

History:

In the year 1287 the existence of an armed citizenship in the City of Salzburg is documented the first time. Within the expiation document issued by Archbishop Rudolf von Hohenegg, you can read in the 2nd part, paragraph 9:

"We also order and demand everybody to maintain armour and weaponry owned by the townspeople according to acquirement to support the monastery and to protect the town, and that nobody should be unarmed. Those who do not own weaponry, should procure his own armour latest at Saint John in solstice period (June 24) according to his capability. The town magistrate and the vicegerent should hold inspection twice a year, and those who cannot exhibit his own armour, have to pay one Pound to the town and, furthermore, he has to procure his own armour."

This expiation document serves as an instrument for the archbishop to be able to resolve disputes between poor and rich citizens of the town, which would have been carried out with arms. Moreover, this document enacts the eldest municipal law of Salzburg. This municipal law was not just valid for the city of Salzburg, but also for all cities of the archbishopric.

Dividing the citizens into rich and poor does not mean an evaluation in respect of materialism. In fact the controversy had his source in the ambition of the old patrician families to excuse their leading position in the town against a comparatively large group of successful immigrants.

Having passed 564 years of changeful history the Civil Guard was liquidated in 1851.

Refoundation:

On January 17th, 1979 the congregation for the refoundation of the New Civil Guard was held on the initiative of Erwin Markl and Walter Gross. Hence the refoundation was fulfilled.

From 1990, respectively 1997 the Civil Guard was continued under the direction of Capt. and Chairman Gert Korell, until beginning of 2010. From this time Ing. Ernst Mosshammer assumed the administration of the Civil Guard as Cavalry Captain. The uniformed corps was under the leadership of Capt. Helmut Gleich.

The Civil Guard of Salzburg is an inherent part of various events in the town. Thus townscape is not imaginable without it.

The equipment of the uniformed corps was based on the historic gouaches of the collection of pictures showing traditional costumes of the Kuenburg dynasty (2nd part of 18th century).



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Events of the Civil Guard today

During a year two important events take place in the town. These are:

Georgikirchweih / Georgikirtag:

(church anniversary in favor of Saint Georg)

Around April, 23, the day of St. Georg, the patron of the church of the fortress Hohensalzburg, the civil guard organizes the Georgi-Kirchweih festival at the fortress and at the Kapitelplatz, a famous square in the center of the old town.

The Georgi-Kirchweih festival at the fortress, also called the festival dult (folk festival), was the only possibility for the private citizens to attain the festival district. Until mid of the 20th century this folk festival took place every year at the inner ward of the fortress with mobile traders, bear trainers and gotscheberers (traders coming from Slovenia). In 1982, after 30 years of recess, the Georgi-Kirchweih festival was revived by Erwin Markl and the civil guard.

One highlight during the festival was the Georgi ride, performed on Sunday, led by the flag of the cavalry civil guard, moving from the Kapitelplatz via the Old Town and finally up to the Fortress of Hohensalzburg. Adjacent, after the mass at the Georgi church, the benediction of the numerous horses and riders happened.



During the Georgi-Kirchweih festival a big festival tent is erected at the Kapitelplatz, with music and fine food for all the guests and participants.



Martini:

Around November 11th the Civil Guard celebrates the next highlight of its yearly schedule: Saint Martin, whose relic is preserved in the Cathedral of Salzburg. Saint Martin is, amongst others, the patron of Salzburg and the Civil Guard of this town.

At the beginning of this festival there is celebrated Mass in the cathedral, where the Civil Guard personates the honor guard. Subsequently the establishment of the Civil Guard and the companies of the shooters takes place for the purpose of the ceremonial act at the Kapitelplatz. The Civil Guard is represented by all its departments, the halberdiers, the standard bearers, the musicians and jugglers, the guards' daughters, the falconers and the riders bearing flags.

In the context of this ceremonial act the adjuration of new members of the Civil Guard and advance-

ments take place. Finally the pageant is leading through the left part of the old town, ending again at the Kapitelplatz.



The second part of the Martini celebration consists of a shooting match of the crossbow shooting guild on the Mönchsberg. This yearly competition leads back to an earlier shooting fight of the army, that was obligatory for the citizens.



Within a number of further festivals of the City of Salzburg during a year, for example the harvest festival, the opening of the Ruperti Kirtag (church anniversary in favor of Saint Rupert), Mass celebration of the Saint Rupert Fraternity etc., the Civil Guard is present.