



THE UNIVERSITÀ
CASTRENSE
OF SAN GIORGIO
DI NOGARO

IN THE GREAT WAR



Municipality of
San Giorgio di Nogaro



Public Library
Villa Dora



THE UNIVERSITÀ
CASTRENSE
OF SAN GIORGIO
DI NOGARO

IN THE
GREAT
WAR

THE PAST BEARS THE FUTURE



► Bersaglieri before the Town Hall of San Giorgio di Nogaro, leaving for the front [Spanghero archive]

The theme of the Università Castrense

(military university) in the last few years has asserted itself as a privileged element of historical/cultural thinking by the Municipality of San Giorgio di Nogaro, as shown by the publication of the book *Studenti al fronte* (Students on the front line, edited by Daniela Baldo, Massimiliano Galasso, and Daniele Vianello) and the related photo exhibition staged in the colonnades of the Villa Dora library in late 2010.

The peculiarity of this historical theme – until then virtually unknown – immediately stirred up strong interest at multiple levels: one example is the conference *L'Università Castrense a San Giorgio di Nogaro 1916/1917 ... l'unico esempio italiano di formazione medica in area bellica* (The Università Castrense of San Giorgio di Nogaro, 1916/1917 ... the only example of medical training in a war zone in Italy), which was promoted by the University Hospital Centre "Santa Maria della Misericordia", by the UHC no. 5 "Bassa Friulana" and by the Faculties of Medicine of the universities of Udine, Trieste and Padua, and held at the premises of the FVG Region in Udine on 21 October 2011.

On that occasion, the Municipality handed out to the participants, who had come from many Italian regions, the proceedings of the Conference *Le ferite della guerra* (The wounds of the war), which had accompanied the presentation of the book *Studenti al fronte* (Students on the front line). For the Municipality Administration, this is a cultural commitment to the past and for the *future*, because the *unique* experience of the Università Castrense may also help us grasp "*people's talent to be inside History, without getting crushed by it*" and understand that [...] "*the First World War was an incredible experience of pain, in a climate of frightening time acceleration*".

The same acceleration that the Università Castrense, considering the exceptional nature of the "wounds" (and of the medical cases) of a *carnage war* of unprecedented scale, was able to give to the development of healthcare disciplines, particularly of surgery and neuro-psychiatry both in Italy and in Europe.

THE BORDER



San Giorgio di Nogaro, at the outbreak of First War World, was an important communication hub in the lowlands of Friuli, with an economically flourishing community. It had become part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1866 and its geographical position made it immediately strategic for military logistics, since it bordered with the Eastern Friuli, which was still under the Austrian-Hungarian rule, and, as such, it was a staging post for trading with the rest of Europe. The proximity of the border, with its almost throbbing rhythm of openings and closings, was a boosting factor for the history of San Giorgio. Its roads, its harbour, its railway and the role it played as a "hospital town" during WWI derive their significance from the vicinity to the border,

whence commerce, cultures, and ideas flowed in and determined the significant expansion of the village between the end of the 19th century and the outbreak of the war. By 1915 San Giorgio di Nogaro had already inevitably become an important military centre with depots of wheat, ammunitions, military vehicles and clothes, and here many soldiers' dormitories were built, with the respective control posts and army headquarters. The village soon became a military logistics hub, with healthcare services as well: kindergartens, schools, barns, taverns, granaries, villas, farms were confiscated and subsequently equipped and used to shelter and treat the soldiers who had been wounded on the front line.

BACKGROUND

With the entry of Italy into the First War World, the army mobilized the conscript-age university students and sent them to the front line: the faculties of medicine emptied out, while the conditions of military healthcare were soon teetering on the brink of collapse. The first four of General Cadorna's "shoves", in four months – between June and October 1915 – had the only result of putting around 173,000 men out of commission (counting both the dead and the injured) out of 352,000, that is 50% of Italian divisions. Furthermore, in the winter of 1915 two severe typhus and cholera epidemics erupted, decimating the troops of the 2nd and 3rd armies. The healthcare system, which had been conceived and structured for a "Blitzkrieg" on a smaller scale was literally overwhelmed by the sheer size of the carnage: the doctors and

the healthcare networks in place were insufficient and, considering the precarious health conditions of the whole nation, which was crushed by food shortages and by diseases, leaving Italy even more understaffed by sending more doctors to the war zones was inconceivable.

