



Veliki vrh (1071 m) je najvišji vrh Banjške planote. Pomembno vlogo je imel v prvi svetovni vojni, ko so bili tu in na sosednjih vrhovih opazovalni položaji avstro-ogrške vojske. V zadnji, 12. ofenzivi, ko se je zgodil avstro-ogrski preboj fronte, je bil v bližini sedež poveljstva skupine Scotti (XV. korpus), ki je bila ena od štirih skupin, udeleženi v preboju. Sledovi vojne so še danes vidni v obliki kavern, jarkov in izravnjav za barake.

Celotno območje Loma je bilo nekaj kilometrov oddaljeno od frontne črte in strateško zelo pomembno za avstro-ogrsko vojsko. Tu je bilo skoncentrirano topništvo, ki se je večkrat izkazalo za zelo učinkovito pri obstreljevanju italijanskih položajev na fronti med Ročinjem in Volčami.

V bližini Loma je bilo najhuje v 11. bitki, ki je potekala avgusta in septembra 1917. Italijanska vojska je takrat hotela čez Banjško planoto prodreti za hrbet avstro-ogrski vojski in ji odrezati zelo pomembno tolminsko mostišče. Eden od ciljev je bil prodreti po soteski potoka Vogršček skozi Lom na greben, kjer stoji Veliki vrh, in se nato spustiti v dolino Idrijce. Načrt ni uspel, saj so zdesetkane čete na položajih pod Lomom odbile vse napade.

Izsek poročila o bojih na Malem vrhu južno od Loma z dne 25. 8. 1917: "Ob 5.30 so izvidnice sporočile, da je sovražnik napadel. /.../ Začel se je 7-urni neprestani boj. Uporabili smo vse: pomožno osebje, topničarje, MG enote s pištolami, ranjence z lažjimi poškodbami... Sovražnik se je večkrat prebil. Strelivo in granate so pohajale. Ostal je samo še majhen delež mož. Situacija je bila brezupna. /.../. Ker smo se vsi zavedali pomembnosti vrha kot ključnega za tolminsko mostišče, so poveljniki in moštvo storili vse, da bi nasprotnika zadržali do prihoda okrepitev."

Fotografije:

1. Opazovalni položaj avstro-ogrške vojske med prvo svetovno vojno na južni strani Velikega vrha (vir: arhiv Petra Kogoj)
2. Pogled iz zaledja soške fronte na Tolminski Lom in strateško pomembne vrhove: Ježo na Kolovratu, koto 640 – Osredek, koto 588 – Selski vrh, Mrzli vrh in koto 771 – Čukla (vir: arhiv Petra Kogoj)
3. Vojaške barake v zaledju pod zaselkom Široko. Področje Loma je bilo pomembno zaledno območje, tu je bilo močno skoncentrirano avstro-ogrsko topništvo. (vir: arhiv Petra Kogoj)
4. V Lomu je bilo več začasnih vojaških pokopališč, tudi med hišami, ki so bile zaradi topniškega obstreljevanja večinoma močno poškodovane. (vir: arhiv ÖNB – Avstrijske nacionalne knjižnice)

Veliki vrh (1071 m) is the highest peak of the Banjšice Plateau. It had an important role during World War I, as the Austro-Hungarian army had observation posts on this and neighbouring peaks. In the last, 12th, offensive, when the Austro-Hungarians broke through the front line, the base of the Scotti company (XV Corps) was located nearby. This was one of four corps that participated in the breakthrough. Traces of the war can be still seen today in the caverns, trenches, and the levelling of the barracks.

The whole Lom area was a few kilometres away from the front line, and therefore of significant strategic importance for the Austro-Hungarian army. The artillery was concentrated here, which frequently very efficiently shelled the positions of the Italian army on the front line between Ročinje and Volče.

The most harrowing battle that took place near Lom was the 11th battle, which was fought in August and September of 1917. The Italian army was trying to flank the Austro-Hungarian army through the Banjšice Plateau, and cut-off the Austro-Hungarian army's access to the very important Tolmin bridgehead. One of the goals was to make an approach via the gorge of the Vogršček creek, and through Lom, to reach the Veliki vrh ridge and then descend into the Idrijca valley. The plan failed, as the decimated troops in positions below Lom managed to repel all the attacks.

Extract from the report on the battle on Mali vrh, south of Lom, from 25 August 1917: "At 5:30 a.m., the scouts reported that the enemy attacked. /.../ A 7-hour unrelenting battle began. We used everyone: auxiliary personnel, artillerymen, MG units with guns, lightly wounded soldiers... The enemy broke through multiple times. We were running out of ammunition and grenades. Only a small portion of men remained. The situation was hopeless. /.../. As we all understood the key significance of the peak for the Tolmin bridgehead, the commanders and troops did everything to hold off the enemy until the arrival of the reinforcements."

Photos:

1. Observation post of the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I, on the south side of the Veliki Vrh (source: Archive of Peter Kogoj)
2. View from the rear of the Battles of the Isonzo on Tolminski Lom and strategically important peaks: Ježo na Kolovratu, Height 640 – Osredek, Height 588 – Selski vrh, Mrzli vrh and Height 771 – Čukla (source: Archive of Peter Kogoj)
3. Army barracks below Široko hamlet. The Lom area was an important support area, as Austro-Hungarian artillery was heavily concentrated here. (source: Archive of Peter Kogoj)
4. There were several temporary army graveyards, even between houses, which were mostly heavily damaged due to artillery fire. (source: ÖNB Archive – Austrian National Library)

