

4. THEMATIC WALK - The Barrack

During the war, huts had been the only home for soldiers. There were no safe fields, no rocks big enough to hide the tiredness and the pain.

After a few days along the first line, the troupes were changed to let the new ones take their place. To find some rest these soldiers could reach the barracks, normally just behind the first line.

In Marmolada zone and in all high mountain frontline, building a hut was the first and actually the biggest difficulty. Avalanches and landslips were a daily routine and the few comfortable places into little valleys or between rocks walls were the most shot by enemies. For these reasons, the most of the huts in Marmolada were built in such impossible positions: seized on the rock faces of the mountain or under them, dugged into their deepness and even under the glacier.

The refugees digged into the rocks, thanks to a huge quantity of explosive, were the safest and the warmest: they were wainscoted to help the rooms warming up using some wood stoves.

Thanks to a double door, the only way to damage them was using mines and explosions. Another kind of refugee was the one called „swallow’s nest“, usually substained by palafittes, that let the hut emerge from the snow during the winter season.

Italian and Austro Hungarian shacks were not so different. We can find daily use objects like combs, clocks, finger-stalls, tobacco, paper, fat for boots, lamps, candles... the most of them well preserved in Marmolada thanks to the ice, where „IceCity“ had been digged by Austrian soldiers.

QUESTIONS:

1. Make a list of all the objects you could find into a shack and speak about them telling their use into a daily life of a soldier in trench.
2. Look around, out of windows: where could the shacks be built here, on the top of Marmolada?