

Into the Bloody Fray – Montanans Return to the Home Front in WWI

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Introduction

- Tonight, I would like to expand our view of WWI and go beyond the Western Front, and focus on a lesser known area of WWI, mainly the demise of the Austro-Hungarian empire and the emergence of independent South Slavic states, in South Eastern Europe, or the Balkans. At the same time, I want to focus on the participation of Montenans in WWI, both in the Macedonian Front as part of the wars of liberation from the Austro Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire during the pre-1917 period when the US officially entered the war.

Introduction

- The focus of this presentation is Montanans from the Balkans (Bosnians, Greeks, Croats, Macedonians, Montenegrins, Serbs, Slovenes) who emigrated to the US and Montana in the late 19th century and early part of the twentieth century from their homelands, which were incorporated into two empires destined to demise after WWI – the Ottoman and the Austro-Hungarian Empires. The participation of these individuals in WWI draws attention to the multiethnic nature of Montana at this time, as well as the formation and re-formation of national and regional identity – Montanan, American, and as it pertains to the emerging nations of South Eastern Europe.

The Archduke and his Spouse, soon to be assassinated
in Sarajevo: June 28, 1914



The Bosnian Serb Assassin

Gavrilo Princip: Freedom Fighter or Terrorist?



WWI Saw the End of Four Empires and the Emergence of New Independent Countries following the Wilsonian Doctrine of Self-Determination



Ethno-Linguistic Groups of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – Note that Serbia, Montenegro were Independent and Allies to the US



Serbs and Montenegrins in Butte already from the end of the 19th c.

ПРАВИЛА И ЗАКОНИ
СРПСКО — ЦРНОГОРСКОГ
ДОВОТВОРНОГ ДРУШТВА
У БЈУТ МОНТАНА

ДИО: I.

С В Р Х А Д Р У Ш Т А

§ 1.

а) Име друштва: Српско-Црногорско-Добротворно Друштво, са сједиштем у Бјут, Монтана.

б) Овоје друштво основано: 14 Јануара 1906 године, по старом календару.

в) Знак је друштвени: Црногорска круна, — Печат је друштвени са истим знаком, и около натпис: Српски, Ћирилицом — име друштва и вријеме оснивања.

г) Пословни је језик у раду друштвеном: — Српски, а писање Ћирилицом (изузевши:

1910 Census Data – Multicultural MT

SUPPLEMENT FOR MONTANA.

TABLE I.—COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE

[Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.]

SUBJECT.	THE STATE.	Beaver-head.	Broad-water. ¹	Carbon. ¹	Cascade. ¹	Chouteau. ¹	Custer. ¹	Dawson. ¹	Deer Lodge. ¹
POPULATION									
Total population, 1910.....	376,053	6,446	3,491	13,962	28,833	17,191	² 14,123	12,725	³ 12,988
1900.....	* 243,329	5,615	2,641	7,533	26,777	10,966	* 7,891	2,443	³ 17,390
1890.....	⁴ 142,924	4,655	.....	.....	8,755	4,741	5,308	2,056	15,155
1880.....	39,159	2,712	.....	.....	.....	3,658	2,510	180	8,876
1870.....	20,595	722	.....	.....	.....	517	38	177	4,367
Increase, 1900-1910.....	132,724	831	850	6,429	3,056	6,225	² 6,232	10,282	³ -4,405
Per cent of increase.....	54.5	14.8	32.2	85.3	11.9	56.8	² 79.0	420.9	³ -25.3
Increase, 1890-1900.....	100,405	960	2,641	7,533	17,022	* 4,913	* 1,129	887	2,258
Per cent of increase.....	70.3	20.6	.....	.....	194.4	* 103.6	* 21.3	18.8	14.8
Land area (square miles).....	¹ 146,201	4,719	1,194	2,438	3,384	15,972	13,156	13,231	740
Population per square mile, 1910.....	2.6	1.4	2.9	5.7	8.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	17.3
Rural population per square mile, 1910.....	1.7	1.4	2.9	3.7	4.4	0.8	0.7	1.0	3.8
URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY.									
Urban, 1910—Places of 2,500 or more in 1910.....	133,420	.....	.....	4,860	13,948	3,624	² 4,697	.....	³ 10,134
Same places in 1900.....	89,476	.....	.....	2,152	14,930	1,033	² 1,938	.....	³ 9,453
Per cent of increase, 1900-1910.....	49.1	.....	.....	125.8	-6.6	250.8	² 142.4	.....	³ 7.2
Rural, 1910—Remainder of county in 1910.....	242,633	6,446	3,491	9,102	14,885	13,567	² 9,426	12,725	³ 2,854
Same territory in 1900.....	* 153,853	5,615	2,641	5,381	10,847	9,933	(*)	2,443	³ 2,922
Per cent of increase, 1900-1910.....	57.7	14.8	32.2	69.2	37.2	36.6	(*)	420.9	³ -2.3
Urban, 1900—Places of 2,500 or more in 1900.....	84,554	.....	.....	.....	14,930	.....	(*)	.....	³ 9,453
Rural, 1900—Remainder of county in 1900.....	* 158,775	5,615	2,641	7,533	10,847	10,966	² 7,891	2,443	³ 7,940
Per cent in places of 2,500 or more, 1910.....	35.5	.....	.....	34.8	48.4	21.1	² 33.3	.....	³ 78.0
Per cent in places of 2,500 or more, 1900.....	34.7	.....	.....	.....	57.9	.....	(*)	.....	³ 54.3
COLOR AND NATIVITY									
White.....	360,580	6,350	3,425	13,913	28,502	15,730	13,970	12,691	12,815
Number in 1900.....	* 228,283	5,410	2,610	7,553	25,143	8,667	6,470	2,438	17,618
Number in 1890.....	* 127,690	4,528	.....	.....	8,421	4,491	.....	.....	.....
Negro.....	1,834	26	19	5	145	56	.....	.....	.....



