

### Part 3: Field Work

<b>Start (Moserhof)</b>	N 46° 37.404' E 15° 28.952'
Parking is available at the parking lot of the Moserhof restaurant or the winery Moser.	

**Route information:** Start your walk at the trailhead and head for **Stage 1** at the header coordinates. To some it might be tempting to start with the closer Stage 13, but I recommend to leave that stage for the end for dramaturgical reasons.

<b>Stage 1 (Former millstone quarry)</b>	N 46° 37.357' E 15° 28.852'
You now have arrived at the <a href="#">former Moser quarry</a> where until to the thirties of the last century millstones got mined.	
<b>Photo Task 1:</b> Take a photo of the quarry which meets the photo requirements for this virtual explained above ( <a href="#">my example photo</a> ).	

**Background information:** In the 19-th century several millstone quarries and one for ironstones existed in the area of Schloßberg (larger back then). The millstones were used in grain and fruit mills and were not only used in the many local mills, but also got transported to other locations in Styria. The grandfather of the senior boss of the Moser winery, Hugo Kapun, had been working in this quarry. Some [historical photographs](#) are exhibited in the farm store of the winery.

**Route information:** From the quarry follow the trail downwards along the creek. Head for waypoint **HELP 1**. There you will meet the border panorama trail (Grenzlandpanoramaweg, GPW for short) which will stay your companion until Stage 4.

<b>Stage 2 (GPW sign post)</b>	N 46° 37.108' E 15° 28.776'
You have arrived at a signpost which shows you your further way. If the weather permits, do not forget to enjoy the <a href="#">nice view</a> nearby.	
<b>Question Task 1:</b> Two signs inform you about the expected walking times along the Grenzlandpanoramaweg trail.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A(1):</b> The sum of the two walking times (in minutes).</li></ul>	

**Background information:** The [Grenzlandpanoramaweg \(border panorama walk, GPW for short\)](#) leads from Soboth to Bad Radkersburg and mainly follows the route of the 03 long distance hiking route.

The [nearby homestead](#) has the vulgo name Krabat. The homesteads in this area are often at quite a distance from each other (one of the main reasons being that a lot of the area is covered by wood which means that larger properties were required to allow for a living). In this setting the term neighbour gets a different meaning than in an urban or semiurban setting - it's not as easy just to jump over to your neighbour to get help if needed.

<b>Stage 3 (Gradischnigg cross)</b>	N 46° 36.964' E 015° 28.529'

The [Gradischnigg cross](#) should now be in your view.

**Question Task 2:** Have a look at the lower part of the vertical bar of the cross. Watch out for 8 encarved digits.

- **A(2):** The sum of the eight digits.

**Route information:** Continue to follow the marked GPW trail which leads you to **Stage 4**, the real southernmost point of Styria. On your way you can visit the [Südlichster Punkt der Steiermark traditional](#).

<b>Stage 4 (Southernmost point)</b>	<b>N 46° 36.723' E 15° 28.372'</b>
You have arrived at the southernmost point of today's Styria. <a href="#">Border stone 314</a> marks this point.	
<b>Photo Task 2:</b> Take a photo of the border stone and the sign which meets the photo requirements for this virtual.	

**Background information:** As a result of Word War I and the [Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye from 1919](#), the region of Lower Styria (Untersteiermark), which for many centuries belonged to Austria, became part of the [SHS state](#) respectively the [Kingdom of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs](#).

In this some sections of this newly created border the St Germain treaty did not define the exact borderline. It was neither possible to define the border based on the spoken language nor was everywhere a natural object like the river Mur available. As a result, in many cases the new borderline was determined by tiresome negotiations on a case by case basis. In some areas the affected people could decide to which side they wanted to get assigned or managed to get the border shifted by a few m (like for example in the case of [Franz Tertinjek at the Remschnigg](#), but many times the property of people got divided up into parts lying in different countries. Some of wounds that have been created back at the time when Styria got separated (and even before due to the uprise of nationalism) have never been fully healed until these days.

**Route information:** For reaching the next stage, make a U-turn and head for the rest area which is sold touristically as the southernmost point (waypoint **HELP 2**). For those who want to walk to Sveti Duh, that's the point to temporarily interrupt the described round trip walk. After your return from Sveti Duh, then continue with the rest of the tour.