The young physicians were necessarily ill-prepared to cope with the devastating outcomes of a conflict in which unprecedented technologies and weapons with an extremely high destructive potential were used for the first time. Neither – given the dramatic need for healthcare professionals – could the precedent be set of sending back students to their respective universities to complete their studies. Therefore, there was a pressing need for changing the military *status* of the healthcare service, and, likewise, the need became increasingly generalized for physicians and near-graduates

in Medicine to be as close as possible to the front line, where they were in greatest demand. As in other Countries, first authorities tried to recover a few skills, by equalizing 6th-year students to certified physicians, acting as "aspiring" doctors. That solution was clearly insufficient. The Army's Supreme Command was forced to submit a novel solution to the Government, which was – in some ways – disruptive of the established academic structure. Thus, the project of a "castrense" (military) medical school took shape in the form of an accelerated coursework to be held *outside* traditional universities and physically close with the war zone, so as to provide hundreds of drafted university students with the opportunity of completing their studies, before being sent back to the fighting army as fully-fledged physicians who could support it.

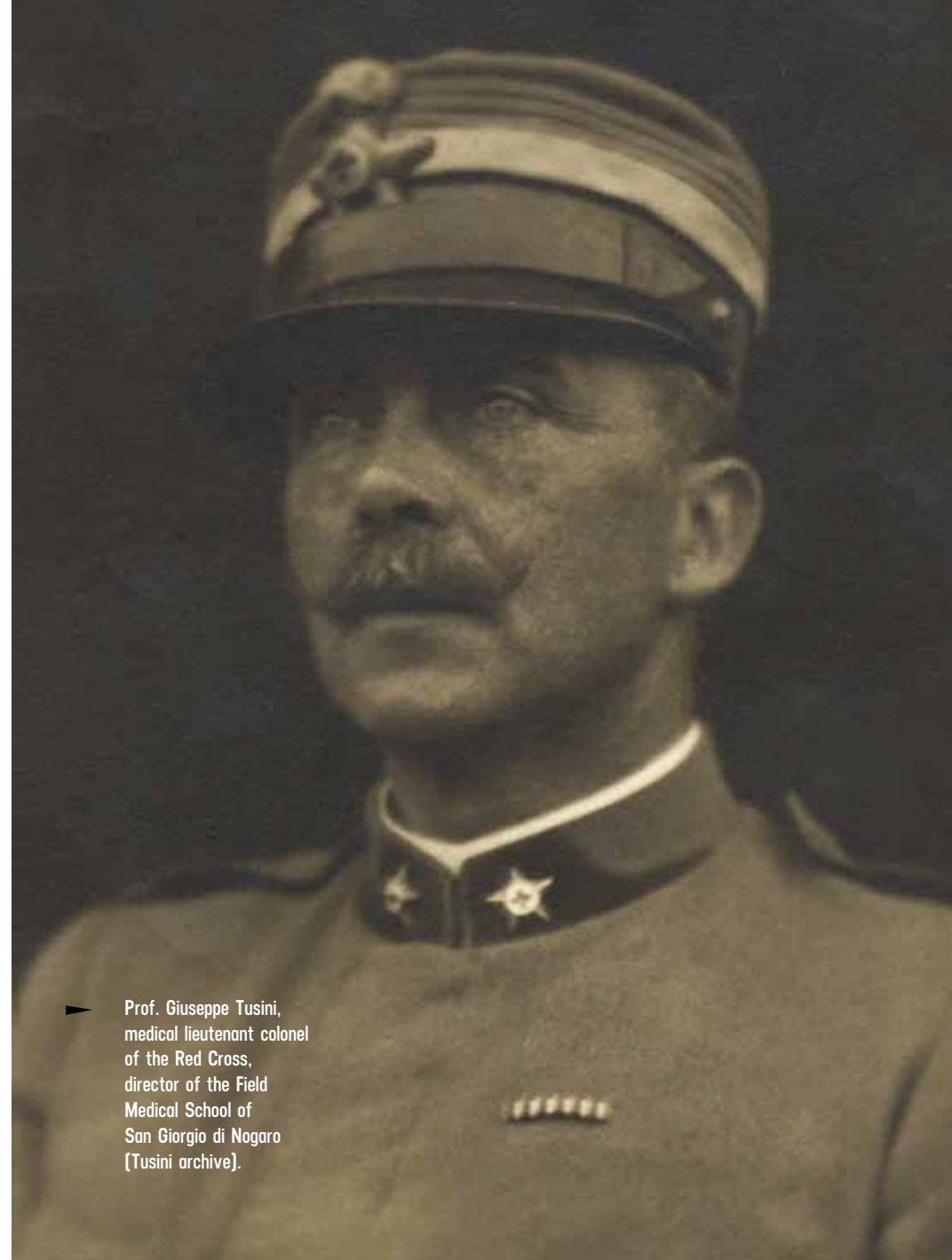
The proposal led to a political and legal dispute that forced the Salandra government to mediate between two contrasting views: on one hand, the wing, prevailing in the Parliament, who tried to strenuously defend the prerogatives of royal universities, which were scarcely inclined to accept a course of medicine and surgery which was somewhat *outside* traditional academic practice.