MT data in First Column

Carbon County Data – Last Column

COLOR AND NATIVITY				
White.....	300,580	6,350	3,425	13,913
<i>Number in 1900</i>*	* 226,283	5,440	2,610	7,485
<i>Number in 1890</i>	* 127,620	4,528		
Negro.....	1,834	26	19	5
<i>Number in 1900</i>	* 1,523	12	16	4
<i>Number in 1890</i>	1,480	54		
Black.....	1,223	25	9	4
Mulatto.....	611	1	10	1
Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and all other (see Tables 1 and 14)	13,639	70	47	44
Native white—Native parentage.....	162,127	3,555	1,762	5,976
<i>Number in 1900</i>	* 97,957	2,848	1,298	3,749
Native white—Foreign or mixed parentage.....	106,809	1,631	897	3,918
<i>Number in 1900</i>	* 70,973	1,503	783	2,052
Native white—Foreign parentage.....	68,606	1,015	500	2,815
Native white—Mixed parentage.....	38,203	616	397	1,103
Foreign-born white.....	91,644	1,164	766	4,019
<i>Number in 1900</i>	* 62,373	1,089	551	1,684
PER CENT OF TOTAL POPULATION.				
Native white—Native parentage.....	43.1	55.2	50.5	42.8
<i>Per cent in 1900</i>	38.2	50.7	49.1	49.8
Native white—Foreign or mixed parentage.....	28.4	25.3	25.7	28.1
<i>Per cent in 1900</i>	29.2	26.8	29.6	27.2
Foreign-born white.....	24.4	18.1	21.9	28.8
<i>Per cent in 1900</i>	25.6	19.4	20.1	22.4

National (not ethnic!) Background of 1st and 2nd Generations in Carbon County (Red Lodge and Bearcreek)

FOREIGN-BORN WHITE: Born in—				
Austria.....	8,349	88	42	553
Bulgaria.....	1,451	24	14	1
Canada—French.....	2,874	53	8	9
Canada—Other.....	10,627	124	58	204
Denmark.....	1,943	143	10	40
England.....	8,980	117	69	224
Finland.....	4,111	1	8	1,126
France.....	639	6	4	17
Germany.....	8,669	144	104	193
Greece.....	1,905	51	23	20
Holland.....	1,054	2	3	51
Hungary.....	1,486	3	8	97
Ireland.....	9,469	123	63	96
Italy.....	6,592	46	144	382
Norway.....	7,169	31	24	240
Russia.....	2,228	8	2	197
Scotland.....	3,373	35	39	216
Sweden.....	6,410	81	47	152
Switzerland.....	988	39	10	10
Turkey.....	692	5	68	5
Wales.....	884	10	6	62
Other foreign countries.....	1,751	30	12	124
NATIVE WHITE: Both parents born in—				
Austria.....	3,983	80	2	254
Canada—French.....	1,943	51	3	9
Canada—Other.....	4,043	52	11	90
Denmark.....	1,302	75	2	24
England.....	5,710	112	45	158
Germany.....	11,610	195	104	223
Holland.....	707	.....	.....	13
Hungary.....	601	.....	6	68
Ireland.....	12,549	159	159	188
Italy.....	1,253	6	9	213
Norway.....	4,859	11	14	192
Russia.....	1,071	4	.....	112
Scotland.....	1,653	32	35	106
Sweden.....	3,865	29	28	69
Switzerland.....	568	36	10	6
Wales.....	693	12	15	21
All others of foreign parentage ¹⁰	12,196	161	57	1,069