<b>The false southernmost point</b>	<b>N 46° 36.734' E 015° 28.495'</b>
After approximately 2.5km and 150 height meters you might want take the chance for a little rest. The location which is marketed as southernmost point of Styria does not provide the promised, but offers a small rest area. The border stones 304 and 305 are nearby.	

**Background information:** The little gorge which you will soon get to see is formed by the border creek (Großwalzer Bach) and is known as Huberklamm. I has its name due to the vulgo name of the property's owner homestead. The name Huberklammweg can be found on some maps and it appears that in former times there existed a small adventurous (probably [gebu](#)-like) trail down in the gorge, see also the description of Tour 51 in the book [Günter und Luise Auferbauer, 100 Ausflüge um Graz, Touren 51–100, 2009, Styriabooks, Graz, ISBN 3-222-13241-4](#). However, according to the [experience of Gert and his company](#) and my own experience at the occasion of two exploration trips in 2018 I decided that it might not be a good idea to make you walk directly at creek level and so I decided to guide you along logging roads, see the description below.

**Route information:** In the next section navigation will be a bit harder as you are not following any longer a marked route. For this reason, I have added several auxiliary waypoints. Right at the rest area a [small trail](#) starts that essentially follows the borderline and leads down to border stone 299 and the [Knapp source](#) (waypoint **HELP 3**). Nearby you can see the [remainings of a lime kiln](#). At the source follow the [overgrown logging road to the left](#) (and not the trail going down from the source to a house). At the next possibility (waypoint **HELP 4**) take a sharp turn to the right. When having reached **HELP 5** the trickier part is behind you - now a comfortable walk along a logging road is ahead of you. Waypoint **HELP 6** is the last auxiliary waypoint on your way to **Stage 5**.

<b>Stage 5 (Border creek)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.170' E 015° 29.104'</b>
<p>You have now walked close to the border for quite a while. Most of the time the logging road was well above the creek level but now you arrived close to the creek (Großwalzer Bach) which forms the border here.</p> <p><b>Photo Task 3:</b> Take a photo of the <a href="#">border stone 278</a> which meets the photo requirements for this virtual.</p>	

<b>Stage 6 (Wresnik cross)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.250' E 15° 29.292'</b>
<p>You have arrived at the <a href="#">Wresnik cross</a> named after the nearby homestead.</p> <p><b>Question Task 3:</b> Have a look at the back side of the cross. Focus on the little square-like area where the horizontal bar and the vertical bars that form the cross shape meet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A(3):</b> The number of screw heads within the little square.</li> </ul>	

**Route information:** Your further routes depends on whether you have decided for the **LW** (longer, my recommendation) or the **SW** (shorter) version.

- *Option LW:* Proceed next to Stage 7 (route not marked, see description below) and continue to visit the stages in chronological order.
- *Option SW:* Proceed to Stage 12 (the route should be obvious) from here and then further on to Stage 13 (close to the start point). The remaining stages 11, 10 and 14 can be visited independently.

The route to Stage 7 is less obvious. You have to follow a route which is not marked and parts of which are not well maintained. It is not always easy to see where the trail continues. The auxiliary waypoints I added should help you. Shortly after Stage 6 do not follow the white-green marked trail at waypoint **HELP 7**, but instead take the smaller trail to the right which leads downwards. The borderline and the creek can be taken as rough orientation. The waypoints **HELP 8** (border stone 269), **HELP 9**, **HELP 10**, **HELP 11** and **HELP 12** guide you on your way to **Stage 7**.

<b>Stage 7 (Bench)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.155' E 015° 29.866'</b>
<p>A <a href="#">bench</a> with an attached table should be in your view. Take a seat and have a look at the object to the left of the bench. Watch out for a metal plate.</p> <p><b>Question Task 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A(4):</b> Which text is written on the plate?</li> </ul> <p>If you fail to find the plate, proceed with the backup question: Continue along your way. Soon you will reach a gate. At the right side a golden object is attached.</p> <p><b>Backup question</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A'(4):</b> Which word is written in capitals on that object?</li> </ul>	

**Background information:** There is not much to say about this stage. Note that the road you can see is already in Slovenia and it is easy

to get there and legal and safe these days. During my break I reflected about how glad I'm that I'm having a good and safe life and how difficult the life of people must have been in this area in the first half of the last century.

