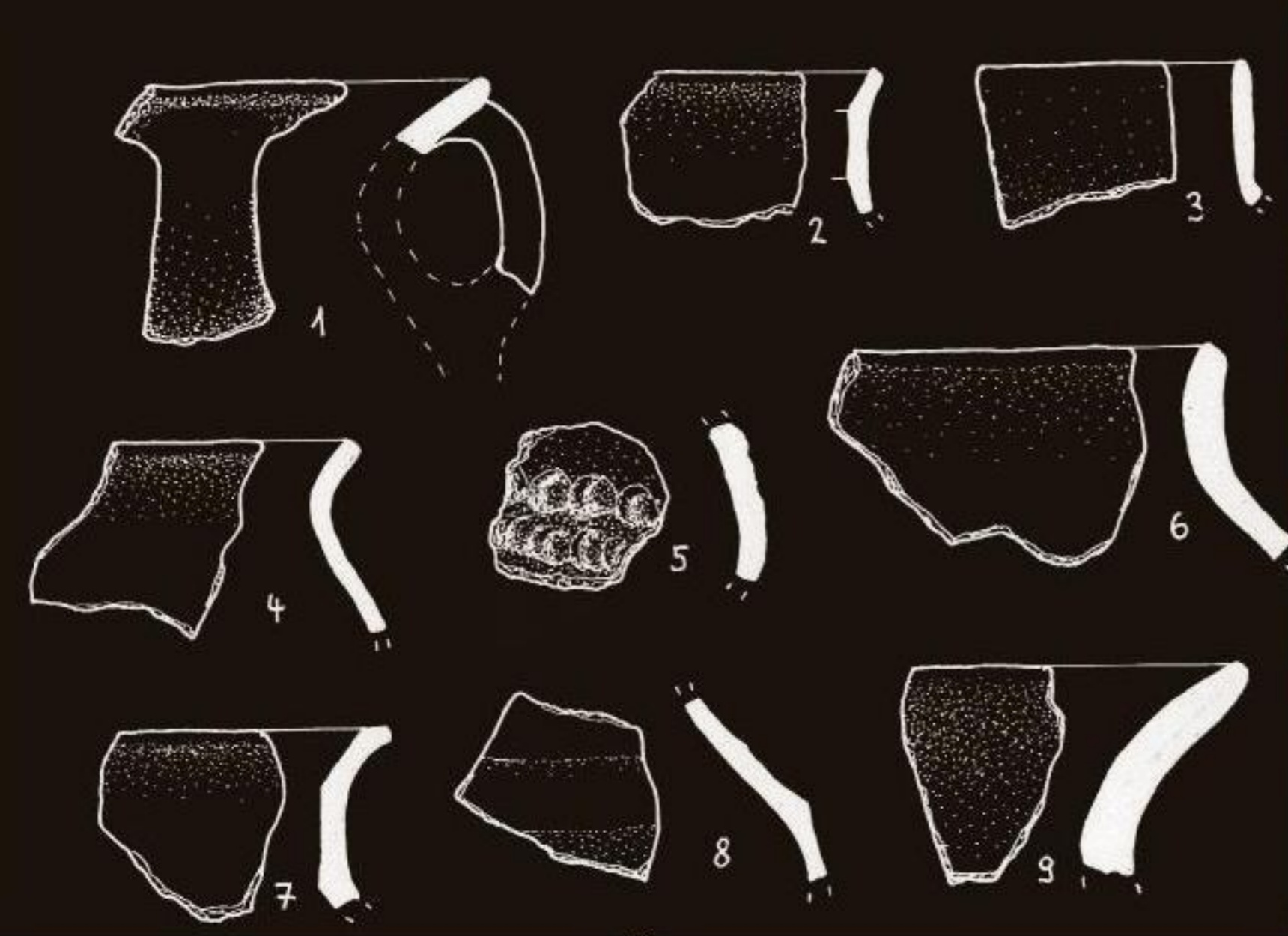


Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka

Memorial Center Lipa remembers was opened in Lipa in April 2015 on the site of the former Memorial Museum operating from 1968 to 1989. With the restoration of the museum, memory is also being restored. Memory of heavy historical heritage of 30th of April 1944 when Lipa, in just a few hours, lost 269 of its residents, mostly elderly, women and children. The crime was committed by the Nazis and Fascists within the "Braunschweig" offensive, territory cleansing operation against partisan "bandits". Killing civilians was followed by the theft of their property, and burning all of their houses and farmhouses. The end of World War II brings Lipa to its knees as surviving inhabitants have no homes to return to. At this point a long and painstaking restoration began, and the continuation of life marked by a sense of loss. Today Lipa lives and remembers.