National and Regional Identities

- Why is this important? The terms used in this census data are politically charged and horribly out of date. Still, the fact remains that MT in 1910 was much more diverse culturally, ethnically, and linguistically than any time since. We Montanans are very proud of our roots and especially during election periods, we tend to see advertising about how many generations a candidate's family has been in Montana. This pride is even evident in the WWI poster listing the speakers where we read that a few are proudly Montana natives or even Billings natives. I must admit - I am one of them. Proudly.

Croatian (Austrian) Immigrant Convicted of Seditious Immigrants from Austria Shared Different Vision of post-war Austria

Name: Martin Ferkovich

Age/DoB: 39

County of Conviction: Musselshell

Judicial District: 15th

Case No.: 278

Date of Conviction: Sentenced 2/21/19

Sentence: 10-20 years



Allegations: That on Friday, September 13, 1918 (day after registration day) said in Waddy Russell (Kumor & Russell) saloon in Carpenter Creek, "This Government cannot take me (meaning that the United States Government could not select him under the national selective service regulations). I would kill the first man who tried to take me. Austria is my country and I won't fight against her. I wouldn't shoot my own brother. I would shoot someone else first. The Government didn't do right; they didn't give me my citizenship papers. The Kaiser is all right; he didn't bother me. The Kaiser didn't bother this country."

Slovene (Austrian) Immigrant Convicted of Sediton

Name: Josef Hocevar

Age/DOB: 52

County of Conviction: Musselshell

Judicial District:

Case No.: 282

Date of Conviction:

Sentence: 6-12 years

PARDONED IN 1921



Allegations: That on Oct. 4, 1918, at the Roadside Saloon, said "Patton is working this Liberty Loan business too strong (referring to a member of the Liberty Loan committee). I am an Austrian. This government is no good. I have been a citizen of this country since 1888. I am not a pro-German, I am an Austrian. President Wilson had no business getting into this

Note on Methodology and Sources

- Remember, my focus are the participation of Montanans in WWI, both in the pre and post 1917 periods, while recognizing many Montanans joined the allied cause before the US officially declared war in 1917. The census data as I have shown, are valuable, but to a point. Behind the great appellation Austrian, Russian, Turkish, etc. we really don't know who these individuals were. What language did they speak at home? What about their religion? What about their loyalty to the Emperor - Franz Josef, Czar Nicholas, etc.? To learn more about the individuals it is necessary to access linguistic and philological evidence from contemporary sources, including immigration records, birth and death records, and for this presentation, military induction, registration and discharge records. Names matter, but so does the filter through which these non-English names are rendered into English. Were the informants literate? How well did the recording agent know his geography? Were marginalia or notes preserved in the records. The other important sources are in front of us every day - the newspapers obituaries, sports reports, graduation records and for the intervening 100 years - the graveyards and tombstones of our communities.

Montana Memory Project

<http://mtmemory.org>

- The Montana Memory Project provides access to digital collections from numerous [Montana libraries and historical repositories](#) relating to Montana's cultural heritage and government. These collections and items document the Montana experience. Many of these items are digitized copies of historic material, some items are contemporary. All serve as a resource for education, business, pleasure, and lifelong learning. This is a statewide project of the [Montana State Library](#) and the [Montana Historical Society Research Center](#).
- Note that the MSUB Library is a contributor to this project by providing access to yearbooks and student newspapers. So if any graduates of EMC are in the audience, you can locate and view your yearbook and papers online!
- <http://mtmemory.org>
- I used primarily the collection of Military Enlistments for WWI . The card file is part of the Montana Adjutant General's Office Records 1889-1959.