**Route information:** At **HELP 13** you pass a gate. The waypoints **HELP 14** and **HELP 15** guide you over the creek and to a logging road which you then just need to follow to the ponds and to **Stage 8**. Navigation has become easy again.

<b>Stage 8 (Schmirnberg ponds)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.183' E 015° 30.234'</b>
<p>You have arrived at the shore of one of the <a href="#">Schmirnberg ponds</a>. A little plank should be in your view. If you have not been at the ponds before, you might want to search for the nearby <a href="#">Die drei Teicht traditional</a> (which however is in miserable condition).</p> <p><b>Photo Task 4:</b> Take a photo of the <a href="#">pond's shore at the plank</a> which meets the photo requirements for this virtual.</p>	

**Background information:** The Schmirnberg ponds once belonged to the owners of the Schmirnberg castle which in former times has been a [very prominent castle](#) of which now only a [fragmentary ruin in bad condition](#) is left over. The Schmirnberg manor comprised of the Schmirnberg castle, a feudal estate that later developed in Trautenberg castle, the Amtmann estate, the regional court and the toll stage in Leutschach, extended hunting grounds and fishing waters. The Schmirnberg castle (ruin) as well as the Schmirnberg ponds have experienced many different owners over the centuries. They are now privately owned and fishing and swimming is prohibited for non authorized people. If you have never been at the Schmirnberg ruin and have some spare time, I'd strongly recommend a visit which even can be combined with [a cache](#).

**Route information:** Follow the logging road further towards waypoint **HELP 16** and further on to **HELP 17** where you turn left into the border panorama trail (GPW) which will lead you to **Stage 9**.

<b>Stage 9 (Lube wayside shrine)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.473' E 15° 30.436'</b>
<p>You now have arrived at the <a href="#">Lube wayside shrine</a> which has its name due to the nearby homestead Lube. Each of the four sides is decorated with paintings. At the front side there is a cross; the three other sides each contain a large painting of a saint. Let's have a closer look at these paintings.</p> <p><b>Question Task 5:</b> On the back side (opposite the bench side) a painting depicts a female saint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A(5):</b> What objects does the female saint have in her hands? In case you have problems identifying the objects in her right hand, you can alternatively name the object above her right shoulder.</li><li>• <b>Optional bonus questions:</b> What is the name of the female saint? What are the names of the two male saints depicted on the left and the right side (seen from the direction of the bench)?</li></ul>	

**Route information:** Follow the GPW trail up to the paved road which you meet near waypoint **HELP 18**. Turn left there and follow the road to **Stage 10**.

<b>Stage 10 (Hammerkautz memorial)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.570' E 15° 30.276'</b>
<p>You are now in view <a href="#">of a cross</a> and a memorial stone which commemorates the tragic death of three policemen in 1947. <a href="#">The nearby homestead has the vulgo name Hammerkautz</a>.</p> <p><b>Question Task 6:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A(6):</b> Which name and year date which are not connected to the 1947 incident are mentioned on the stone?</li><li>• <b>Optional bonus question:</b> Why is this additional person mentioned on the stone?</li></ul>	

**Background information:** The Hammerkautz stage is the one around which my idea for this virtual evolved. For that reason, I will provide more detailed background information than for most other stages.

The Hammerkautz homestead, which has been the home of the Kőrbler (Kerbler in Slovenian) family, played an important role in the history of the area in the 1930s and 1940s. The farm has also been the interim home for the school before the new school building (see Stage 11) got built.

### Difficult after war period

With the end of WW II, the turbulent times for the border region had not come to an end. In the area around Leutschach many violent incidents happened. The year 1947 formed a climax of the highly insecure situation.

While the people had hoped for peace, rather the situation became more difficult, aggravated by Yugoslavian claims for Austrian territory and the fact that inner Yugoslavian fights between the Communist side (partisans, Yugoslavian state) and opponents (anti-communist groups and diverse gangs) were extended over to Austria (and partly organized from refugee camps in Austria like the one in Leibnitz). The hilly and not easily accessible terrain of the border region provided many options to hide and to operate in secret which was of particular importance to the illegal groups fighting against the Yugoslavian state as they were hunted by the [Yugoslavian State Security Administration \(UDBA\)](#).

