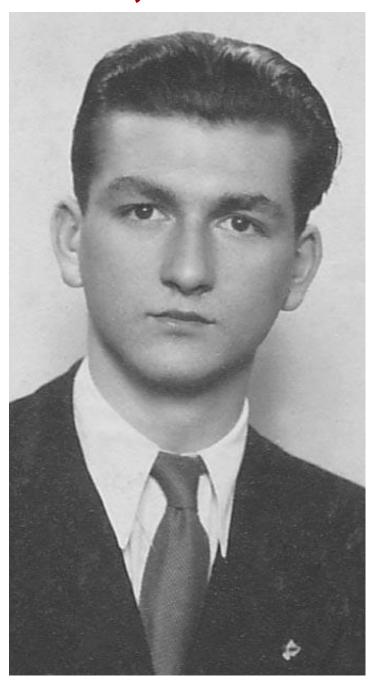
MAGYARIERONT

Vol. XXIII, No. 4

FALL 2021



A PERSONAL TRIBUTE SHINES LIGHT ON HUNGARIAN HISTORY



FRONTLINE FIGHTERS' SPRING STILL FLOWING IN HUNGARY

PLUS
PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED PERIOD COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS
CAPTURE THE HUNGARIAN FRONTLINE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

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MAGYAR FRONT VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 4 FALL 2021

Published quarterly by **Peter Czink, Editor-Designer**

The New Front: (International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society)

"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Peter Czink

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Membership in the International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society is \$40.00 annually and includes the *Magyar Front*.

The original *Magyar Front* was the weekly newspaper of the Frontline Fighter's Association, and was published from the early 1930s until the end of the Second World War.

A note from the Editor

This issue of the *Magyar Front* features two Americans of Hungarian heritage. Zoltán v. Kőrössy needs no introduction to anyone involved with Hungarian military history - he (along with his late father) has collected and preserved militaria related to the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie for a very long time, and Hungary has finally honoured him with the Gold Cross of Merit.

In my opinion this should have been done long ago, and he deserves much more as far as accolades go, but sadly Hungarian officialdom is rather reluctant to nurture, support, or to recognize Hungarians abroad who serve our cause out of devotion, rather than national obligation. His level of sincerity and patriotism is as rare as the artifacts he has donated to Hungary.

The other individual this issue focuses on is Dr. Steven B. Szigethy in a tribute by his son Stephen. We don't often encounter this kind of dedication to historical preservation by someone who isn't employed by a museum or institution, and I found that as I worked on the *Magyar Front* I was also preparing a tribute of my own. I'm sure that Stephen - a police officer and family man, has plenty on his plate at the best of times, yet he has gone above and beyond during the pandemic, to share our history with the public. I am sure that his work will inspire a great many people.

I was privileged to receive help from others throughout the production of this publication - from Tamás Baczoni, Péter v. Laborc, Gergely Sallay, and Lorraine Weideman as usual, along with Róbert Orbán who assisted with the Rábagyarmat piece.

IHMHPS members will shortly receive my year-end message. Although the *Magyar Front* is primarily digital these days, there are still expenses - most of which are the domain and webspace costs. In the past, with the high cost of printing, membership fees didn't come close to covering expenses but at least now we can break even. I encourage you to support the International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society.

I would also like to reiterate how I feel that sharing your interests and collections will always increase your enjoyment of them - consider putting together an article for the *Magyar Front*. You'll have access to lots of help, so don't worry if you've never written an article before. Even the most common badge or photo can be presented in ways which are fresh and interesting.

I thank you all for your continued support and wish you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season and good health for the new year.

P.Cz.

Support and promote our cause!



MAGYAR FRONT LAPEL PINS
Available in gold (left) and antique gold (right).

(The bright gold version can be worn on the ribbon of the IHMHPS 2014-2018

Commemorative Cross.)

Shown actual size.



IHMHPS 2014-2018 COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

(Right) Available by donation* (any amount is appreciated).