Enemy Alien Category

- *Enemy Alien* were not to be drafted since they would be put in position of fighting against their own countrymen, and as we shall see, there are exceptions to this. Some were conscripted but discharged after failing to prove their loyalty to the US Army

The Archival Material

- For the remainder of my presentation, I would like to show several original documents that pertain to participation of South Slavic immigrants in Montana in WWI. Through the MT Memory project, I was able to view online the registration cards for WWI inductees. In particular, I was most interested in those from Austria with obvious South Slavic attributes, either place of birth, first and last names, or additional information. The cards themselves provide abundant philological and linguistic evidence of the ethnicity of the individual, but also how the individual was viewed by the draft board, the clerk filling out the form, and how the individual viewed themselves in terms of becoming an American.

Notes on the Material

- There are many Italian immigrants who were also from Austria, but I've chosen to focus only on the South Slavs with particular attention to Carbon County, really Red Lodge and Bearcreek. Therefore, these documents provide a full and accurate picture of the participation of Austrian born South Slavs in WWI. As we shall see, some eagerly accepted the challenge of returning to Europe to fight the enemies of their homelands, while others were more reluctant to fight against Austria. The prime factor, I believe, was the political orientation of the individual - how did he feel about his homelands place in Austria, both during the war and in the future. Of course, there were other factors and at the end of the day, it was an individual decision whether to serve in the US Army, even though the individuals were recognized, usually, as Enemy Aliens and could easily avoid service by demonstrating their loyalty to the Austro Hungarian Empire.
-
- The records provide information on place of birth, often through the filter of both the individual's report, prior written records and ability of the clerk or the draft board to filter this information through another language. We can assume some of these individuals did not speak English well and may have had strong accents.
-
- We can also see evidence here of the process of "Americanization" or the striving to become US Citizens by naturalization, but also US citizens by culture. Name changes, spellings, professions all testify to this.
-
- Here I will review a few of these records, most from Carbon County, but a few from elsewhere in Montana and even a few non Slavs for context.

Pericich, Dragutin 3,139,089 * White * ~~Colored.~~
 (Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: 400 E Park Butte Silver Bow MONTANA
 (Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

~~* Enlisted * E. A. * N. G. * E. P. *~~ *Inducted at Butte City Mont on June 27 1918

Place of birth: Novi Austria Age or date of birth: 29 7/12 Yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: 3 Co 1 Bn 166 Dep
Brig to July 11/18; Co D 157 Inf to death;

Grades, with date of appointment: Pvt

Engagements: _____

Served overseas from † Aug 7/18 to † Death, from † _____ to † _____

Killed in action Oct 8, 1918

Other wounds or injuries received in action: None

Person notified of death: John Pericich, (If none, so state)
 (Name) Father (Degree of relationship)

(No. and street or rural route) Anaconda, (City, town, or post office) Mont. (State or country)

Remarks: _____

1

Peshick, Frank **5,203,931** * White * Colored: _____

(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: **Phillipsburg** **MONTANA**

(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* ~~Enlisted~~ * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. C. * Inducted at **Missoula Mont** on **Oct 10, 1918**

Place of birth: **Austria** Age or date of birth: **Jan 12, 1880**

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: _____

Students Army Tng C Univ to Mont Missoula Mont to

disch

Grades, with date of appointment: _____

Pvt

Engagements: _____

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from † **no** to † _____, from † _____ to † _____

Honorably discharged on demobilization **Dec 18/18**, 19 _____

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported **0** per cent disabled.

Remarks: _____

2

Peskol Tony _____ * White * Colored.
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: 315 Water St Helena _____ MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

~~_____~~ *Inducted at Helena Mont _____ on Oct 4/17, 19
Austria _____ 22-3/12 yrs

Place of birth: _____ Age or date of birth: _____

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: _____
166 Dep Brig to Oct 9/17; Co M 362 Inf to Disch

Grades, with date of appointment: _____
Pvt

Engagements: _____

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from † _____ to † _____ from † _____ to † _____
Honorably discharged: Feb 25, 1918 Alien Enemy _____
(Date) (Cause)

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported _____ per cent disabled.

