

August 22, 2014

Anne Dube, Chairman,
World War I Internment Project Committee,
Serbian Heritage Museum,
6770 Tecumseh Road East,
Windsor, Ontario
N87 1E6

Dear Anne Dube,

Thank you for inviting me to the unveiling of the plaque commemorating Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 on August 22nd in Windsor. Although I am unable to attend I am pleased to see that the World War I internees are being remembered.

It also strikes a personal note with me. On January 2, 1919, my father Bozidar M. Markovich, secretary of the Srpska Narodna Odbrana during World War I, was instructed by the Consul of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Ante V. Seferovich, to go to the internment camp at Kapuskasing, Ontario and to interrogate the men who were Serbs from the lands of Austria/Hungary and to recommend that they be released. Seferovich cautioned my father that he would be responsible for each man released and that he should, therefore, be on the alert, that no enemy alien be released even though he could speak Serbian. After two days of interviews, after receiving answers to the questions of identity: name, age, birthplace, from where and when they came to Canada, where and when they were imprisoned and why, my father recommended that 164 men be released. He also spoke to a Czech delegation who asked for his and the Consul's help. The Serb internees were the first group to be released from the internment camp at Kapuskasing.

My father wrote about this in "Glas Kanade" in 1938 and I later wrote about it in my book "Srbi u Kanadi" (1965) and in subsequent articles.

Therefore, I am pleased that the plaque is being unveiled in the Serbian Heritage Museum in Windsor and I wish you every success.

Respectfully,

Olga B. Markovich