Embroidered insignia (Left) \$5.00* each





2008-2018 Badge (Left) \$10.00* each

^{*}Donations and payments can be made via Paypal (czink@shaw.ca). Postage not included.

Zoltán v. Kőrössy Receives the Gold Cross of Merit



International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society member Zoltán v. Kőrössy has been awarded the Hungarian Gold Cross of Merit (Magyar Arany Érdemkereszt) for his decades of devotion to the preservation of the history of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, and his donation of artifacts and documents to the Veritas Historical

Research Institute and Archives in Hungary. The artifacts will be incorporated into a re-creation of a Gendarmerie barracks in the Ópusztaszer National Historical Park. Kőrössy's private collection of Gendarmerie items, books, and documents was the only one

of its kind in North America, and combined with the comprehensive work he and his wife Katalin have done online (www.csendor.com), the public will have a much broader exposure to the subject.



A Personal Tribute Shines Light on Hungarian History

by Stephen Szigethy with Peter Czink

International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society member Stephen Szigethy generously shares his deep interest in his Hungarian heritage and history with fellow Americans at the Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.



Patrolman Stephen Szigethy

Stephen Szigethy was born in Terre Haute, Indiana and lived in Oblong, Illinois where he graduated high school in 2003. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving from 2003 to 2011 as a civil engineer with deployments to Iraq in 2005 and 2007, and Afghanistan in 2010. He graduated from Eastern Illinois University in December 2009 with a degree in history.

Following his military service, he served as a police officer for the Eastern Illinois University Police Department from 2011 to 2018, and then switched departments to join the Charleston Police Department. He has been a member of the Coles County Crisis Response Team (SWAT) and a field training officer. Stephen is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Knights of Columbus.

"I really became interested in my Hungarian roots when I was in high school and traveled to Hungary several times with my late father." Stephen recalls. "He was from Répcelak, Hungary - it was amazing to see where he grew up and the cities he lived in. My father continued his yearly visits to Hungary until he could no longer travel overseas."

Stephen's interest really picked up again when he attended graduate school at Eastern Illinois University, while writing a research paper about the Hungarian Uprising. "Although my father was not particularly open about telling me stories from the Uprising, he thought I did an excellent job." He graduated in December 2016 with a Masters Degree in Modern World History: Concentration in Middle Eastern Studies. Once his father passed, he began to look though some of his items and noticed some things from the Uprising. "He had pictures, propaganda leaflets, medals etc. - all kind of hidden away."

Stephen decided he wanted to create an exhibition to tell his father's story. "After he left Hungary, he went on to become a successful doctor and father. Not a lot of people, especially Americans, know about the Hungarian Uprising so I wanted to raise awareness about this important part of Hungarian history. I also wanted to make sure my wife and two children could get to know about our family origins and my kids' grandfather's struggle to make a life for himself in a new country."



Béla Dénes István (Steven) Szigethy



A compilation of artifacts featured at "The Hungarian Uprising at 65: An Exhibit." Courtesy of Jessica Nantes - www.dailyeasternnews.com



The Daily Eastern News
"Booth to Open Exhibit on Hungarian Uprising" by Corryn Brock, Editor-in-Chief, October 10, 2021

An exhibit on the Hungarian Uprising of 1956 will open at Booth Library on Monday at 5pm. Issues leading up to the uprising began in October 1956, "when thousands of protesters took to the streets demanding a more democratic political system and freedom from Soviet oppression," according to the History Channel.

In response to the protesters, officials from the Communist Party appointed Imre Nagy as the new premier, after he had been removed from office following his critique of Stalinlist policies. Nagy asked the Soviets to remove their troops and after they did, he attempted to push the Hungarian revolt by abolishing the one-party rule and announcing Hungary was withdrawing from the Warsaw Pact. On November 4th, 1956, Soviet tanks went to Budapest to put an end to the uprising. Fighting broke out in the streets, but the Soviets overpowered the Hungarian citizens.