The permanent exhibition of the Memorial Center Lipa remembers interprets the history of World War II in the microregion of Liburnian Karst that, in addition to Lipa, comprises of Pasjak, Rupa, Šapjane and Brdce. Memorial Heritage of World War II is complemented by the overview of the continuity of life in this region, from prehistoric times to the present, with a special emphasis on the cultural and historical heritage of Lipa, before and after the tragic event. In holistic approach to this regions heritage, the tragic event of 30th of April 1944 can be seen in a broader context, as only one of many identity features belonging to vital and potent community of Lipa.





We follow traces of the first inhabitants of the Liburnian Karst, Liburnians and then the Romans, on the archaeological sites such as forts (Pasjak and Šapjane) and caves (Loza 1 and Loza 2). Prehistoric and ancient pottery shards, as testimonies of private life of the first inhabitants are complemented with traces of their public activities. The ancient road "Via Publica" was passing through this area as the shortest link between Tarsatica (Rijeka) and Aquileia, while in its vicinity rose the Liburnian Limes, a system of defensive walls that protected the ancient province of Italy from barbarian invasions.

One of the earliest records of the village name "Lipa" is found in the document, dated 21 April 1429, in which Hugon from Duino, the feudal ruler of Lipa, confirms estate of Lipa as ecclesiastical property of the Augustinian monastery in Rijeka. The map from the beginning of the 18th century shows that Lipa, at that time, still belonged to the Augustinian estate, and that the main road connecting Rijeka with Trieste was passing through it.

Living on Liburnian Karst always meant living along the border. People of Liburnian Karst have developed a specific identity and lifestyle due to their habitation at the geographical crossroads of Istria, Croatian Littoral and European hinterland; at the crossroads of key road routes between Rijeka, Trieste and Ljubljana and at the borders of many historic states. They traditionally bury their deceased in the slovene cemetery in the neighboring Jelšane so they love to joke about them being born as Croats and being dead as Slovenians. Also, to whom it may concern, they say: „Nismo Čiči ni Brkini, mi smo jušto na kunfine!“ or “We are not from Čičarija (mountain in Istria), nor are we from Brkini (slovenian locality), we are right at the border!”



Book Demo

Situated at important road routes, Lipa was one of the first to get a postal office opened in 1756 in the building where the Memorial Centre is now situated. At that time Lipa's post office had 12 horses and 2 carriages for transporting mail, but also passengers. In the year 1885 school was opened in the same building, due to the contribution of Ivan Kalčić Barela, a prominent benefactor from Lipa.



With the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in 1919, the region of Liburnian Karst became a part of the Kingdom of Italy and, as part of the same Kingdom, awaited the beginning of World War II. With the capitulation of Italy in September 1943, the Germans established control over the territory and carried out several offensive actions with the intension of “cleaning” the area of partisans. Ludwig Kübler, general of the 97th German Army Corps, on the 24th of February 1944 issued an order with the ten commandments in which, among other things, states the following: *Regarding the fight, everything that leads to success is just and necessary. I will take personal responsibility for any procedure undertaken in accordance with this principle. Who willingly helps the Partisans, deserves death and must be eliminated.* By choosing the side of the Partisans, village of Lipa, old men, women and children, have become the target of the invaders.





During their attack on Lipa, criminals documented with a camera following actions: murders of civilians, stealing of civilian livestock and property and arson of the entire village. Photos were saved by chance. One of the German soldiers brought the film for developing in the Marož photo shop in Ilirska Bistrica. Sister of the store owner secretly developed a duplicate. When the war was over she hanged the pictures in the store window hoping that people passing by would recognize the location of the tragic event. Soon enough Lipa was recognized on the pictures.



Surviving inhabitants of Lipa, one hundred of them, that on the 30th of April 1944 were among the Partisans, in working camps, absent by work or simply taking cattle to the pastures, are beginning with the renewal of their homes and families. In the year 1945, in the former Italian military quarters, the only roofed object at that time, Branko Afrić was born as the first post-war baby in Lipa. Intensive restoration of the village begins not until 1965 when the Fund for the Reconstruction of Lipa was established. Year after, village of Lipa was listed as cultural heritage in the category of memorial places. Every year, on the anniversary of the tragic event, manifestation Lipa remembers is being held in Lipa.



Memorial Center Lipa remembers

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tue - sat 10.00 - 17.00
sun 10.00 - 14.00
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