On the other hand, the army command was putting pressure the Parliament, determined to exploit the comparable stagnation of war operations in winter to re-balance the military healthcare forces by taking a significant number of new medical officers trained in real time and on the field from among the drafted students, often with advanced, but forcedly incomplete, curricula. The mediation failed on 17 December 1915, when the Senate rejected the hypothetical establishment of **accelerated courses of medicine in the war zone**.

THE UNIVERSITÀ CASTRENSE

With what might be regarded as an extra-parliamentary *coup*, with the participation of the House of Savoy itself and of General Cadorna, on 9 January 1916, while the Parliament Houses were closed for the Christmas holidays, the Government issued the decree no. 38, signed by the Luogotenente Tomaso di Savoia: thus, the **Field Medical School**, also known as the “**Università Castrense**” of San Giorgio di Nogaro was created. It was a war university – from the Latin word *castrum* – for students at the 5th and 6th years of Medicine who were under arms. A steadfast and tireless supporter of the idea and of the organization of the “Courses of medicine and surgery in the war zone” (according to the official definition of the decree establishing it), was lieutenant colonel **Giuseppe Tusini**. He was a tenured professor of surgery at the University of Modena who had enlisted as a volunteer in the

Red Cross (which had been *militarized*). Between July 1915 and October 1917, he headed the second hospital group of the Third Army, based in San Giorgio, which originally consisted of six hospitals of the Red Cross and of two hospitals of the Third Army, all built in the village. The prerequisites for creating a “piece” of university were all there: the eight hospitals of San Giorgio di Nogaro admitted 1,500 in-patients on average, in all conditions. In the surrounding areas, in Latisana and in Palmanova, another 7-8 military or civil hospitals already gathered many physicians of every specialty, including many university lecturers. In January, the corps of engineers built in record time a few wooden buildings to be used as dormitories and refectories; labs were built, while the Municipality



▶ Prof. Giuseppe Tusini, medical lieutenant colonel of the Red Cross, director of the Field Medical School of San Giorgio di Nogaro (Tusini archive).

provided the Town Hall, which was connected by inner passages to the two hospitals flanking it. The town council hall became the main lecture hall. In just two weeks two spacious wooden sheds to be used as classrooms were completed, a farmhouse was refurbished and used as a school for "special" diseases. In the nuns' kindergarten, a ward specialized in the treatment of infectious diseases and, almost next to it, the psychiatric ward were set up.

There was also a maternity, gynaecology and paediatrics ward which also served the civilian population. The "Maran" cinema was used as a collective study hall and the cemetery cell as the anatomy hall. From the frontlines, the clinical labs received –right from the start and in vast amounts – "precious" anatomical specimens to be studied and experimented upon, while many patients who were considered 'interesting' cases were selected and sent



► The study hall in the cinema-theatre Maran [MCRR archive].