History professor Edmund Wehrle said people, especially students, should come look at the exhibit to see the strength of college students in the uprising. "The exhibit commemorates the 1956 Hungarian Uprising, which involved hundreds of thousands of young people challenging a brutal Hungarian communist governments and the Soviet Union which moved in with enormous power to break the uprising. In many ways, the uprising is yet another example of young people trying to remake their worlds... So this is an important moment in history that we're commemorating - and the moment driven by young people, many university students," Wehrle said. "The exhibit features some wonderful artifacts collected by Stephen Szigethy, a community member whose father was one of the freedom fighters involved in the uprising."

The exhibit has been dedicated to Stephen Szigethy's father, Dr. Steven B. Szigethy [born Béla Dénes István Szigethy], a man who was involved in the uprising and later settled in Oblong, Illinois. "Dr. Szigethy was lucky in the sense that he managed to escape Hungary after the Soviets moved in and crushed the rebellion," Wehrle said. "He came to the West and went to medical school and later on practiced for many years in Oblong."

Wehrle said he believes it is important to show local ties to issues from across the globe when applicable. Though Dr. Szigethy died a few years ago, Wehrle said his story is still important for people to know... Wehrle said if he could sum up what he hopes visitors take away from the exhibit it one word, it would be bravery. "...those involved in the Hungarian Uprising in 1956 shown an almost unbelievable level of bravery," Wehrle said. "This is what humans are capable of doing."

"I would invite students and the Charleston community to give this small exhibit a few minutes of their time," Wehrle said. "It tells an amazing historical story, and I think people from all different types of background will be able to relate to this experience."



The Daily Eastern News
"Through the Lens: The Hungarian Uprising at 65..." by Jessica Nantes and Rob Le Cates, October 11, 2021

A compilation of artifacts featured at The Hungarian Uprising at 65: An Exhibit that opened Monday afternoon. The 1956 Hungarian Uprising was a revolt by the Hungarians against the ruling Communist Party and Soviet led policies which crippled Hungary after World War II. Over 100,000 Hungarian citizens became freedom fighters and the uprising consisted of events over the course of two weeks, starting with a student protest on October 23rd in Budapest, Hungary and ending with Soviet leadership and artillery suppressing the Uprising on November 10th. More than 2,500 Hungarians and 700 Soviet troops were killed in these conflicts and 200,000 Hungarians fled as refugees.

"The Hungarian Uprising at 65: An Exhibit" opened Monday afternoon and will be at Eastern until November. This exhibit will showcase real artifacts from the revolt and honor civilians involved in the uprising.

Some protesters retreated into exile, some coming to central Illinois. Among them was Dr. Steven B. Szigethy who later settled and practiced medicine in Oblong, Illinois. This exhibit is dedicated to Szigethy.

Szigethy's son Stephen wanted to share his late father's legacy by compiling artifacts from the Hungarian Uprising. He said he hopes that this exhibit will educate students and bring awareness for the uprising and those impacted.

Journal Gazette & Times-Courier "Officer Shares Ties to Hungarian Revolt" by Athena Pajer, October 14, 2021

Stephen Szigethy has been serving the Charleston community for years, as a police officer with Eastern Illinois University and the Charleston Police Department, and as a veteran in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, he is sharing even more, with his family's connection to an important piece of history – one that is often overlooked. Szigethy is the son of Hungarian immigrant Dr. Steven B. Szigethy, who died in January 2020. His father fled to Canada in the wake of turmoil caused by Hungary's revolution against the Soviet Union in the 1950s. "When he left, he pretty much left with just the clothes on his back," said his son. "He didn't really talk a whole lot about it."

