

THE FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE - FTT (1947-1954)



After the end of the Second World War, the Primorska (littoral) region was divided into two zones – Zone A and Zone B, which operated as part of the Free Territory of Trieste from 1947 until the establishment of the Yugoslav-Italian national border under the London Memorandum of 1954. In Zone B the task of maintaining public security was carried out by the National Defence Force (Narodna zaščita – NZ).



Map of the FTT



Newspaper of the NZ, issued in 1947



Defender traffic officers with the force's first motorcycles (Harley Davidsons)



Defenders parade after swearing-in ceremony, Koper, 23 September 1947

ties into units for: public safety, traffic and border, and penal institutions. Border services were performed by the 'border section', which was subordinate to the NZ district authorities. A border company, headquartered in the hamlet of Moretini, was assigned to control the demarcation line from Debeli Rtič to Krvavi Potok. It was made up of three platoons. The first and second platoon patrolled the land border, and the third patrolled the maritime border.

Until the formation of the FTT in 1947, the members of the NZ wore the same uniforms that had been



Defenders in beige summer uniforms, 1952



National defender in a Yugoslav model of the uniform from 1946.

assigned to the Milica in 1946. After that, their uniform changed slightly. They kept the dark blue colour, but the cut was changed. The national defenders were distinguished from the Milica by the open collar of their jackets, to which a shirt



National defender, after 1947

and a tie were added. Another difference was the badge on their caps; the star was replaced by a cockade with a unique design and symbolism. This uniform was in use, with minor alterations, until 1954.



The stables of the NZ



Students at the Milica school in Begunje, 1950

The NZ authorities on the Istrian District People's Committee continuously provided for the education and training of their corps. They took courses or attended the Milica schools in Begunje, Ajdovščina and Vipavski Križ. In 1947, courses were introduced in the Koper area. They were held at various locations – Valdoltra, Koper, Strunjan.

NZ clubs, which featured sporting and cultural activities, were begun to be formed in early 1947.

SLOVENIAN MARITIME POLICE



National Defence patrol, ca. 1947

of Trieste (FTT). A group of national defenders also operated under the auspices of the Koper border checkpoint, whose duties were carried out both at the maritime border checkpoint and at sea using patrol boats.

The People's Milica became a public safety organisation in the Primorska region in 1954, when both the FTT and the NZ were dissolved after the establishing of the Yugoslav-Italian border. Various units of internal affairs authorities and the police were formed at that time, including the Maritime People's Milica Station in Koper. This unit carried out security duties at sea using patrol boats.



The first "independent seamen"



This speedboat marked "MILICA", 1965

begun to be established in Slovenia. In Koper, the Koper Border Police Station was created through the merging of the Maritime Milica Station and the Port Commissariat. The new unit was assigned to work at the border checkpoints and at sea on patrol boats.



Vessel M-44, later P-44



Patrol boat P-111, built in Italy, in use since 1995.

'Milica' was renamed the 'Policija', and the registration numbers of police vessels were changed from M to P. In 1994, Koper Border Milica Station was renamed Koper Maritime Police Station. At that time, the unit was also given an official emblem in the form of a shield with an anchor and the Slovenian tricolour, and the inscription "MARITIME POLICE".

Today, sea border surveillance and control of crossing the state border at maritime border crossing

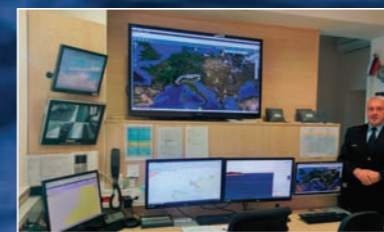


The crew on board the P-66, 2003



Maritime border crossing in the Port of Koper, built in 2006.

the other for control at border checkpoints for maritime traffic. When Slovenia became a full member of the Schengen Area in 2007, the Slovenian Maritime Police also became the guardians of Europe's external maritime border.



The commander of the Police Station - Mauro Rihter at the workbench of the EUROSUR centre, 2017.

During the time of the independence processes, Slovenian maritime police officers, as part of the Koper Border Milica Station, were deeply involved in the entire episode, including participation in the 10-day war and the post-war events of 1991.

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Today, sea border surveillance and control of crossing the state border at maritime border crossing points constitute the two main tasks of the maritime police station. Other tasks are carried out only if they are urgent in nature.

After Slovenia joined the EU in 2004, two groups began operating at the Koper Maritime Police Station, one of which is responsible for guarding and surveillance of the national maritime border using vessels, and the other for control at border checkpoints for maritime traffic. When Slovenia became a full member of the Schengen Area in 2007, the Slovenian Maritime Police also became the guardians of Europe's external maritime border.