► The wooden lodgings built to accommodate the soldier-students in 1916 – located in the current Via Ammiraglio Canciani [MCRR archive].

to the hospitals in San Giorgio, which had become university hospitals for all practical purposes. On 13 February (a Sunday), at the presence of the Dukes of Aosta and of General Cadorna, after an inspired speech made by director Giuseppe Tusini, the opening ceremony of the courses (which would start the following day) was held in the field main lecture hall crowded with 366 students at the 5th and 6th years of medicine in their grey-green uniforms. The teaching staff consisted of university professors and freelance lecturers who had temporarily abandoned their teaching careers to be enlisted in the Third Army with the rank of medical officers: the appointment as teachers at the School of San Giorgio di Nogaro

had been approved by both the ministries of War and of Education. The university structure was completed by other physicians – under arms themselves – in the roles of aids and assistants to tenured professors and by other military personnel with administrative and disciplinary responsibilities. The administrative secretary, who was responsible for assessing the students' university careers and for ensuring that the teaching activities were formally correct, was headed by lieutenant colonel Annibale Orani, a former secretary of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Turin and first secretary at the Ministry of Education.

The administrative and disciplinary aspects were under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Command. The Headquarters were set up in the Town Hall. The period of studies in San Giorgio for the 356 students at the 5th year and for the 10 students at the 6th year was short (indeed, it only lasted from 14 February to 24 May 1916), but it was particularly dense and intense: the 16 obligatory curriculum subjects were complemented by such courses as surgery, war traumatology and prosthetic limbs. By mid-April the students enjoyed a ten-day pause (a military "leave") to be able to sit the exams of previous years on subjects for which they had attended courses at their respective universities (indeed not all had taken all the exams of their courses). The final exam session in June, aimed at providing them with the needed official status according to the Decree establishing the courses, should have taken place at the "original" universities of the single students. An extremely complex operation in the middle of a war, because the military students of this first "national war" came from all over Italy: in the first academic year, 1916, as many as 81 students came from Naples, 37 from Rome, 28 from Palermo, even 1 from Sassari.

A large contingent came from the University of Bologna (45), followed by Padua (40) and Pavia (34). On 24 May 1916, a telegram signed by General Cadorna put a sudden end to the first season of the Università Castrense: a massive Austrian offensive (the Strafexpedition) on the Asiago Plateau loomed large and most troops deployed on the Isonzo river were transferred to prop up the new front line. The exam session planned for June was thus cancelled and the students were sent back to their respective corps, after being promoted "Aspiring Physicians". During the summer of 1916 there was no further talk about the field medical school: the students had returned to their ranks at the front, the school rooms were turned into hospital wards. However, the dragging on of the war worsened the problem of completing the university studies of medicine that the soldier-students had interrupted, with the risk of nullifying long years spent acquiring skills that were so dramatically in demand and useful at the time. The problem of the depopulation of universities and of the resulting risk of seriously undermining the careers of an entire generation of young students urged the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Padua to propose itself as a Military University holding accelerated courses of medicine and surgery at its premises for the students of the 3rd and 4th

year deployed at the front and for all those who had not been able to pass their exams. However, all the reasons that had led to choose San Giorgio di Nogaro as the original location for these courses remained valid: the added value of structures that could make up the forerunner of a university campus. It was Law Decree no. 1678 of 26 November 1916 that brought back the second year of Medicine courses for the soldier-students of San Giorgio di Nogaro to the consolidated and natural framework of the University of Padua. The decree stated, indeed, that all students (who were bound to serve both in the war zone and as rear guard) who were enrolled in the academic year 1916-1917 at the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th year of medicine at the various universities of the Kingdom, as from 16 November 1916, had to be automatically considered enrolled in their respective courses at the University of Padua, where the accelerated courses for the 3rd and 4th years of study were to be held. The students of the last two years, instead, if they had acquired the rank of aspiring medical officers by 25 November, had the opportunity of attending the courses (5th and 6th years) at the school of San Giorgio di Nogaro, which was acknowledged as a branch of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Padua.

At the time, 620 students at the 6th year and 191 at the 5th, for a total of 811 students, gathered in San Giorgio. For the back subjects of the first two years the exams had to be taken in Padua, those for the subjects of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th years in San Giorgio di Nogaro. The final exam session was held at the University of Padua from 3 April 1917 on. As many as 467 students from the school of San Giorgio di Nogaro graduated, with excellent marks on average (28 with top marks and cum laude, 69 with top marks) before examining committees made up of 11 members, 3 of whom belonged to the teaching staff of San Giorgio di Nogaro.