Remarks: _____

_____ 1
Petek, John 2,782,817 * White * Colored.

(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: _____ **Helena** _____ **MONTANA**

(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

~~_____~~ U. S. *Inducted at **Lewis & Clark Co Mont** on **Apr 28**, 19**18**
Place of birth: **Austria** Age or date of birth: **22 10/12 yrs**

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:
166 Dep Brig to May 24/18; CoB 364 Inf to June 17/18
166 Dep Brig to disch

Grades, with date of appointment: _____
Pvt

Engagements: _____

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from † **no** to † _____, from † _____ to † _____

Honorably discharged on demobilization **Dec 7/18**, 19_____

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported **0** per cent disabled.

Remarks: _____

3½

Bahorich, **Roy** **White**
 (Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number) (Race: White or colored)

Residence: **301 Watson Ave** **Butte** **MONTANA**
 (Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted in — **Inducted at Butte, Mont Sept 22/17** —

† Born in — **Cratean, Austria** **Age 22 3/12 yrs** —

Organizations: —
166 Dep Brig to Oct 24/17; Co B 346 M G Bn to Mch 19/18;
Co D 348 M G Bn to disch;

Grades: —
Pvt —

Engagements: —

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None. —

† Served overseas: **None** —

§ Disch. **May 20/18** **alien enemy** —

Was reported **per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.**

Remarks: —

Form No. 724-3½, A. G. O.
March 12, 1920.

3-7090

*Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. C.", "N. A.", as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. † Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡ Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date and cause.

	Bisjack, Louis	none	White	3½
	(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)
Residence:	Bearcreek,	Carbon	MONTANA	
	(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
*Enlisted in	Inducted	Carbon Co_ Mont	Nov 2/17	-
†Born in	Krasna	Austria	27 5/12	yrs
Organizations:	166 Dep	Brig to disch		-
Grades:	Pvt			-
Engagements:				-
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.			
‡Served overseas:	no			
§ Disch.	Feb 19/18	as Alien Enemy		
Was reported	0	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.		
Remarks:				

Form No. 724-3½, A. G. O.
March 12, 1920.

3-7690

*Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. C.", "N. A.", as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. † Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡ Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date and cause.

Brozovich, Rudolf 2,443,441 *White *Colored.
 (Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: 701 So Broadway Red Lodge Carbon MONTANA
 (Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

*Enlisted *R. A. *N. G. *E. R. G. *Inducted at Red Lodge Mont on Sept 22, 1917

Place of birth: Mrpopoty Crearais Austria Age or date of birth: 22 5/12 Yrs.

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: _____

166 Dep Brig to Nov 3/17; Co A 163 Inf to Disch.

Grades, with date of appointment: _____

Pvt.

Engagements: _____

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from † None to † _____, from † _____ to † _____

Discharged: Oct 18, 1918 Enemy Alien
 (Date) (Cause)

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported _____ per cent disabled.

Remarks: _____

Berhomvich Halid 3,414,608 White 1 1/2
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number) (Race: White or colored)

Residence: 58 E Glenia St Butte MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

~~Enlisted in~~ Inducted at Butte Mont July 1/18

† Born in Austria 30 8/12 yrs

Organizations: Casual Det Spruce Production Dept Vancouver Wash
to Nov 22/18; Co C 6 Bn U S Gds to disch

Grades: Pvt

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

‡ Served overseas: NO

§ Hon. disch. Dec 31/18 on demobilization

Was reported 0 per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.

Remarks:

	CHIROVICH Charevich , Lyko		white	3½
	(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)
Residence:	2285 Mont St	Butte		MONTANA
	(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
* Enlisted in	Inducted at Butte Mont		Sept 22/17	-
† Born in	Hercegovina Tubvigi Austria		24 yrs	-
Organizations:	166 Dep Brig to Oct 24/17; Hq Co 362 Inf todisch			-
Grades:	Pvt			-
Engagements:				-
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.			-
‡ Served overseas:	No			-
§ Disch.	Feb 6/18 per reason of being an Alien enemy			-
Was reported	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.			-
Remarks:				-

Form No. 724-3½, A. G. O.
March 12, 1920.

3-7090

*Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. C.", "N. A.", as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. † Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡ Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date and cause.

3

Larantick, Theodore
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number) * White * Colored.