1911
POKRAJINSKI MUZEJ KOPER
MUSEO REGIONALE DI CAPODISTRIA
KOPER REGIONAL MUSEUM



FROM ARMED GUARD TO POLICEMAN

The history of Slovene, littoral and marine police

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DURING THE TIME OF FRANZ JOSEPH I. (1850 – First World War)



The beginnings of the Slovenian police date back to 1850, when the Emperor Franz Joseph I. following the French model confirmed the establishment of a new security organisation – the gendarmerie in the Austrian Empire, where the majority of today's Slovenian territory belonged



Gendarmes, from around 1850

at that time. The security forces of that time (the imperial army and the municipal police constables) could not tame the enraged masses who had emerged in the European Spring of Nations; therefore, it was necessary to additionally ensure safety and order.

The name of the new unit originated from the French word »gens d'armes« (a man with a weapon) or the German »Gendarmerie« – »žandarmerija«. This term was used in the laws, while the Slovenian word »orožništvo« only gradually came into force.

A gendarme could be an Austrian citizen, aged 24 to 36, single or widowed without children, of healthy and agile figure, no shorter than 170.5 centimetres, with knowledge of the regional language, reading and writing as well as good behaviour and undefiled past. Most gendarmes were previously soldiers. They were taken to serve for at least ten years, later for four years.

Upon becoming gendarmes, the boys had to swear an oath:

»I solemnly swear by God Almighty his Apostolic Majesty, most illustrious prince and sir, Franz Joseph the first, by the grace of God the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, etc., Apostolic King of Hungary, and by applicable laws of the motherland, loyalty and devotion. I swear that as an imperial royal gendarme (gendarme officer) I will conscientiously fulfil the service of public security, law and order according to instructions and as a soldier by military laws and regulations of specifically set tasks, whereby I will always bear in mind the benefits the service, his Majesty and the country, and that I will fulfil with willing obedience the laws as well as the orders given by the competent authorities, my superiors and higher ranks, and that I will carefully protect professional secrets. So help me God!«



Gendarmerie staff officer in a parade uniform around 1900

● Photo from the book Fritz Hörmann, Gerald Hesztera: Zwischen Gefahr und Berufung, Museumsverein Werfen 1999, p. 278, 282

THE KINGDOM OF SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES – YUGOSLAVIA (1918-1941)



After the end of the First World War and the collapse of Austro-Hungary, Slovenia joined the newly formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS) with its own security forces. In 1918, the gendarmerie and police constables already cooperated with the Slovenian army and under the leadership of General Rudolf Maister ensured that northern Styria and southern Carinthia remained in Slovenia.



Gendarmerie Lieutenant Colonel Rudolf Cvetko, April 1941

● National Museum of Slovenia

and Slovenes, Alexander the First; that as a gendarme (gendarme officer) in the service of public security, law and order I will diligently and faithfully carry out my duties under the Constitution, laws, rules and the tasks of superiors and official powers, and that I will keep official secrets. So help me God!«

Just as in the time of Franz Joseph I, in order to get married gendarmes needed permission from the Minister or their superior. Only a minority of gendarmes were married, since conditions for obtaining permission were strict. First decree on marrying of officers from 1923 stated, inter alia: »Gendarmerie non-commissioned officers, corporals and permanent gendarmes can marry after completing eight years of service in the gendarmerie ... Gendarmerie trainees are not accepted if they are married nor can they marry. Approval for marrying for gendarmerie non-commissioned officers, corporals and permanent gendarmes can be given by the commander of the entire gendarmerie (brigadier, later regimental general based in Belgrade). Gendarmerie non-commissioned officers and corporals or permanent gendarmes who marry without the consent of the competent authorities, shall be discharged from the gendarmerie.« Attention was also focused on the bride. She had to be from a good family, with irreproachable moral qualities, etc.



Wedding of the gendarmerie junior sergeant Anton Suhadolnik from the gendarmerie station Gornji Petrovci, Šalovci in 1940.

● Foto: Julij Schönauer (1894–1944), private property

THE KINGDOM OF ITALY AND THE JULIAN MARCH (1918-1943)



By signing the secret London Pact in 1915, which was a condition for Italy to enter the war on the side of the Entente Powers, Italy was granted Primorska and Istria. After the signing of the Treaty of Rapallo in 1920 between Italy and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the territory of the Julian March, as they called it, was finally annexed to the Kingdom of Italy.



Carabiniere – Sub-brigadier wearing traditional "lucerna" hat, ca. 1940

● Uniformi&armi, no. 47, January 1995, p. 10

they suppressed anti-Italian activities among the populace. The carabinieri were charged with enforcing them. Public gatherings, the hanging of the Yugoslav flag, etc. were prohibited. The Italianisation of the Slovene population reached its apex with the fascist measures enacted during the 1930s.



Carabiniere Viktor Vidmar from Dobravlje near Sežana, ca. 1940.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1941-1945)



After occupying the Slovene territory, the Germans, the Italians and the Hungarians established their own police force, integrating a part of the armed forces of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. At the same time, other security forces and services were established by the liberation war authorities and the newly-formed organisations, both fighting the occupying nations. These forces and services were responsible for the matters of security and were originally called village guards.