THE PROFESSORS

In addition to Giuseppe Tusini, who taught general surgery and operatory medicine, the teaching staff of the School in the two academic years (1916-1917) consisted in the following professors, teaching the following subjects:

- **Lorenzo Bonomo**, war traumatology [1st year only]
- **Bartolo Nigrisoli**, prosthetic limbs and limb surgery [1st year only]
- **Deodato De Carli**, ear/nose/throat [1st year], replaced by **Salvatore Citelli** [2nd year]
- **Amedeo Erna**, stomach
- **Maurizio Ascoli**, general medicine
- **Guido Berghinz**, paediatrics [1st year], replaced by **Giovanni Battista Allaria** [2nd year]
- **Michelangelo Savaré**, obstetrics and gynaecology
- **Gaetano Samperi**, ophthalmology
- **Ferdinando De Napoli**, dermatovenerology
- **Ottorino Rossi**, nervous and mental disorders
- **Giovanni Grixoni**, hygiene [1st year], replaced by **Arnaldo Maggiora** [2nd year]
- **Alessandro Lustig**, prophylaxis and epidemiology [1st year only]
- **Antonio Dionisi**, anatomical pathology and diagnostics [2nd year]
- **Francesco Leoncini**, forensic medicine [1st year], replaced by **Attilio Cevidalli** [2nd year]
- **Vito Puglioli**, healthcare logistics [1st year only]
- **Angelo Signorelli**, medical semeiotics [2nd year], replaced by **Giuseppe Lucibelli**



➤ During a lecture [Tusini archive].

With an internal assignment in the preparation of students with backexams, further lectures were held by the following professors: for the 1st and 2nd years **Leonardo Dominici** (special surgical pathology), **Francesco Feliziani** (special medical pathology), **Giunio Salvi** (normal and topographic human anatomy), only for the 1st year **Giuseppe Amantea** (physiology), only for 2nd year **Carlo Gazzetti** (pharmacology), **Gino Galeotti**, replaced by **Vittorio Scaffidi** (general pathology). The **Duchess Elena d'Aosta** resided at Villa Dora in San Giorgio di Nogaro now and then, and attended lectures together with the students. In Chiarisacco, next to the military hospital no. 234, a small church (now casa Maran) was built in 1917 for hospitalized soldiers. The collaboration between Giuseppe Tusini and Ottorino Rossi, who was one of the founders of Italian neurology, resulted in an advanced centre for cranial and spinal cord.

Bacteriology laboratory
(Tusini archive).



LIVE AS STUDENTS

Students of medicine and surgery of the 5th and 6th years scattered in the various war zones were sent to San Giorgio di Nogaro to become physicians *in the field* (a "war degree", as it was called disdainfully by the university professors and politicians who were against the initiative), by studying on the books, hearing lectures and, above all, by working in clinics and in operating theatres, where "*severed limbs and segments of corpses*", which are necessary to study anatomy, were - unfortunately - available in enormous quantities that were inconceivable in any other Italian faculty. The patients used for lectures and practice, in the two years when courses were held, were 5,977. The professor of anatomical pathology, Antonio Dionisi, performed 245 post-mortems before students (a number absolutely not comparable with those of the

autopsies usually conducted at "civilian" universities). The School could rely upon a dozen of clinics and labs, including those in Cervignano and Gradisca, as well as on a trauma museum. Many students of the Università Castrense would later become leading figures at universities and in the world of medical research in Italy, thanks also to the extraordinary quality of the teachings received by prominent personalities, such as (to name but a few): Guido Berghinz, a famous paediatrician, Giovanni Battista Allaria, the founder of the "Regina Margherita" paediatric institute in Turin, Maurizio Ascoli, who promoted the introduction of the hypotensive pneumothorax. The concentration while studying was also favoured by unique logistical circumstances, which were described by Prof. Giuseppe Tusini, who was responsible for and the soul

► Surgery lecture (Tusini archive).