Residence: 116 S Argoner St Butte MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

~~*Enlisted *R. A. *N. G. *E. R. C.~~ *Inducted at Silver Bow Co Mont on Nov 5, 1917

Place of birth: Trabinjer Servia Age or date of birth 22 10/12 yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:
166 Dep Brig to disch

Grades, with date of appointment:
Pvt

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from † No to †, from † to †

Discharged: 19 Feb 18/18 enemy alien
(Date) (Cause)

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.

Remarks:

9

Dimich Lukas 75,223 * White * Colored-
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: Red Lodge MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

*Enlisted *R. A. *N. G. *E. R. C. *Inducted at Red Lodge Mont on Nov 2, 1917
 Place of birth: Ylaspich Serbia Age or date of birth: 24 8/12 yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:
60 Co 15 Bn 166 Dep Brig to Nov 6/17; Co C, 161 Inf to
June 11/18; Co A 28 Inf to Disch

Grades, with date of appointment: _____
Pvt

Engagements: Soissons; St Mihiel; Argonne

Wounded in action (degree and date) Severly Oct 5, 1918
 Served overseas from † Dec 13/17 to † Mch 24/19, from † _____ to † _____

*Honorably discharged on demobilization: _____ Apr 18/19, 19____
(If separated for other cause give reason)

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported _____ per cent disabled.

Remarks: _____

Serdar, William 2,784,648 * White * Colored.
 (Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: Helena Lewis MONTANA
 (Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. C. * Inducted at Helena Mont on Apr 25, 19 18
 Place of birth: Gaspich Austria Age or date of birth: 30 7/12 years

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: _____
11 Bn 166 Dep Brig to May 24/18; Co D 364 Inf to discharge

Grades, with date of appointment: _____
Pvt

Engagements: _____

Wounded in action (degree and date) Slightly Sept 27 19 18

Served overseas from † July 12/18 to † Apr 2/19, from † _____ to † _____

* Honorably discharged on demobilization: Apr 27/19, 19____
 (If separated for other cause give reason)

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.

Remarks: _____

6

Kovich, Bosco 3,142,201 * White * ~~Colored~~

(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: ~~None~~ Bear Creek Carbon MONTANA

(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. C. * Inducted at Carbon Co Mont on June 28 / 18

Place of birth: Grahovo Montenegro Age or date of birth: 28 7/12 Yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: 53 Co 14 Bn 166 Dep Brig
to July 17/18; Co E 160 Inf to Sept 8/18; Co D 127 Inf
till death

Grades, with date of appointment: Pvt

Engagements: Verdun

Served overseas from † Aug 8/18 to † Oct 19/18, from † _____ to † _____

Killed in action Oct 19 , 19 18

Other wounds or injuries received in action: None

Person notified of death: Sam Somargreh (If none, so state) Friend

(No. and street or rural route) (Name) Bear Creek (Degree of relationship) Mont

(City, town, or post office) (State or country)

Remarks :

Form NO. 724-6, A. G. O. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S.
Nov. 22, 1919. 3-7366

Perovich Nick 4,713,504 * White * Colored. ¹
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: Red Lodge Carbon MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* ~~██████████~~ E. R. C. *Inducted at Carbon Co Mont on Sept 11, 1918

Place of birth: Grahova Montenegro Age or date of birth: ? 1894

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:
166 Dep Brig to disch

Grades, with date of appointment:
Evt

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from † none to †, from † to †

Honorably discharged on demobilization Dec 11, 1918

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.

Remarks:

8

Peyovich, Bob M. 3,129,565 * White * Colored
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: 41 Anaconda Road Butte Silver Bow MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. C. * Inducted at Silver Bow Co., Mont on May 27, 19 18
Place of birth: Ricka, Montenegro Age or date of birth: 29 1/2 yrs
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: 35 Co 166 Dep Brig to g
June 19 /18; Co L 159 Inf to Sept 11 /18; Co I 125 Inf to death.

Grades, with date of appointment: Pvt

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: * None.

Served overseas from † Aug. 8/18 to † Feb 11/19, from †

Died of Tuberculosis to † Apr 14, 19 19
(Cause and date of death)

Person notified of death: John Stanovich Friend
(Name) (Degree of relationship)

133 Anaconda Road Butte Mont.
(No. and street or rural route) (City, town, or post office) (State or country)

Remarks:

Form No. 724-8, A. G. O. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S.
Nov. 22, 1919. 3-7369

Christ Ted G 3,130,788 2
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number) * White * Colored.

