

Commemorations in Jarek

during Jarek Trip from June 3th till June 8th, 2010

organized by OA Jarek (Orts-Ausschuss: committee)

Tour-guides: Inge Morgenthaler and Michael Rettinger

On the day of our arrival, Friday, June 4th, 2010, the group of Jarek travelers rode from Novi Sad to Jarek after breakfast.

The bus stopped in the center of the village in front of the community house [village hall]. We were awaited by the chairman of the Jarek community council, Mr. Mandic, and the secretary of the community, Mr. Mrdjen; and they accompanied us into the house. At the door we were greeted, according to an old Serbian tradition, by a girl in peasant costume, with bread and salt.

In the large council room chairs were ready for all. Several community councilors and citizens of Backi Jarek had come in order to attend this occasion. Mr. Mandic welcomed us with a short speech and wished us a pleasant stay.

Our 1st president, Michael Schmidt, replied to him with a speech given in Serbian, which Michael Rettinger, our 2nd president, then read in German.

In his speech Michael Schmidt reported that he at the head of a group of Jarekers, whose children and spouses had come to Jarek, in order to satisfy our yearning, which is characteristic of every human, namely to see his home again, and also if possible, to see the houses in which one had once lived.

He emphasized explicitly, that we have come as guests and tourists and in no way is it our intention to assert any claims. Our aim is simply to refresh old memories and to show our children where we had lived with our Serbian and Hungarian neighbors as peaceful citizens throughout generations. After the bitter years of the war and the post-war years we all had built up a new existence in our new homelands, and we and our children and grandchildren are completely integrated there after 65 years. But our old home is very dear to our hearts. Thus it is a special joy that we succeeded, after many years, to be able to affix a plaque to the community house, which is a reminder of our presence in Jarek. By mutual understanding a text has been agreed upon, which would do justice to both sides.

After that he asked that all should cherish the plaque and not tolerate any abuse. It is a part of the history of this village.

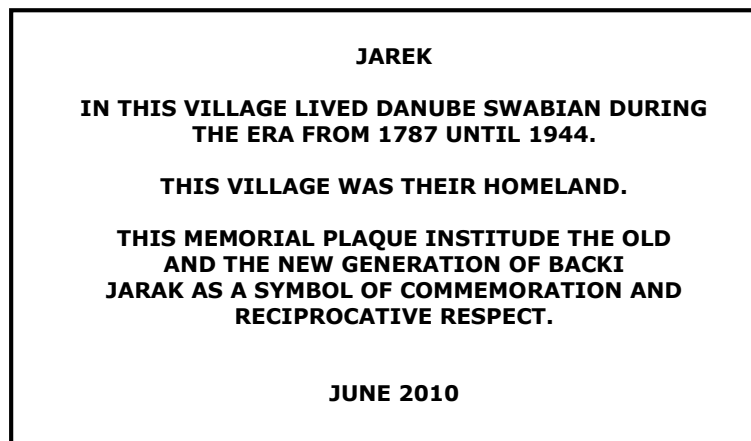
Following this speech all went to the hallway in front of the plaque covered with a purple cloth. Michael Schmidt and Mr. Mandic together pulled the cloth to the side and we could see the plaque for the first time. It has really turned out very beautiful. We were allowed to add our say for the design; for the text we had guidelines which we had to adhere to. For us Jarekers a great desire was fulfilled by this plaque.

It was planned and created only through the personal effort of Michael Rettinger with the help of federal chairman of the Danube Swabians, Hans Supritz, in the time of four months. On site the head of the deaconry in Novi Sad, Mrs. Bu, coordinated all work. We are very grateful to all of them.



Picture 1 - (for enlargement: click on the photo) The Jarek commemorative plaque in the foyer of the community house in Bački Jarak. Under the community emblem of Bački Jarak (on the left) und Jarek (on the right) there is in each case the same text in Serbian and in German language.

Picture 2 - The Jarek Commemorative Plaque reads:



Picture 3[nbsp]- (from the left) Mr. Mandic, Inge Morgenthaler, Michael Rettinger and Michael Schmidt in front of the new Jarek commemorative plaque.

After the unveiling of the plaque our bus drove with Mr. Mandic and Mr. Mrdjjen out to the tentative memorial site for the mass graves. It had rained for days and the small hill with the cross was surrounded by an area of water. Next to it was a wild garbage dump. It was therefore not possible to put down our wreath. We stood there helpless in front of the "lake". Rescue arrived via a brave citizen of Bački Jarek, an acquaintance of the Rieß family. He waded through the "lake" and fastened the wreath to the cross. We all were very grateful to him for it.

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On solid ground near the bus, Michael Schmidt was able to begin with the commemoration for the death of the internment camp.

He first read a poem by the Budisava regional poet, Johannes Wurz, who was originally from Jarek, which suited the occasion well. In connection to that he remembered, in moving words, the 6,500 innocent death, 950 children among them, who had lost their lives due to hunger and diseases, and who were buried in mass graves near this temporary memorial site. He pointed out that Mr. Supritz of the Federal Association of Danube Swabians has worked many years on the erection of an appropriate memorial where the descendants of all those who perished in the internment camp can say their prayers and place flowers and wreathes.

The small ceremony was concluded with the joint recitation of the "Our Father."

Perhaps this commemoration at the edge of the water surface in undeserving surroundings will finally convince the authoritative people of Backi Jarek to provide a parcel of land that's better suited.



Picture 4]- During the commemoration for the casualties from the Jarek death camp: (from the left) our tour guide "Benni", the "brave citizen" of Bački Jarak, Michael Schmidt, Michael Rettinger, Mr. Mrdjjen and Mr. Mandic.

After a stroll through the village all of us met in the large Inn in the Kreuzgasse. An entire table was occupied by members of the Council of the Community of Backi Jarek, who had heeded our invitation for dinner. Several Temerin Community Councilors present.

We presented the representatives of the community our presents, the latest Heimatbücher, a village map, and a picture of the church of Jarek. Beyond that the participants of the trip had donated a considerable sum for the kindergarten.

There is no comparison to our previous visit with the Danube ship, when we waited over an our in front of the community hall, but none of the "officials" could be disturbed from his Sunday rest.

This time we had the feeling that the "ice age "between the old and new Jareker has ended, and we are reciprocally moving closer to each other.

This was affirmed by the invitation of the community to the "Bean soup championship," which was to be on Saturday in Temerin. Although we actually had different plans, we decided to accept the invitation. Mr. Gustonj, the mayor of Temerin, was also among the participants in the competition. He had reserved places in a tent for our group and the representatives of Bački Jarek. As we found out later, this was definitely not to be taken for granted. Are we to have possibly contributed to improving the relationship of the two districts of the village?

We now hope very much that the general situation is turned around for the better also in regard to the setting up of the memorial site at the mass graves and we can participate at the dedication next year.

Inge Morgenthaler

translated by Sieghart Rein

OA Jarek, in June 2010

From the [Jarek Trip](#), from June 3th till June 8th, 2010, with dedication the Jarek Commemorative Plaque in the community house in Bački Jarak and the Commemorations in [Jarek](#) close to the "provisional memorial" for the more than 6.500 casualtyts in the internment camp [Jarek](#) (1944 til 1946), you can "click" to view [28 pictures](#) in a "[Picture-Galery](#)". The text below the pictures is regrettably only in German language. →

→ To this "[Picture Galery](#)" and the "[pdf-data file](#)" with the [28 pictures](#) you can get on the next page: "[Picture-Galery: Jarek Trip – and Commemorations in Jarek - June 2010](#)".

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