The motivation to join anti communist groups were diverse: some members had a religious background, some a German nationalist one and others a royal one (aiming at the return of the [Kingdom of Yugoslavia](#) and the exiled king). For that reasons, these groups are sometimes associated in the literature with terms like Crusaders (Križari), Matjaž movement (after [King Matjaž](#)), White Guards and others. It would go far beyond the scope of this cache description to provide more details about the different groups that played a role in this conflict and till today the topic is not fully researched. For the context of the Hammerkautz incident in 1947 the so-called Serneč gang, a group of anti-communist royalists around the Serneč brothers plays a special role. Several of the gang members had family relations to people from the Leutschach area and were supported by them while other locals had family relations with partisans.

### About the incident in June 1947

Josef Kerbler, the head of the Kerbler family, had asked for support from the British troops due to a threat he had received. The Kerbler family had family relations with members of the Serneč gang and was known for their anti-partisan stance. The Serneč gang partially operated from the Hammerkautz homestead and other nearby homesteads to which they also had family connections. When 50 British soldiers arrived on June 26 everything was quiet and so they left again and only several local policemen stayed as a guards. One day later when only the 3 policemen were present and no members of the Serneč gang, the Hammerkautz homestead got attacked by a group of men. Two policemen got shot and one was kidnapped and later killed. Moreover, two children of the Kerbler family got shot and two others and their father and their mother got seriously wounded, but survived.

Despite of detailed investigations over several years the criminal case could never be fully resolved. Some blamed the partisans for the attack while others blamed enemies of the Serneč gang. For more details, have a look at Promitzer's PhD thesis, Haring's diploma thesis and Engelke's book, see [3], [4] and [15] from [this list](#).

### Smuggling activities and Josef Schleich

As many locals back in those times the people from the Hammerkautz homestead have been involved in diverse smuggling activities for decades. Goods like firestones, flints and [saccharin](#) were highly demanded on the Yugoslavian side of the border and goods like meat, wheat, coffee and many other food stuffs were much more expensive on the Austrian side and often not affordable for most locals which were very poor. Again for economical reasons cattle and horses got smuggled during the night over the green border. In the years from 1939-1941 the poultry farmer and smuggler [Josef Schleich](#) from Graz established a business which involved smuggling Jews illegally to Yugoslavia. Schleich's business relied on the help of many local smugglers which had excellent knowledge of the area but also on bribing many of the involved persons. The Kerbler family and also the residents of most of the homesteads in the area have been involved in smuggling activities and also in Schleich's business (some worked as local guides and were directly involved in bringing the Jews over the border while others were involved by offering food and shelter for the Jews during the waiting time until the right moment for an attempt to cross the border has arrived).

Schleich's (still not very well known) story is interesting in its own right and shows how difficult it can be to decide what is good and what is bad. The Schleich story however definitely goes beyond the scope of this cache. For further details I refer to the [list of references](#). Maybe I will set up a separate cache about Josef Schleich in the future.

<b>Stage 11 (Josef Krainer school)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.579' E 15° 29.941'</b>

You have arrived at the [Josef Krainer school](#) which used to be Styria's southernmost school before it [got closed forever in June 2012](#).

**Question Task 7:** To the left of the entrance door you will find some signs.

- **A(7):** Which unexpected place name is mentioned on the uppermost sign? (in case of problems consult the hint).

**Background information:** The school house got built in the years 1948/49 to replace the former German school of Schloßberg which was located in Sveti Duh (Heiligengeist) directly at the border and got destroyed in 1944 by a group of partisans. The still usable bricks of the destroyed school were brought by carriages to the new location and got recycled. The school got named after the long time governor of Styria, [Josef Krainer senior](#), who had been a big supporter of the Styrian border regions.

What should not be withheld however is the inglorious role played by governmental, educational and religious authorities (e.g. Steirische Landesregierung, Landesschulrat, Roman Catholic church) in oppressing the usage of the Slovenian language in church, school and daily life in an area where once Slovenian has been the mother tongue of the majority of the people. The long-standing head teacher Max Weiß-Reinthal in Großwalz and the nationalist association [Alpenländischer Kulturverband Südmark - AKVS](#), which supported the Josef Krainer school financially, played a prominent role in the process of the German assimilation of the border region.

