

The History of the Tirolers Kaiserjäger

The Kaiserjägers were founded by the emperor Franz I. of Austria-Hungary to create an elite regiment of hunters in the Tyrol and Voralberg regions of the country. The initial nucleus of the new regiment was represented by the Tiroler Jägerkorps (troop of Hunters of Tyrol), also called Fennerjäger. The importance that was attributed to this regiment from the beginning was evidenced by the fact that the emperor honoured it with a given name: this honour was not granted to any other regiment in the whole army. The official date of the institution of the Kaiserjägers is considered as January 18th 1816.



Hunting horn with the Tyrolean Eagle - Symbol of the Regiment of the Tirolers Kaiserjäger.

The Tirolers Kaiserjäger are unique amongst other regiments in that they provide a service only to the inhabitants of the Tyrol, Welschtirol and Voralberg regions. This mandate is clearly incorporated in the name of the regiment. The first military campaign of the regiment was in the year 1821 when, within the Holy Alliance of the Congress in Vienna, it was engaged in battle at Rieti near Rome. During the march back, the Kaiserjägers stopped in Mantua to exhume the remains of Andreas Hofer and return them to Innsbruck. The regiment saw action in many areas including: in 1831 near Rimini; in 1848 during the revolution in Italy; in 1859 in northern Italy. In 1866 in northern Italy again, they give an important contribution to the final victory of the war. In 1878 they were engaged in the occupation of Bosnia Herzegovina. In 1895 the regiment was

divided into four separate regiments of Tiroler Kaiserjäger.



Zugsführer of the Kaiserjägers in parade uniform.

In the First World War the regiments fought on the Russian front in difficult battles and suffered many casualties. After the declaration of war between Italy and Austria-Hungary the regiments were moved to the southern front, where they succeeded in maintaining their positions, at great sacrifice, up to the end of the war in 1918. The most important battle successes in the war were: “Col di Lana” in the dolomites, Pasubio and the battlefield at Isonzo.

The Tiroler Kaiserjägerbund - Association of the Tirolers Kaiserjäger

The Tiroler Kaiserjägerbund was founded in 1922 in Innsbruck by members of the original four regiments. Each Kaiserjäger regardless of military rank was eligible to join the Bund. The mandate and mission of the Kaiserjägerbund, since its inception has been to continue and promote the Respect of the Traditions of the Kaiserjägers, its comradeship, military values and weapon training skills. Additional assignments are to promote patriotism and peace, respecting law and liberty

and encouraging national military service in the Austrian Federal Army. Today the Tiroler Kaiserjägerbund includes 12 local groups throughout the whole of the Tyrol.

The Alt-Kaiserjäger Club

The club was founded in 1920 from the ex officials of the four regiments. It is dedicated not only to promote the comradeship but also, within the Foundation of the Bergisel, to run the activities of the Museum of the Kaiserjägers and all the facilities in the Bergisel. President of the club: HR Dr. Anton Heinz Spielmann, 6020 Innsbruck, Bergisel 1.

The Care of the Traditions in the Federal Army

Since the time of the First Republic the 12th Regiment of the Alpenjäger has promoted the traditions of the Kaiserjägers in the Innsbruck area. During the time of the German Wehrmacht, from 1938 to 1945, this was delegated to the 136th Regiment of the Gebirgsjägers (hunters of mountain) of the 2nd Mountain Division. In the present day Federal Army the promotion of this traditions is delegated to: the 6th Jägerregiment in Absam for the 1st and the 4th Kaiserjägerregiment; the Jägerregiment Lienz for the 2nd Kaiserjägerregiment and the 9th Jägerregiment in Bregenz for the 3rd Kaiserjägerregiment.



The book describes in detail the complete history of the Tirolers Kaiserjäger, the uniforms, the equipments, the weapons and the decorations. The book can be found in any bookshop, in the “Werk Gschwent” (Fort Belvedere in Lavarone), in the museum of the Kaiserjägers and in the Tiroler Kaiserjägerbund.

The Museum of the Tiroles Kaiserjäger in the Bergisel - Innsbruck

The history of the Elite Troop of Four Regiments of the Kaiserjägers from the year 1816 up to 1918 is exhibited in the Military Historical Museum. Its majestically decorated four wide rooms include the four Flags of the Regiments, uniforms, decorations and medals, weapons and equipments and pictures painted by famous artist such as Egger, Lienz and Defregger. Artefacts dating from the 1809 Liberation War of the Tyrol are on show in the gallery Andreas Hofer. The Museum also includes the Tyrolean Honour Room, which houses the Roll of Honour listing all the fallen soldiers of the Tyrol from 1796 up to 1945.



Opening Times:

- 1. - 31. March: 10 - 15
(closed Monday)
- 1. April - 31. October: 9 - 17
(every day)

The Address of all Associations:

Tiroler Kaiserjägerbund – Bundesleitung
Bundesobmann Christian Haager, 6020 Innsbruck,
Gabelsbergerstraße 37

Ortsgruppe Lafraun (Lavarone) - Welschtirol
Obmann Gianpietro Bertoldi,
I-38040 Lavarone, G. Marconi, 36
<http://www.kaiserjaeger.com>
E-Mail: kaiserjaeger@tiko.net

Ortsgruppe Hopfgarten, Obmann Hans Schroll,
6361 Hopfgarten, Brixentaler Straße 47

Ortsgruppe Innsbruck, Obmann Christian Haager,
6020 Innsbruck, Bergisel 3

Ortsgruppe Jenbach, Obmann Hans Kirchmair,
6200 Jenbach, Achenseestraße 69

Ortsgruppe Kitzbühel, Obmann Leonhard Moser,
6370 Kitzbühel, Lindnerfeld 1

Bezirksgruppe Kufstein, Obmann Werner Utz,
6342 Retten schöß, Ritzgraben 10e

Ortsgruppe Reutte, Obmann Armin Werth,
6600 Reutte, Kaiser-Lothar Straße 30

Ortsgruppe Schwaz, Obmann Gerhard Grudl,
6130 Schwaz, Andreas-Hofer-Straße 1

Ortsgruppe Völs, Obmann Romed Kluibenschedl,
6176 Völs, Greidfeld 3

Ortsgruppe Zirl, Obmann Peter Praxmarer,
6170 Zirl, Mühlgasse 13

Ortsgruppe Südtiroler Unterland, Obmann Ivo Lazzeri,
I-39040 Auer, Hilbweg 11

Die Tiroler Kaiserjäger