Stephen Szigethy did, however, remember several stories. His father was a participant in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, which caused thousands of Hungarians to emigrate to the United States and Canada, and many others to lose their lives in the conflict

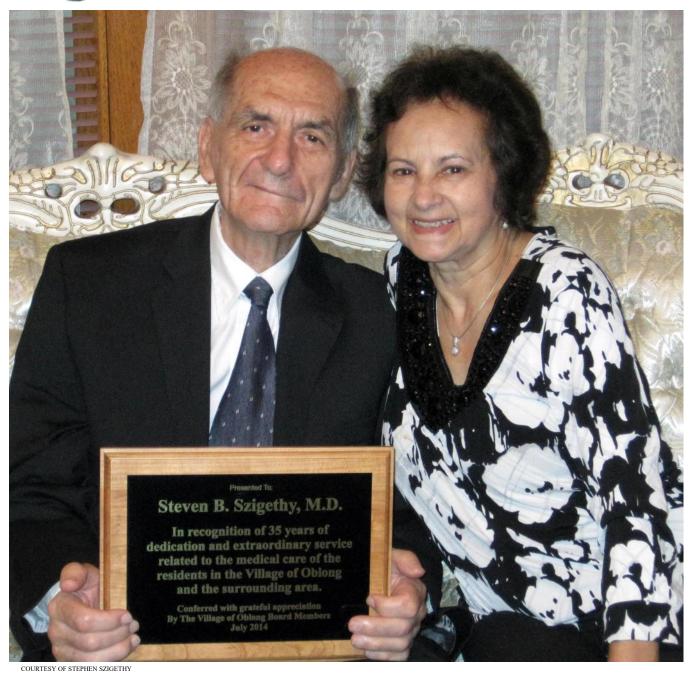
Once, his father told him how he and a group of the revolutionaries ran a firehose into the office of the communist secret police and flooded the building, forcing those inside to exit. "He knew what his participation would likely mean if he was caught."



Left: Dr. Szigethy's 1956 related awards The Hazáért Érdemkereszt (Cross of Merit for the Homeland)
and the Szabad Magyarországért Érdemkereszt (Cross of Merit for
a Free Hungary) issued by the Magyar Politikai Elítéltek
Közössége (Hungarian Political Dissidents' Association),
an organization founded on July 2nd, 1991 to represent political
dissidents, resisters, and prisoners from the 1945 to 1956 period;
to preserve the memory of those who fell victim to communist
terror; and to authentically document their lives.
The third award is the 1956 Veteran's Commemorative
Medal issued by the Magyar Harcosok Bajtársi Közössége
(Hungarian Veterans' Association).

Below: Stephen's father, and his mother Maria in 2014.

Pages 9, 10, and 11: The results of Hungarian history awareness raising - courtesy of Stephen Szigethy







A Proclamation by the Mayor of the City of Charleston

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2021, the 65th Anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising, people of Hungarian descent throughout Illinois and the world will commemorate this historic event and pay tribute to heroes who against overwhelming odds made tremendous sacrifices for the cause of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1956, a nationwide revolt against the government of the Hungarian People's Republic and its Soviet-imposed policies began, lasting until November 10, 1956. Over 100,000 ordinary citizens turned "Freedom Fighters," becoming the first major threat to Soviet control since the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the revolt began as a peaceful demonstration led by university students, which attracted thousands who marched through central Budapest from the statue of General Jozef Bem to the Parliament building with the intention of having their 16 points read; shots were fired from within the building at the protestors, and the peaceful protest turned into a revolution; and WHEREAS, as news of the revolution spread throughout the city and eventually the countryside, a new government lead by Imre Nagy called for Hungarians to unite for reform, pledged for free elections and to free political prisoners. Hungary would formally declare its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, Soviet Forces invaded Budapest and other regions of Hungary to suppress the revolt—over 2,500 Hungarians along with 700 Soviet Troops lost their lives in the uprising while over 200,000 fled Hungary; mass arrests ensued including Prime Minister Imre Nagy by Soviet forces along with thousands of Hungarians, who would be subsequently tried, tortured or executed; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1989, the Hungarian Parliament officially proclaimed October 23rd a Hungarian National Holiday—and with the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, Hungary officially became a member of NATO as of March 12, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Hungarian Americans and their descendants have contributed greatly to the economic development, multicultural diversity and enrichment of all aspects of life in the state of Illinois and the United States of America through science, education, medicine, government service, business & industry, and the arts;

NOW, THEREFORE, do I Brandon Combs, Mayor of the City of Charleston, recognize October 2021 as Hungarian Freedom Month and October 23, 2021, as Hungarian Freedom Fighter Day.

