

MAGYAR FRONT



Vol. XIX, No. 2

Spring 2017

ORIGINS OF THE HUNGARIAN FRONTLINE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION



**Plus:
Motor Corps
Updates**

*Inside
the Szolnok
Aviation
Museum*

Hungarian Frontline
Fighters' Association
founder Elemér Kertész
(page 11)



www.NewFront.ca

A note from the Editor

The inspiration for this issue's feature article came from an old, yellowed, four-page picture supplement from a Hungarian newspaper. The Saturday, August 10th, 1929 issue of the *Képes Pesti Hírlap* to be exact, displayed what I believe is the first ever published image of the Frontline Fighters' Association insignia (while that organization was still only a sub-group of the Hungarian National Defence Association). It was surely a water colour painting, done by graphic designer Nándor Berán, who also became the manufacturer of most of the association's insignia. At that point it was still a little rough around the edges, but only a few minor modifications were made before it was produced in metal. The original artwork was used throughout the history of the Frontline Fighters' Association on various printed items.

I thought this would present a good opportunity to familiarize our readers with the origins of the Hungarian veteran's movement, from the pioneering work of Elemér Kertész to the founding of the independent Frontline Fighters' Association. Zsuzsanna Miskolczy was a great help to me with translations of early Hungarian National Defence Association material, and as usual, Péter v. Laborc was ready to assist 24/7.

Some time ago, when I was thinking about writing this article, I found myself at a neighbourhood pub – part of the Billy Bishop - Kerrisdale 176 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion here in Kitsilano (if you feel like having a pint in an authentic 1940s English pub, it's the place to go). It's full of wonderful bits of military memorabilia, and I quietly reflected (as I have often done since childhood) about how I felt a little foreign, and how I didn't feel completely Canadian (I regularly get the same feeling about my Hungarian-ness as well).

I flipped through some brochures, borrowed some history books, downloaded the Legion's rules and regulations and eventually went over the material with a fine-toothed comb. Then I joined them, and it seems that now I am helping research and document their artifacts and photographic records.

I think I may have had an epiphany as well. As I studied the history of the Royal Canadian Legion (formerly a sub-group of the British Empire Service League), I learned that its journey was exactly similar to that of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association. The same rules, the same charter, the same problems. So similar, in fact, that it's hard to imagine that the people of two very different countries – one the victor and the other the vanquished in two World Wars, could have had exactly the same challenges, growing pains, and ultimately the same goals.

I knew that the leadership of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association reached out to their former British enemies and took part in veteran's events in England, and it warmed my heart to find inter-war Legion magazines singing the praises of the Hungarians – how their veteran's association was “not a political one, and indeed, not very different from the Legion.” And how “they are exceedingly well drilled and well disciplined... Saluting, etc., is carried out as punctiliously as in any crack regiment.” More about that in a future issue of the *Magyar Front*.

Finally, we have our own Jack Keir's report on the Szolnok Aviation Museum. His visit there was actually the icing on the cake after some volunteer work he did for the institution – no less than 75 hours spent editing 1,103 texts.

P.Cz.



MAGYAR FRONT VOLUME XIX, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2017

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
Founder/President

Lorraine Weideman
Vice-President, Webmaster

Péter v. Laborc
Vice-President, Hungary

John Keir
Vice-President, United Kingdom

George Hennessy
Vice-President, Australia

Manfred Winter
Vice-President, Austria

Dr. Gergely Pál Sallay
Historical Consultant, Correspondent

PO Box 74527 Kitsilano PO
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6K 4P4 Canada 604 733-9948

czink@shaw.ca

www.NewFront.ca

©2017 All rights reserved

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.

IHMHPS 2014-2018 COMMEMORATIVE BADGE

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



*Support the International
Hungarian Military History
Preservation Society!*

**IHMHPS 2014-2018
machine embroidered
commemorative insignia**
(Left) \$5.00* each



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

The Origins of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association

by Peter Czink

Following the international devastation of the First World War, most nations quickly recognized the need for organized and government subsidized care for the enormous numbers of veterans who struggled to regain the normalcy of their pre-war lives.

Returning to normal was even more difficult for the defeated nations, there were no victory parades for Hungarian soldiers who came home to learn that they could not find employment, and that things like their military rank and decorations which once gave them elevated status were met with indifference and neglect. They felt that their country and their people had forgotten about their sacrifices. Their hope was for the basics – the recognition of their need for employment and for care for those who were disabled (and their dependents).