National Guard of Gorizian-Venetian region in Gorizia hills, summer 1944

● Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia

Among all of the civil and military authorities, the most recognisable in the field were the carabinieri, who after the occupation of the territory became the keepers of order and peace, both among the Italian soldiers and among the local population. The carabinieri were traditionally armed with "carabina" rifles, from which they got their name. By wearing the unique lucerna hats their appearance was distinguished from all of the other soldiers in the Royal Italian Army, and symbolically indicated their special status.

Slovene boys also served in the carabinieri; they generally served far from home, while the officials and carabinieri assigned to the Julian March came from other parts of Italy.

The Italian authorities adopted numerous measures in occupied or new territories, through which



German Field Gendarmere



An "ORPO" police officer

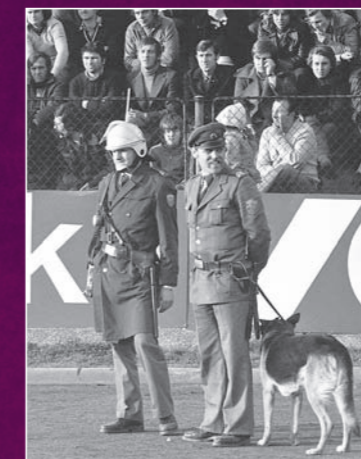
The public order police (germ. Ordnungspolizei or ORPO), was active from 1936 to 1945. It included all German criminal prosecution establishments and all organisations for emergencies, such as fire-fighters, coast guard, civil protection and even night guard. It was responsible for supervising the civilians in occupied areas. ORPO was also called "the green police", because its members wore green uniforms.

SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA (1945-1991)



On 5 May 1945, the Slovenian Government was formed in Ajdovščina. The President of the government was Boris Kidrič, and the Minister of the Interior was Zoran Polič.

The Milica became the only uniformed unit of public safety in the new country which evolved from national protection and in Slovenia it was renamed the People's Milica in 1950.



The militiamen, after 1974

● Ministry of the Interior



The first generation of militiapersons in Tacen in 1962 - non-commissioned officers' school.

● Slovenian Police Museum

Professional School of the State Secretariat of Internal Affairs (DSNZ) was later established in Tacen under Šmarna gora. For operation in more difficult security, emergency or war situations, militiapersons trained in training centres, after 1967 in Ugar by Ribnica in Dolenjska, and after 1975 also in Jasnica near Kočevje.

Every militiaman had to solemnly swear before beginning their service. The text of the oath from 1946, defined by Article 45 of the National Milica Act, was as follows:

"I, (name and surname) pledge by my honour and life to perform my duties in compliance with the laws and upon the orders of my superiors, scrupulously, unselfishly and impartially, to be disciplined and to fulfil unconditionally the orders imposed on me by my superiors, to protect the official secrets and reputation of the National Milica everywhere. I pledge to vigilantly protect the achievements of the national liberation struggle and the Constitutional Order – the government of the people and the brotherhood and unity of our nations, to faithfully fulfil the duties imposed on me for the reinforcement and development of those achievements, and to be faithful to my nation and to my country, the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, till my last breath. Should I breach my solemn pledge, I will be hit by the unmerciful punishment of military law, general hatred and contempt of our nations and the curse of the motherland."

National militiapersons were first trained in courses organised in Ljubljana – in 1945, in Jesenice – in 1948, and then in Begunje and Logatec. Due to the need for greater professionalism and uniformity of education, the



Militia department, practice to maintain public order, Jasnica, 1977.

● Slovenian Police Museum

INDEPENDENT SLOVENIA (1991-)



The Slovenian Police played an important role in the independence processes. The internal affairs authorities and the Milica, as the police were called under the socialist system, demonstrated through numerous campaigns from 1989 on, in both wartime and post-war events, that they were prepared and qualified to defend the Slovenian nation, Slovenian citizens and the Slovenian territory. In 1991, the Milica in Slovenia included around 4400 uniformed officers and 440 detectives.



Police officers, Tacen, ca. 1993

● Ministry of the Interior

A new oath of allegiance was created in the new country: "I solemnly swear that I will execute my duties conscientiously, responsibly, humanely and lawfully, and that in doing so I will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms."

The socio-political changes after Slovenia's independence meant that changes were also required in the police. The first of these was depoliticisation, i.e. the separation of the police from the Communist Party. The new emphasis was on the protection of human rights. The organisational structure and the name were changed – in 1992 the 'Milica' was renamed the 'Policija'.

In 1992, 27 June was proclaimed Slovenian Police Day, in honour of the role of the Milica in defending Slovenia against the advances of the Yugoslav People's Army in the spring of 1991.



Changing the signs at the Ljubelj border crossing, 1991

● Museum of Contemporary History of Slovenia



Police officer, ca. 2000

● Ministry of the Interior



The departure of the last ship carrying Yugoslav Army personnel from Koper harbour, 25 October 1991

● Slovenian Police Museum