Dated this 18 day of Suptember 2021.

Attest: John L Muller

Brandon Combs, Mayor City of Charleston, Illinois

COURTESY OF STEPHEN SZIGETHY

NORTH DAKOTA

= PROCLAMATION ===

HUNGARIAN FREEDOM DAY

OCTOBER 23, 2021

WHEREAS, this year marks the 65th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising, and Hungarians throughout North Dakota and the world will commemorate this historic event and pay tribute to the women and men who against overwhelming odds made tremendous sacrifices for the cause of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1956, a nationwide revolt against the government of the Hungarian People's Republic and its Soviet-imposed policies began, lasting until November 10, 1956; over 100,000 ordinary citizens became Freedom Fighters in the first major threat to Soviet control since the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the revolt began as a demonstration led by university students, which attracted thousands of men, women and children who marched through central Budapest from the statute of General Jozef Bem to the Parliament building; as protestors continued to march to the Hungarian Radio Building to have their 16 points read, shots were fired into the demonstration, turning the peaceful protest into a revolution; and

WHEREAS, as news of the revolution spread throughout the city and into the countryside, a new government led by Imre Nagy called for Hungarians to unite for reform and pledged for free elections and to liberate political prisoners, and Hungary formally declared its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 1956, Soviet Forces invaded Budapest and other regions of Hungary to suppress the revolt, and intense fighting continued until November 10; over 2,500 Hungarians along with 700 Soviet troops lost their lives in the uprising, while over 200,000 fled Hungary; mass arrests by Soviet forces ensued in Hungary following the uprising, which included Prime Minister Imre Nagy along with thousands of Hungarians; they would be subsequently tried, tortured or executed; and

WHEREAS, with the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, Hungary officially became a member of NATO; and the Hungarian Parliament officially proclaimed October 23 as a Hungarian National Holiday; and

WHEREAS, Hungarian Americans and their descendants have contributed to the economic development, multicultural diversity and enrichment of all aspects of life in the United States and the state of North Dakota.

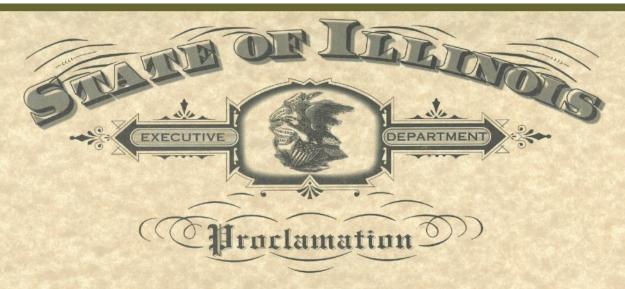
NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 23, 2021, HUNGARIAN FREEDOM DAY in the State of North Dakota.

ND FOREVE ON THE PART OF THE P

Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger SECRETARY OF STATE

COURTESY OF STEPHEN SZIGETHY



WHEREAS, October 23, 2021, marks the 65th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising - a peaceful protest led by university students to promote democracy and end the Soviet-dominated, communist government; and,

WHEREAS, Hungarians throughout the world will commemorate this historic event and pay tribute to the heroes who, against overwhelming odds, made tremendous sacrifices for the cause of freedom and democracy; and,

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1956, over 100,000 ordinary citizens became "Freedom Fighters" and risked their lives as they took over factories, weapon depots, and Soviet tanks, establishing a revolutionary government that created a multi-party democracy and released political prisoners; and,

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union launched a military counter-offensive to suppress the revolt, resulting in Prime Minister Imre Nagy's arrest by Soviet forces along with thousands of Hungarians, who would be subsequently tried, tortured or executed; and.