Pediatrics [MCRR archive].

of that experience: *“No professor found any diversion from a teaching activity so intense and around the clock: the students, just because most of the small village had been turned into a hospital, had no occasion to distract themselves from studying. Hence the continuous dedication to the School of teachers and students alike...”*.

The students, indeed, had no single breathing space during the day. *“Reveille, personal hygiene and coffee between 6.30 am to 7.30 am. Lectures between 7.30 am to 12 pm.*

Lectures and laboratory practice between 2 pm and 6 pm.

Studying between 8 pm and 10.30 pm”. *“Outside the cannon thunders and the aeroplanes rumble, – Piero Giacosa wrote on the magazine “La Lettura” of 1 July 1916 – sometimes we hear the blast of a fallen bomb, but lectures do not stop”*.

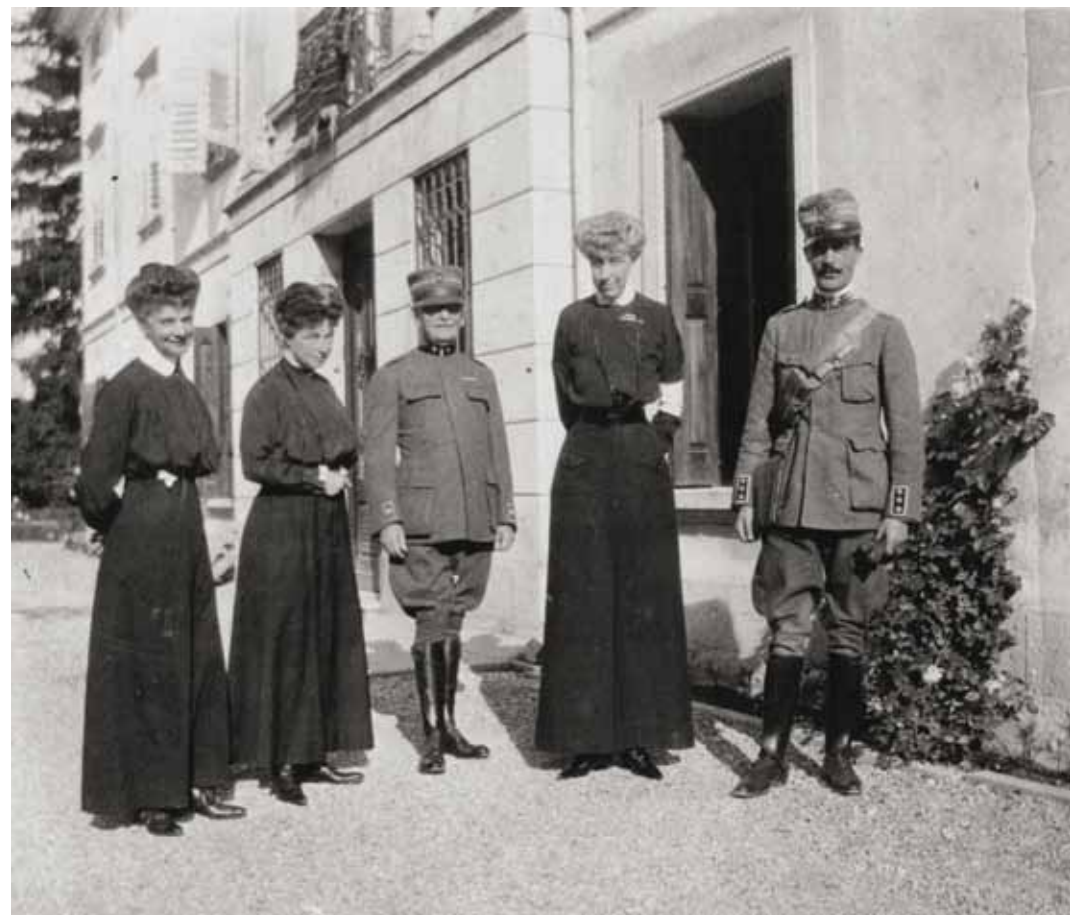
The huge number of cases of mental suffering caused by the war also received a qualified stimulus for their treatment and study at the Università Castrense thanks to Ottorino Rossi, who held a course on nervous and mental disorders and who concluded his brilliant career as Rector of the University of Pavia.

