



**St Sava College**

**1300**

**Corporals**



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*“This is the only example in history where a small country, Serbia, sends its flowers into war, into fighting units. Its future. Its whole intellectual youth, as a last hope for the country’s salvation.”*

- London Observer December 1914.

## WHO WERE THE 1300 CORPORALS?

Following the outbreak of WW1 in June of 1914, Serbia was crushed by the invading Austro-Hungarian Army.

By November, Valjevo and Belgrade had fallen, and the Serbian Army was in retreat. The entire Serbian male population had been mobilised – peasants, professionals, craftsmen and merchants.

Students from all over Serbia and those studying and working in the Austro-Hungarian Empire heeded the call to service, returned to Serbia and were assigned to a military training facility in Skoplje. General Zivojin Misic called all able-bodied men to join forces for a critically important military operation at the Kolubara River.

1300 students, with little to no military training, rallied together, left Skoplje on the 2nd of November and arrived on the front line prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and kin.

The fresh-faced youngsters were immediately given the rank of corporal and from then on became known as the 1300 Corporals. Their inspiring patriotism raised the morale of the dejected and desperate Serbian Army, spurring them on to a decisive military victory over the vastly superior enemy, which culminated in the liberation of Belgrade. Four hundred corporals died in the battle and a further five hundred perished in other military operations before the war ended.



## WHY IS SO LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT THE 1300 CORPORALS TODAY?

The communist leader and lifelong president of post WWII communist Yugoslavia, Josip Broz, was a prominent soldier in the Austro-Hungarian Army during WWI. This army committed unspeakable atrocities against Serbian civilians in western Serbia, an uncomfortable fact that had to be hidden from the broader Yugoslav public and from the Serbs in particular. And so, the story of the 1300 Corporals was washed from the pages of Serbian history.

## WHY IS THEIR STORY SO IMPORTANT?

Thousands of Australian soldiers went to their heroic death in Gallipoli during WWI, a chapter in Australian history that has served as an example of selflessness and sacrifice that will continue to inspire generations as Australia moves forward as the most successful multicultural nation in the world.

The 1300 Corporals, some as young as 16 years of age, students of architecture, mathematics, literature, art, and music, abandoned their studies and sacrificed their lives out of love for their kin and country. For the Serbs, the 1300 Corporals stand side by side with the ANZACS. As Australian Serbs, we can be doubly proud of our legends of yesteryear. Lest we forget!





## **GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS; THAT HE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

**– JOHN 15:13**

These are Christ's own words. And there is an urgency for all of us who call ourselves Christians, to think long and hard about them. Christ sacrificed Himself on the Cross for us and for our salvation. The 1300 Corporals laid down their lives for their countrymen and for freedom. We are called to make sacrifices for others every day, and we should do so joyfully.

## **THE 1300 CORPORALS AND ST. SAVA COLLEGE**

Giving up your life and giving up on life are not the same thing. The 1300 Corporals did not give up on life, rather they gave up their young lives, for very good reason.

We have embarked on a fundraising initiative for the completion of the building project titled, the "St. Sava College Corporals". The Church is calling for 1300 donors, 1300 College Corporals, who will donate \$1,000 each, thus contributing to our target of \$1.3 million needed to assist in school construction projects. 100 years ago, the "last hope of our nation", made the ultimate sacrifice for Serbia. Let us honour them and in their name contribute to the completion of St. Sava College.

\$1,000 is not a paltry amount of money for any individual to part with, but it a very significant contribution to a huge collective effort for which our children, and our children's children will be most grateful. For every \$1,000 donation a donor may choose a name that will be placed on a digital display at the school.

## HOW DO I BECOME A COLLEGE CORPORAL?

**It is simple. Make a fully tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 to the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox College Building Fund.**

All payments will be automatically receipted by email.

Donations are used exclusively for funding the building programme.

**LET US FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!**



**May God bless you all!**