

# Festung Franzensfeste Il Forte di Fortezza

## The Fortress in Franzensfeste/Fortezza

Nach den napoleonischen Kriegen, in denen die Franzosen vor allem dank ihrer schnellen Vorstöße erfolgreich waren, wollte Österreich mit dem Bau von Festungen an seinen Grenzen und an wichtigen Einfallsrouten in das Reich eine derartige Blitzkriegstaktik in Zukunft unterbinden. Erzherzog Johann, Generaldirektor für das Genie- und Fortifikationswesen der gesamten Monarchie, ließ durch Feldgenieuredirektor Franz von Scholl eine Sperrfestung am Süden des engen Wipptales planen, wo bereits 1809 die Tiroler die feindlichen Truppen aufgehalten hatten.

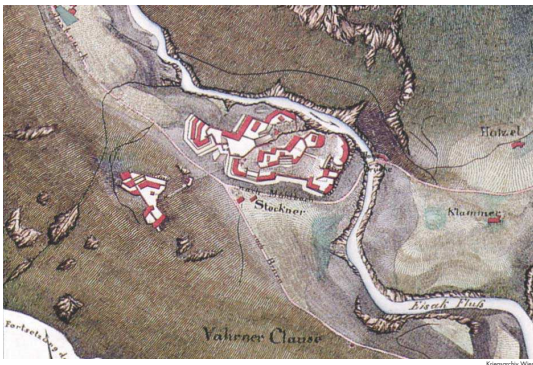
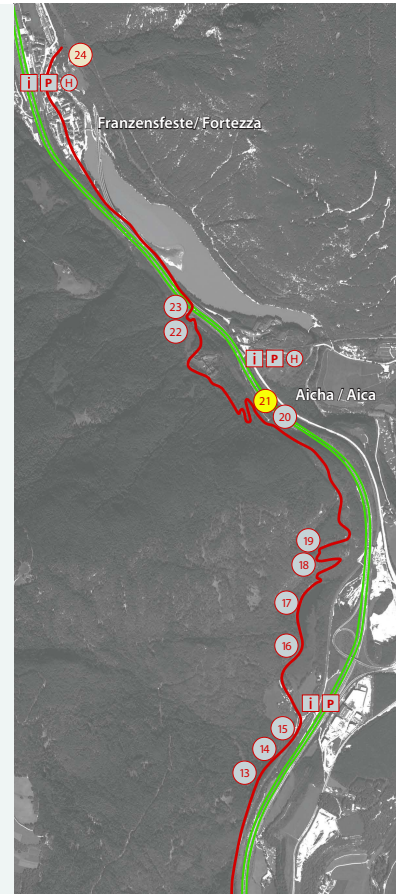
In nur fünf Jahren (1833-1838) wurde die gewaltige Anlage unter der Leitung von Oberstleutnant Karl von Martony errichtet. Rund 6000 Arbeiter und Soldaten waren am Bau beteiligt. Sie waren in der näheren und weiteren Umgebung bis nach Pfunders und Pfalzen im Pustertal untergebracht, wo der besonders harte Granit für die Außenmauern abgebaut wurde. Kalk kam aus Bruneco und St. Vigil in Enneberg, Ton für die rund 20 Millionen Ziegel aus dem Rigger- tal. Die Festung sollte im Ernstfall mit 90 Geschützen und 1200 Soldaten besetzt werden. Dieser Fall trat jedoch nie ein, die Festung wurde 1882 in ein Munitionsdepot umgewidmet und blieb dies bis 2003.

After the Napoleonic Wars in which the French were successful particularly because of their ability to make rapid advances, Austria wanted to reinforce the most-important access routes into its empire by building fortresses on its borders, thus preventing any sudden invasions in the future. Archduke Johann, the General Director of Engineering and Fortifications for the entire monarchy, had Field Engineering Director Franz von Scholl plan a fortified barricade at the southern end of the narrow Wipp Valley/Alta Val d'Isarco where, in the year 1809, the Tyroleans had succeeded in halting the advance of enemy troops. This gigantic fortress was built under the supervision of Lieutenant First Class Karl von Martony in just five years (1833-1838). Approximately 6,000 workers and soldiers participated in its construction. They were housed in nearby lodgings and in surrounding towns as far away as Pfunders/Fundres and Pfalzen/Falzes in the Puster/Pustertal Valley, where the especially hard granite

used to reinforce the fortress's outer walls was quarried. Limestone was delivered from Bruneco/Brunico and St. Vigil in Enneberg. Clay for the approximately 20 million bricks needed came from the Rigger/Riga Valley. For its defence, the fortress was to be equipped with 90 canons and manned by 1,200 soldiers. It was, however, never attacked and in 1882 the fortress was converted into an ammunition depot, a status it maintained until 2003.

*Dopo le guerre napoleoniche, nelle quali i successi francesi erano dovuti soprattutto alle velocissime avanzate, l'Austria si proponeva di bloccare in futuro simili blitz militari grazie alla costruzione di fortificazioni ai confini e lungo le principali vie d'accesso dell'impero. L'arciduca Giovanni, direttore generale del genio militare e delle fortificazioni dell'intera monarchia, fece progettare da Franz von Scholl una fortezza all'ingresso meridionale della Wipptal (Alta Valle Isarco), esattamente dove già nel 1809 i Tirolesi avevano bloccato le truppe nemiche.*

*L'imponente costruzione fu realizzata in soli cinque anni (1833-1838) sotto la direzione del tenente colonnello Karl von Martony. Erano impegnati circa 6000 uomini tra lavoratori e soldati, alloggiati nei dintorni e fino a Fundres e Falzes, in Val Pusteria, dove si estraeva il granito particolarmente resistente destinato alla costruzione delle mura esterne. La calce proveniva da Brunico e San Vigilio di Marebbe; l'argilla, necessaria a produrre i 20 milioni di mattoni, dalla Val Riga. In caso di attacco, la fortezza doveva essere presidiata da 90 cannoni e 1200 soldati. Questo evento non si verificò mai; nel 1882 la fortezza divenne deposito di munizioni e lo rimase fino al 2003.*



Eine der ersten Planzeichnungen der Franzensfeste veranschaulicht, wie sie das enge Tal absperrt.

Una delle prime piante del Forte evidenzia come la costruzione sbarrasse l'ingresso dell'angusta valle.

One of the first plans of the fortress shows how it blocks off the narrow valley.

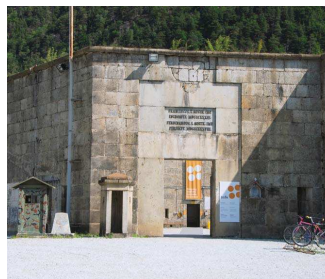


Alte Ansicht der Franzensfeste. / La fortezza in una vecchia veduta. / An older depiction of the fortress.



Nach einer aufwändigen Sanierung wurde die Festung 2008 erstmals für die Bevölkerung geöffnet. 2009 war dort die Landesausstellung »LABYRINTH : FREIHEIT« zu sehen. Dopo complessi lavori di restauro, nel 2008 il Forte è stato aperto per la prima volta al pubblico e nel 2009 ha ospitato la mostra provinciale »LABIRINTO : LIBERTÀ«.

After extensive renovation the fortress was opened to the public for the first time in 2008. In 2009, the provincial exhibition »LABYRINTH OF FREEDOM« was presented in the fortress.



Die untere Festung heute. / Il Forte Basso come si presenta oggi. / The lower fortress as it appears today.