The kindergarten “Principessa Jolanda” indeed hosted a large and anguishing case study of suffering consisting in the many *“nerve-injured soldiers who had become deaf, dumb, idiots and*

had been rendered stupid by the horrors and terrors they witnessed at the front” as the principal, sister Ester Moreschi, wrote in her diary. One hundred and fifty of the soldier-students of the Università Castrense (the students of the parallel Università Castrense of Padua are also counted here in the period 1916-1917) died as medical officers during the conflict. Some families received the degree diploma – which was sent home by the meticulous secretary of the faculty – after the death notice of their sons.

In a nutshell: during the first world war, **for nearly two years, the school in San Giorgio di Nogaro was the heart of the entire medical/hospital system of the army**, while the local community was literally overwhelmed by the arrival of young soldiers, physicians, teachers, wounded and ill, whose presence ended up marking it profoundly: the war – as it was perceived by the inhabitants of San Giorgio – was extremely different from that of the official rhetoric.

► Elena d'Aosta at Villa Dora
[Gaspari archive]



A surgery lecture held
by Prof. Tusini in the main hall
(Tusini archive).



WHAT REMAINS TODAY: A SHORT TOUR OF THE LOCATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITÀ CASTRENSE

Few are the traces and memories left by this historical experience, which represented something unique in the world, so much so that it was studied "on site" by military healthcare delegations from France, Britain, and even from Japan. Today, in San Giorgio di Nogaro, the term Università Castrense only appears in the names of numerous places (testifying to the local spread of lecture halls, hospitals, laboratories), in the name of the Comprehensive School Institute, and in that of recently established diagnostic medical centre.

A plaque on the staircase of the Town Hall commemorates the meeting on 9 June 1968 – 50 years later – of the local community with the last few "survivors" of the 1,177 soldier-students who had been temporarily taken away from the war operations at the front nearby in order to complete, in two short and intense sessions of university studies, and in a climate of almost religious concentration, the courses of medicine and surgery. Then they would go back as "physicians" to the various hospitals during the severe health emergencies following the Caporetto rout.

Here follows a short *trip down memory lane* (which will be marked by some *photographic, explanatory panels on site* allowing visitors to grasp the link between *past and present*) through the sequence of places and buildings existing to this day, although with different functions, which remain silent witnesses of the story of the Università Castrense:

- **TOWN HALL** [Piazza del municipio, 1]. The large vestibule housed the directorate and secretary offices of the surgery school. The side wings – which had been connected through two temporary covered passages accommodated hospitals no. 39 and 40, respectively [both of the Italian Red Cross], which in the autumn of 1916 were replaced by hospital no. 8 [previously in Chiarisacco, inside the residence of the Maran family]. In the latter hospital, complex specialist interventions were performed.
- **MARGRETH FARMHOUSE** [Via Terza Armata]. Until May 1916 it hosted war hospital no. 238 of the second hospital group of the Third Army, which was later transferred to the larger areas carved out of the furnaces owned by the Foghini family. The hospital was dedicated to the treatment and admission of the "transportable" ill [who were in relatively serious conditions] and to the health care of the inmates of the local detention camps, particularly of the camp of Bagnaria Arsa.
- **KINDERGARTEN "MARIA BAMBINA"** [the former kindergarten "Principessa Jolanda", via Paolo Diacono]. It was of one of the two locations of hospital no. 234, which admitted patients with moderate mental disorders, who were also accommodated in the tent city erected in the yard behind the school.
- **CASA MARAN** [Via Paluduz]. From January 1916 on, a plot of land and the adjacent building of the Maran family were confiscated to set up the most important war hospital of those in San Giorgio. It was hospital no. 234, to which the branch kindergarten "Principessa Jolanda", the Italian Red Cross hospital no. 42 [Via Paluduz, right-hand side], hospital no. 34 set up in the so-called "Palazat" in Via Emilia, hospital no. 50 in the Squazzin dwelling and yard, in the same street, were attached. Near Casa Maran a small austere church was built [on its floor the date is still readable: 1917], which also acted as a funeral chapel annexed to the nearby hospital no. 234. The latter was very large, with more than 200 beds which accommodated the seriously wounded and ill. The Maran family, after the war, found themselves owning a place full of pathos and spirituality with an intense symbolic value. This has been confirmed by the recent construction of a mosaic tympanum by the artist Andrea Salvador, portraying a Pietà.