Residence: Sandcoulee Cascade MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. C. * Inducted at Cascade Co Mont on May 29, 1918
Place of birth: Dumbey Macedonia Age or date of birth: 23 7/12 yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:
166 Dep Brig to July 24/18; Butchery Co 335
to Sept 11/18; Sup Co 333 QM3 to disch.

Grades, with date of appointment:
Pvt

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from Oct 6/18 to disch. from † to †

Honorably discharged: May 14, 1919 re-enlistment
(Date)

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 (Cause) per cent disabled.

Remarks:

	Boteff,	Chris D.	2,292,868	White	1-
	(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)	
Residence:		Suffolk	Fergus	MONTEANA	
	(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County)	(State)	
*Enlisted in	Inducted Fergus Co Mont - Apr 25/18				-
†Born in	Macedonia Greece - 24-7/12 yrs				-
Organizations:	166 Dep Brig to May 24/18; Co C 316 Am In to disch				-
Grades:	Pvt				-
Engagements:					-
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.				-
‡Served overseas:	July 12/18 to Apr 20/19				-
§Hon. disch.	May 8/19		on demobilization		-
Was reported	0	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.			-
Remarks:					-

7

Maziarz, Joseph 83,383 * White * Colored.
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: -----
Chester Hill MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. C. * Inducted at Havre Mont on Nov 2, 1917
Place of birth: Galicia Austria Age or date of birth: 25 7/12 years

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: 16 Bn 166 Dep Brig to
Nov 6/17; Hq 63 Co 166 Dep Brig to Nov 7/17; Co I 163
Inf to Mch 12/18; Hq 127 Inf to Mch 14/18; Co I 127 Inf*

Grades, with date of appointment: Pvt

Engagements: Alsace; Chateau Thierry NW; Verdun

Served overseas from † Dec 15/17 to † Death, from † to †
Died Oct 12, 1918, of wounds received in action.

Other wounds or injuries received in action: None
(If none, so state)

Person notified of death: S. Maziarz, Father
(Name) (Degree of relationship)

(No. and street or rural route) (City, town, or post office) (State or country)

Remarks: -----

Khan Akram 2,294,170 Afagan³
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number) * White * Colored.

Residence: Joe's Chile Parlor Kalispell MONTANA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted * R. A. * N. G. * E. R. C. * Inducted at Flathead Co, Mont on Apr 27, 1918
Place of birth: Afghanistan Age or date of birth: 26 9/12 yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: _____
166 Dep Brig to disch

Grades, with date of appointment: _____
Pvt

Engagements: _____

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from † No to † _____, from † _____ to † _____

Discharged: Nov 19 1918 Neutral Alien
(Date) (Cause)

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported _____ per cent disabled.

Remarks: _____

Bearcreek Cemetery 2014



“Bearcreek” in Cyrillic



BEARCREEK CEMETERY

A large red granite monument commemorates the 75 miners who died in the 1943 explosion at the Smith Mine. The United Mine Workers of America installed this memorial in 1947 to memorialize Montana's worst coal mining disaster. Twenty-two of the Smith Mine's victims are buried here in family plots. The death date—February 27, 1943—carved onto their grave markers recalls the tragedy. Other headstones express other, individual losses. Of the 473 people buried here, 107 are children, including the first person interred in the cemetery in 1909, six-year-old Helen Markovich. Marble tombstones decorated with carved lambs and other tokens of innocence mark many of the children's graves. They communicate parents' great grief, while also suggesting the toll poverty, infant mortality, and childhood diseases historically took on families. Grouped in the cemetery's southeastern corner are headstones marked with Cyrillic lettering, many displaying photographs, burned into porcelain to produce a permanent image of the deceased. These markers reflect the Eastern European roots of many Bearcreek miners and their families. At the community's height, in 1920, a third of its residents were immigrants while another third were the children of immigrants. Headstones marked with Croatian, Montenegrin, Slavic, Italian, Scottish, German, Finnish, French, and English surnames attest to Bearcreek's ethnic diversity. After the Smith Mine disaster, Bearcreek became a near ghost town as many residents departed, fleeing bad memories. They left behind this simple rural cemetery, whose sandstone, granite, and marble headstones provide mute testimony to Bearcreek's coal mining heritage and to the people buried here.



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