Even though the Slovenian speaking minority in Styria is mentioned in Article VII of the [Austrian State Treaty](#) (Staatsvertrag) from 1955, they never actually got conferred the minority rights that they would have been entitled to get. For a complete picture, it needs to be mentioned however that likewise the German speaking minority in Slovenia also never got acknowledged (in contrast to the situation in Serbia and Croatia). It's tragic to realize how much suffering has been caused and is still caused worldwide by nationalistic attitudes and by valuing nations much higher than human beings.

If you would like to learn more on the shameful treatment of the Slovenian speaking minority in the Styrian border region (which is not as widely known as it would deserve) have a look at Promitzer's PhD thesis, Haring's diploma thesis and the TV documentary on the forgotten minority, see [3], [4] and [1] from [this list](#).

<b>Stage 12 (Sign Post)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.340' E 15° 29.446'</b>
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Now the main part of the walk is behind you.

**Question Task 8:** Let's have a closer look at the signs at this crossing. Which is the farthest destination mentioned on the signs?

- **A(8):** The expected walking time (in minutes) to reach this destination.

<b>Stage 13 (Moser park)</b>	<b>N 46° 37.445' E 15° 29.059'</b>
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Now it is time to relax. After having visited a few locations with a sad or at least chequered history, something to cheer you up might be welcome. Let's visit the [Moser wellness park](#).

**Photo Task 5:** Choose your favourite location within the park and take a photo there that meets the photo requirements for this virtual.

**Question Task 9:** Search within the park for a small disc which provides information on the distances from the Moserhof to various places around the world.

- **A(9):** The sum of the distance to the city where the Kremlin is located and the distance to the city where the Sagrada familia basilica is located.

**Background information:** The winery Moser (Weingut Moser) at an altitude of 700 height meters above sea level is Austria's highest winery. Since several generations it is in possession of the Moser Kapun family. If you come during the opening times (from mid March to mid November, Mo-Sa 9:30-18, Su 9:30-17), you might consider a visit to the [farm store \(Bauernladen\)](#) which also serves as a [little museum \(no entrance fee\)](#) and/or the show distillery.

A special highlight is the Moser wine wellness park to which Stage 13 is dedicated to. The creation works started in 2009. In 2011 the park got officially opened and since then it is open to the public all year round. The [large stone hand sculpture](#) at the entrance area has become a kind of signature item of the park. If you come at the right season, you will also be able to admire [beautiful roses](#).

<b>Stage 14 (Sveti Duh)</b>	<b>N 46° 36.913' E 15° 27.727'</b>
<p>You need this stage only for the SW version . You can go to Sveti Duh by car and park at the stage coordinates. Nearby you will find a sector border stone. Do not forget to enjoy the nice view.</p> <p><b>Photo Task 6:</b> Take a photo of the <a href="#">sector border stone</a> which meets the photo requirement of this virtual.</p> <p><b>Question Task 10:</b> The <a href="#">cemetery of Sveti Duh</a> is not far from here. Just walk down the road for about 130m and you'll arrive there. Enter the cemetery and watch out for the grave of the Kerbler family and another family (hint: it is located in the front left area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A(10):</b> What are the first names of the three people with surname Kerbler which are listed on the gravestone?</li></ul> <p>If you have enough time, you might consider walking up to the church and visiting the <a href="#">Sveti Duh - Heiligengeistkirche traditional</a>.</p>	

**Background information:** Until 1918 [Heiligengeist am Osterberg](#) (now Sveti Duh na Ostrem vrhu) belonged to Austria. Josef Körbler (Jozef Kerbler) from the homestead vulgo Kure opted in 1919 for Austria. So his property continued to belong to Austria but he nevertheless regarded himself as Slovenian and not German and continued to speak Slovenian and so did his children. They did not speak any German before they entered school. The two sons of Josef Körbler, Max and Josef, greeted a Nazi neighbour in Slovenian who denounced then the family with the result that the father of the two boys got deported to Dachau where he died.

There used to be a memorial plate commemorating civilian Nazi victims at the Slovenian school in Sveti Duh below the church. It is shown in the TV documentary [Die vergessene Minderheit](#) around 25:00 by Max Körbler, Josef Körbler's son. The [school building](#) got renovated in the last years and apparently the plate got removed. It is still visible on [this photo from 2010](#). Well, now the school building looks very nice and clean, but the removal of the plate is yet another step which makes it easier for people to forget what happened.