

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zvonko Springer is born in Osijek June 12, 1925 and went to the Primary school in Osijek for the school periods of 1931/32 to 1934/5. He continued his education at the Boys Real-Gymnasium in Osijek where he graduated with the baccalaureate in June 1943. He was called to the army service of Hrvatski Domobran (Croatian Home Guard) of the Independent State of Croatia (short NDH) late in October 1943.

In October 1944 he completes the military training for an artillery officer at the Military Academy in Stockerau (near Vienna, Austria) and returns to Croatia. Here he waits for further order from the NDH's Ministry of Defense. He is promoted to a Lieutenant Junior and ordered to the frontline at Osijek late December 1944. He was a Junior Officer in charge of gunners in the 1st Howitzer Battery and served in it through the withdrawal of Croatian armed forces westwards. He surrenders to the Yugoslav army (YA) near Slovenj Gradec (Slovenia) in the night of May 14/15, 1945. He was a Prisoner of War (POW) of the Yugoslav Army from May 15 until August 8, 1945. Later he was released from a prisoners' camp upon the General Amnesty and Pardon for Domobran Officers. Only then he could return home at Osijek arriving there on August 15, 1945.

In October 1945 he enrolls to study at the Department of Civil Engineering of Technical Faculty to the University Zagreb. In February 1952 he graduates as the Diploma Civil Engineer specialized for Structural Engineering. First he is employed as an Elder assistant in the Laboratory for testing of Building Materials and from October 1952 works as a structural engineer in an Architectural Design Bureau in Zagreb too. He is nominated to a University Assistant in August 1955 at the Cathedra "Strength of materials" and "Testing of materials". Parallel to this he organizes and lectures in several professional courses of the Civil Engineers' Society in Zagreb. He assists several architectural bureaus as structural engineer producing many structural projects including the one of Yugoslav pavilion on the World Fair in Brussels 1958.

In November 1961 he leaves Zagreb for good and acts as a Senior Lecturer at the Khartoum Technical Institute (Sudan). After his 3-year contract expired in August 1964 he moves to Mombassa (Kenya) to a new post as a Chief Structural Engineer with the Bamburi Portland Cement Co. Ltd. Works at Bamburi. He enters into a private contract with a Swiss parent company in Zurich and is seconded on a new duty to Salzburg (Austria) in February 1967. He sets up there and manages a design office for the Cement Industry and becomes the Design Office Director in 1972. The office produces many projects and provides project management and supervision of construction sites mostly in tropical countries like Kenya, Nigeria, Brazil, Venezuela, the Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Islands in the Indian Ocean.

During his 35+ years of Civil Engineering profession attends several professional symposia and seminars, starts and organizes various activities, publishes articles and reports as well as cooperates and supervises many important projects. In 1988 he enrolls on his 2nd study at the Institute of Computer Science to Faculty on Natural Sciences of Salzburg University. He remains in good contact with the Institute and continues publishing many of articles on his homepage at URL:

<<http://www.cosy.sbg.ac.at/~zzspri/index.html>>

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