Official ceremony with the students
in front of the Town Hall (Tusini archive).

where the dead Christ in Mary's arms is replaced by that of an Italian soldier. The mosaic radiates a message of hope: beyond the Virgin's mantle a bright sun rises, which is the backdrop to the flight of a dove. Hospital no. 234 was the only one that was re-opened in San Giorgio di Nogaro after the victory in 1918.

- **VILLA DORA** [Piazza Plebiscito, 2, derived its name from Dora Celotti, the wife of admiral Ciro Cacciani, the owner of the villa during the war]. Now it is a cultural centre and contains the Municipal Library. Here princess Elena d'Orléans, general inspector of the Red Cross nurses and the wife of Emanuele Filiberto, Duke of Aosta, commander of the Third Army [who normally resided in the nearby Cervignano], was "at home". She was seen attending mass in the nearby Madonna church and, sometimes, she also attended, with strong involvement, Giuseppe Tusini's lectures. She was tireless, passing from a hospital to the next, from the rear to the front lines, she was also interested in the organizational aspect of the recently-launched service, ready to support [but also to monitor] the Red Cross nurses.
- **VILLA VUCETICH** [Via Max di Montegnacco]. Not far from Villa Dora, with its important military offices, the villa accommodated lieutenant colonel Giuseppe Tusini, the director of the Field Medical School and, at various times, king Victor Emmanuel III, the poet Gabriele D'Annunzio and, after Caporetto, the last Austrian emperor, Charles I of Austria.
- **CASA MARAN** [Piazza D'Agostini]. Opposite the railway station, here was the study hall and library of the students of the Università Castrense. It is a space – connected with the house – which still preserves the forms of the original cinema-theatre, with the open gallery for the audience and the wooden flooring dating from 1916.
- **BACTERIOLOGICAL CENTRE OF THE THIRD ARMY** Located at the crossroads between Via Ronchi and Via Paolo Diacono, the building has been completely restructured.
- **MAX DI MONTEGNACCO PALACE** [the "Palazat"]. It temporarily housed [in October 1915?] the movable hospital no. 14 of the Third Army.

- A sketch drawn in 1918 by sergeant major Filippo Bisogna about the location of the various departments of the Università Castrense in the municipality.



LEGENDA:

- 1. Directorate, secretary and surgical clinic
- 2. Main lecture hall and canteen
- 3. Hygiene Institute
- 4. Isolation of patients with typhus
- 5. Bromatology
- 6. Students' barracks [1916]
- 7. Isolation of patients with cholera
- 8. Medical clinic
- 9. Students' barracks, canteen and study rooms [1917]
- 10. Forensic clinic and anatomical pathology
- 11. Clinic for mental and nervous disorders
- 12. Stomach and mental diseases, ENT diseases
- 13. Dermatovenereology, obstetrics, ophthalmology
- 14. Specialty hall

LOOKING AT THE FUTURE

Today the establishment of an *ad hoc* documentation centre in the Municipal Library Villa Dora is being considered, while the Municipality is planning to build an *open-air* trail with large photographic and explanatory panels reconstructing the extraordinary military and teaching experience of the Università Castrense, which made of San Giorgio di Nogaro something like a university *campus* ahead of its time.

THE BOOK AND THE WEBSITES

In 2010 the book *Studenti al fronte. L'esperienza della della Scuola medica da campo di San Giorgio di Nogaro - l'Università Castrense* (Students at the front.. The Experience of the Field Medical School of San Giorgio di Nogaro – The Università Castrense), edited by Daniela Baldo, Massimiliano Galasso and Daniele Vianello, was published by the LEG-Libreria Editrice Goriziana and by the Municipality of San Giorgio di Nogaro.

- The book "*Studenti al fronte*" may now dissolve the fog concealing the past (La Repubblica)

<http://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2010/11/07/news/meletti-8853274/>

The research conducted by the editors also resulted in these websites:

- www.eroiuniversitacastrense.info
www.universitacastrense.eu

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