

Question for written answer E-006131/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Elena Lizzi (ID)

Subject: Rehabilitation of soldiers executed by firing squad during the First World War

In November 2008, France rehabilitated, politically, 675 soldiers executed between 1914 and 1918, including those 'shot as an example' after being convicted of mutiny, desertion, disobedience or self-mutilation. Great Britain has passed a law clearing the names of 306 soldiers executed during the Great War. Italy, where 750 soldiers were sentenced to death and shot by firing squad, and to whose numbers must be added the victims of summary executions, has started a legislative procedure that has not yet been finalised. The victims include the four 'fusilaz' (men executed by firing squad) in Cercivento: Silvio Ortis from Paluzza, Giovan Battista Corradazzi from Forni di Sopra, Basilio Matiz from Timau and Angelo Massaro from Maniago, members of the 109th Company of the 8th Regiment, the Arvenis Battalion, found guilty of 'desertion' because they refused to make an assault in broad daylight on the eastern peak of the Creta di Collinetta, an order the Alpine troops said would be suicidal. Tried by a military war tribunal they were sentenced to execution by firing squad, on 1 July 1916. Over a century later, finding a way to restore the honour of these hundreds of thousands of victims is surely not too much to ask.

Given the above, can the Commission say what position it will take on the historical rehabilitation of members of the armed forces of all Member States who were sentenced by military war tribunals to execution by firing squad during the First World War?