



Sharing European Memories

Newsletter

Imaginary meeting in Norwegian cultural output



A young girl from Flekkeroy Secondary School meets a Jewish girl of similar age in one of the Nazi extinction camps. That is the starting point of the **Norwegian national event** (*in the pictures above*).

The Norwegian event took place at the **9th of April 1940, the memorial day of Nazi attack on Norway**. This morning, 70 years ago a German fleet approached Kristiansand harbour, finding this city highly strategic for the German warfare.

Those dramatic hours has of course been remembered every year since then. **In 2010 the anniversary and the Sharing European Memories event was combined**. An audience of about 200 people came to listen to lectures about the last historic discoveries about the attack on Kristiansand in particular and the attack on Norway in general. One of the veterans of the resistance movement, Mr. Kaare Heistein, was called to the scene by a singer group performing an "Andrews sisters" repertoire.

But the most interesting part of the evening was the SEME performance – at least the national broadcasting company's news editor thought so. Having hundreds of anniversary events to choose among, they picked **the SEME performance in Kristiansand for a live report in the prime time news**.

Several schools in southern Norway have been involved in making cultural products to present the local Second world war story. **Two films and two theatre performances**



were presented in the event.

Both the films started with the story about the local Gestapo head quarter in Kristiansand which is now a centre for peace and human rights. The film teams brought interviews with veterans working as voluntary guides in the centre. **Both the films may be seen in the SEME web-page**. In one of the films, the pupils decided to contribute to the anti-Nazi struggle by making a concert for veterans.

Parts of this concert will be shown in the final event in Italy in May.

The most moving part of the event was the theatrical performance of an imaginary meeting between one of the girls from the Secondary School at Flekkeroy by Kristiansand and a young Jewish girl from one of the Nazi extinction camps. **This will also be presented in the final event in Italy.**

In the picture below: the team presenting the winning performance in the Norwegian SEME project: (from left: Asbjørn Arntsen, Ina Marie Sigurdson, Eystein Ellingsen (behind), Johan Gjønnes Nilsen, Camilla Sanner, Susanne Mollstad, Marius Jahnsen Nygaard and Thomas Mellemstrand.



Newsletter

With the final event in Italy the Project SEME will come to its conclusion

Domenica 23 Maggio 2010
Brento di Monzuno - Monte Adone
GUERRA e MEMORIA
Una giornata di rievocazioni sulla Linea Gotica

Ore 9,00 - 17,00

Escursioni guidate sul Monte Adone con "diorama vivente" dei protagonisti (soldati, partigiani, civili) sul fronte della Gotica

Esposizione di mezzi militari della Seconda guerra mondiale a cura del Museo Memoriale della Libertà di Bologna, compreso un carro armato Sherman

Mercatino di oggetti di "militaria"

Stand gastronomico del Circolo Monte Adone

Ore 16,00 presentazione del volume "La Montagna dopo la Guerra" a cura dell'ISPESD



We are organizing the great event of May 22nd and 23rd in Italy, which will be the closing act of the SEME project. It will be joined by all the delegations from the European countries that are members of the project itself (**Great Britain, Norway, Spain-Basque Country, Poland**).

Also the Italian partner has completed its didactic activities in the four schools involved (Castel d'Aiano, Castiglione dei Pepoli, Monte San Pietro-Calderino, Monzuno-Vado), and they have developed several projects and scripts (researches, posters, films and comic strips).

These projects will be shown to the audience in the morning of **Saturday 22nd during the "SEME Festival"**, where the foreign partners will present their projects, too, through live theatre and music performances, viewings and digital presentations. **The festival will take place in Borgo di Colle Ameno and the audience will be called to vote the best didactic methodology, with a prizegiving to the best work.**

The following day, **Sunday 23rd, the event "War & Memory" will take place for the whole day in Brento**, with a series of historical attractions and commemorations, including a parade of military vehicles from World War II. In particular, **animated and guided excursions will be carried out on Mount Adone panoramic peak**, the last German bulwark on the front-line in spring 1945. During the excursion, situations and characters from the time will be reenacted (soldiers, civilians, partisans), and they will interact with the audience, answering their questions.

The story of Mary Todd cake



I invited my friend Mary (*in the picture*) and five others to attend an interviewee session at Castleton Primary School with a class of Year 5s.

Before the day I went into the school and we had a session on interviewing techniques so the students were well prepared. **They were very impressed with Mary.**

She spoke to the students about food shortages during

the war, the fear that the Germans would invade, about making Army greatcoats to aid the war effort and the ever-present fear that something would happen to her young husband Wilf, away serving in the Army. **Mary represented the 'human face' of conflict for the students.**

She told them that Wilf sent her rabbits to eat from Scotland, where he was training for the Normandy landings. The students learned that Mary's younger sister and brother had both been evacuated and had been badly treated, so Mary and her father went to bring them home.

As usual during these sessions, Mary told one story that captivated her audience. To celebrate their first wedding anniversary Mary had sent Wilf a cake to Holland, where his unit was fighting. **Wilf described receiving it when he spoke to me in 1999:**

The morning of the attack from Overloon to Venray the post had arrived. The company orderly sergeant came down to me with a parcel. It was a biscuit tin with a cake in it to celebrate our first wedding anniversary.

The problem was where to put it. Slim Penrice said to cut it in half and give him half to carry but I said "What if you get killed?!" I opened my battledress blouse and pushed it inside. I had a right bust on me!

Between setting off and digging in at night, we'd crawled through hedges, dropped flat when we came under fire and done all sorts of acrobatics. That night we were waiting for our meal to come up, it usually comprised all-in stew. Slim Penrice wanted to know what had happened to my cake. I'd lost my bust! The cake was all in crumbs. We got Slim's groundsheet and laid it on top of the slit trench and emptied the crumbs onto it. So we brewed tea and ate handfuls of cake.

The cake became a focal point for several digital stories. Pictures and drawings of the cake show large colourful confections with candles. For one example, produced by Samira and Ketsia see:

<http://www.myorkshire.org/playback-video.asp?>



Newsletter

The Aranzadi Society of Sciences and the reconstruction of the collective memory of the Spanish Civil War and the early Franco years (1936-1945)

Truth, justice, and reparations are all internationally recognized victims' rights.

The Aranzadi Society of Sciences asserts the belief shared by all victims and communities: that violations of rights are to be dealt with firmly and transparently until objectives, facts, circumstances and motives are discovered.

Since the year 2000, the society has counted on the S.C. Aranzadi's multidisciplinary team, led by Dr. Francisco Etxebarria. The team is composed of historians, archaeologists, physical anthropologists, socio-cultural anthropologists, and audiovisual experts who investigate the consequences of the Civil War and the early years of Franco (from 1936 to 1945) in studies.

These studies hope to bring to light the horrors that took place during this period and that have, until now, remained forgotten, silencing the victims' memories even after the establishment of a democratic government. Research provides answers to those victims who assert their need to look back on the past, to clarify past events and bring justice to those who have been ignored for so long.

This moral injury will be healed with dignity, and victims' families offered all possible resources in order to scientifically document this period's historical context.

The specific aims of the initiative are:

*-The **creation of databases** with all available information duly correlated and organized according to the repressive typology.*

*-The **documentation of the prelude to the war and consequences**, recognized as an invaluable element in the discovery of real events and facts.*

*-The **location and marking of mass graves; exhumations** of mass graves where feasible.*

*-The **recording of testimonies** of those people who lived through a terrible moment or experience during this period.*

*-The **support of and attention to the public** in order to respond to requests for information from victims or victims' families.*

*-The formation of **didactic units** and the development of oral workshops aimed at students and the general public.*



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