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 Hungarians fled their country in the aftermath of the Soviet suppression of the uprising, with over 47,000 of these people eventually settling in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is proud to be called home to a large number of Magyar people outside of Hungary; Hungarian Americans and their descendants have contributed greatly to the economic development, multicultural diversity, and enrichment of all aspects of life in the state of Illinois and throughout the United States of America through government service, science, education, medicine, business and industry;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby memorialize the 65th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising, designate the month of October as Hungarian Freedom Month, and proclaim October 23rd as Hungarian Freedom Fighter Day, encouraging all Illinoisans, especially our Hungarian Americans, to reflect on the events of the 1956 and Hungary's long struggle for freedom and independence.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



this TWENTY-NINTH day of OCTOBER, in

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

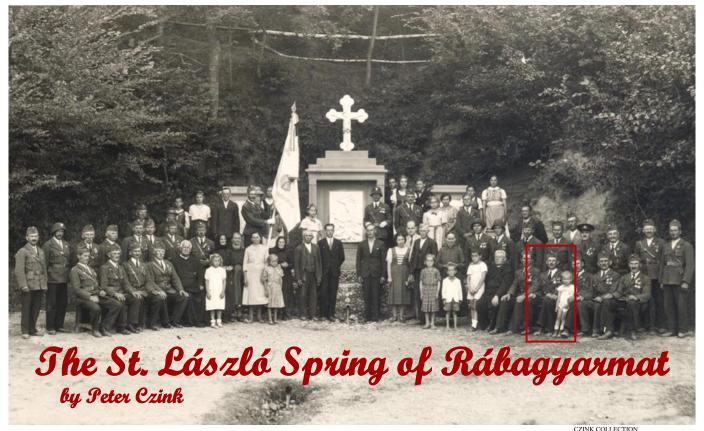
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

TWENTY-ONE , and of the State of Illinois,

two hundred and ____

noe White SECRETARY OF STATE

COURTESY OF STEPHEN SZIGETHY



I have come to know that it's often the modest items in our collections that can bring us the most joy and contribute significantly to our accumulated knowledge of our favourite subjects. I had the good fortune of adding a very interesting photograph to my collection recently – or a group of Frontline Fighters posed in front of an unusual monument. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that it still exists (most pre-1945 veterans' association tributes are long gone).

On the reverse of this real-photo postcard is "Rábagyarmat Szent László Forrás 1939" written in pencil. The St. László Spring is located in the village of Rábagyarmat, Hungary. Originally called Szentkút, or Holy Well, this source of water was renamed in 1939 when the local chapter of Frontline Fighters converted it to a First World War monument with the help of relatives who had emigrated to the United States. St. László is the patron saint of patriots and soldiers, and the monument was innaugurated on August 6th, 1939.

It consists of three separate parts. The largest is a pedestal in the centre featuring a relief of St. László facilitating the flow of life-giving water, which is surmounted by a crucifix. There are two smaller structures on either side of it – the one on the right bears the insignia of the Frontline Fighters' Association; and the one on the left bears the inscription: "Sz. László Forrás – Isten és a Haza Nagyobb Dicsőségére Közadakozásból és Amerikai Véreink Segítségével Építették a Rábagyarmati Frontharcosok – 1939." ("To the Greater Glory of God and the Homeland – Built by the Frontline Fighters of Rábagyarmat with Public Donations and the Help of Our American Relatives – 1939.") Forty-three names (reproduced on the faceing page) are inscribed onto the these two elements of the monument, and some online sources refer to them as the names of the World War I casualties of Rábagyarmat. I believe, however, that they are the names of the donors who financed the project and/or the members of the Rábagyarmat Chapter of the Frontline Fighters' Association. One name carries the title vitéz – the awarding of that honour began two years after the end of the First World War. There is also one veteran in the photo wearing the insignia (see the enlargement at right). Since he happens to be the only one



vitéz Németh György t. gyalogos, földm., Rábagyarmat. *1895, Rábagyarmat. Bev. a 83 gye-hez. Ol.

wearing the corresponding badge, and I have found a vitéz György Németh from Rábagyarmat listed in the *Vitézek Albuma*, it is very likely that this is the man in the photo whose name is listed on the monument.

It is still cared for by the people of Rábagyarmat, in Vas County, Hungary. One the facing page are three photos of the monument - the first is from 1939, the second from 2010, and the third is from 2020.





JÓZSEF KOVÁCS-BARNA PHOTOGRAPH

BENCZIK JÓZSEF **DOLGOS FERENC DOLGOS KÁROLY** DANCSES ISTVÁN **EBENSPANCER GYULA** ERNHOFFER JÁNOS **ERNHOFFER LAJOS** HAKLAR GÉZA HORVÁTH JÁNOS **HUSZÁR GYÖRGY HUSZÁR?** JOO JÓZSEF **KOVÁCS GYULA** KOVÁCS FERENC KOVÁCS IMRE **KOVÁCS JÁNOS** KOVÁCS JÓZSEF **KOCSIS LAJOS** KÖBLI REZSŐ **KUNTÁR GYÖRGY MESICS IMRE MESICS KÁROLY** MONCZ SÁNDOR **NAGY ERNŐ NAGYIMRE** NAGY JÓZSEF VITÉZ NÉMETH GYÖRGY PALI GYÖRGY PENZ JÓZSEF PETHŐ JÁNOS **PUSKÁS JÁNOS** PRANDER JÁNOS ROMMER LŐRINC SALLER LAJOS TAKÓ IMRE TÁMIS IMRE **TÓTH GYÖRGY TÓTH IMRE TÓTH JÁNOS** TÓTH JÓZSEF TÓTH KÁROLY VÉBER ISTVÁN

CZINK COLLECTION

Veterans Farade in the Castle District In Colour!

by Peter Czink

Many years ago, I bought a few prints made from negatives found at a flea market in Hungary. They were taken by an amateur photographer, and capture moments of a parade in the Buda Castle district sometime in the late 1930s. Their composition is far from perfect, however, since colour photography was in its infancy at that time, these images are truly special.

The picture below and at left features a Frontline Fighters' Association marching band - the men who wear visor caps are either members of the Motor Corps or the





BSzKrt/BHÉV (Budapest Székesfővárosi Közlekedési Részvénytársaság, or Budapest Transport Company/Budapest Helyiérdekű Vasút, or Budapest Local Interest Railway). Policemen in white summer tunics and helmets take care of crowd control.

The contingency of veterans continues in the photo above right - many of the members wear distinctive shoulder cords which may be a symbol of their affiliation to volunteer paramilitary "rifle associations."

On the facing page, at the top, is a remarkable photograph featuring a squad of the Royal Life Guard and the Parliament Guard marching down Tárnok Street. Their colourful uniforms were vivid reminders of Hungary's rich history. The insignia on the tricolour bunting is that of IBUSZ - Idegenforgalmi Beszerzési Utazási és Szállítási Részvénytársaság (Tourism Procurement and Transport Company).

In the photograph below it, members of HONSz - Hadirokkantak, Hadiözvegyek és Hadiárvák Országos Nemzeti Szövetsége (National War Invalids, Widows and Orphans Association), march past. The outline of their unique woven patch can be seen on some of their upper arms, while distinctive HONSz rank insignia can be seen worn on their cuffs. The tall gentleman (second from the right) is Ferenc Sárkány, the president of the HONSz VI District Chapter.



CZINK COLLECTION



15



FROM THE PIAVE TO THE DON, FROM THE DON TO THE DANUBE

The Military History of Hungary

1918-1945

Permanent exhibition of the MoD Military History Institute and Museum

Open from 26 June 2021