As a reaction to the Hungarian Soviet Republic (March 21st, 1919 to August 1st, 1919), the Hungarian National Defence Association (Magyar Országos Véderő Egylet, or MOVE) was established in 1919 as opposition to communism and a voice for the reversal of territorial losses implemented by the Treaty of Trianon. Although subjective historians today refer to MOVE as “far right” and “radical,” it should be understood that it was born in a time of chaos and unimaginable devastation, when Hungary was essentially on its own to pick up the pieces of the aftermath of WWI. Organized on paramilitary lines, MOVE became an umbrella group for a wide array of nationalistic activities, and it attracted many former military officers to join - discretely, as the Treaty of Trianon disallowed them to do so. By 1924, MOVE had a large national membership.

MOVE's president, retired Lt. General János Sávoly, passed away that year and was replaced by retired Field Archdeacon Sándor v. Mándoki who remained an active member of the future Hungarian veteran's movement. A young former first lieutenant named Elemér Kertész, a staunch advocate of veteran's rights was also involved with MOVE at this time. He suggested that all retired, reserve and territorial army officers should become involved in the association. Most of them were doubtful of any future success, and some believed it was too late to start. Hungary's economic situation was dire, and many veterans felt that they would never receive assistance or representation.

But the young and enthusiastic ex-soldiers were very persistent, and eventually they decided to give it a try. They contributed 10 pengő each to cover the cost of brochures and other printed matter. Kertész wanted to make his suggestion public in January of 1925, but he still had to face many difficulties. MOVE was dealing with conflict among its members, and the veterans' case was delayed. Some MOVE members didn't like the idea of a strong sub-group of veterans, perhaps worrying that they would eventually demand

Continued on page 6...



A MOVE által rendszeresített „Frontharcos-émlékjelvény” most készült el. A jelvényt Berán Nándor iparművész tervezte.

This image of an original rendering appeared as a lone 5cm x 9cm piece of news on the second page of the August 10th, 1929 issue of *Képes Pesti Hírlap*, a four page illustrated newspaper supplement.

It states that this is the Hungarian National Defence Association (Magyar Országos Véderő Egylet), or MOVE, “veteran's commemorative badge.” Nándor Berán, the well known artist and manufacturer of metal insignia (and Frontline Fighters' Association member) created the design.

BAJTÁRS!

a frontharcos jelvény viselése kötelező:

Minden rendelkezésedre álló erőddel, tudásoddal támogasd, segítsd, frontharcos jelvényt viselő Bajtársaidat.

A „Bajtárs” fogalom ne üresen csengő szó, hanem élő és érző valóság legyen a szivedben.

A frontharcos jelvényt volt katonaruhád helyett viseled — becsüld meg tehát — őrködj, hogy illetéktelenek ne bitorolhassák.

Kölcshönös tiszteletadással tartozunk a jelvényt viselő Bajtársainknak!

Az esetleges visszaélés azonnal jelentendő.

Frontharcos



MOVE
Országos Frontharcos Szövetség
Budapest
VI., Podmaniczky-utca 45
Telefon: Aut. 185-18

The earliest type of Frontline Fighters' Association ID was a bi-fold heavy paper card.

This example clearly shows the association's status as a sub-group - "MOVE National Frontline Fighters' Association" appears on the bottom of the cover.

The back of the unfolded card (left side) touches on the importance of the word *bajtárs* (comrade); wearing the organization's insignia with pride; and respect for fellow members.

CZINK COLLECTION

MOVE
Országos Frontharcos Szövetség

4289. t. szám

Igazoló-jegy

ur
v. Regéczy János

résztve, aki jogosult a MOVE budapesti főosztálya által rendszeresített frontharcos jelvény viselésére.

Budapest, 1931. január 31.

hagyó
főtiszt.

Megőrzendő.

Elvesztése vagy megsemmisülése azonnal jelentendő.

Arckép.

Ezen igazoló-jegy arckép hiányában csak más hiteles fényképes-igazolvány egyidejű felmutatása mellett érvényes.

A tulajdonos sajátkezű aláírása.

The inside of the unfolded ID card tells us it belonged to János v. Regéczy, retired reserve first lieutenant. He joined the veteran's association on January 31st, 1931.

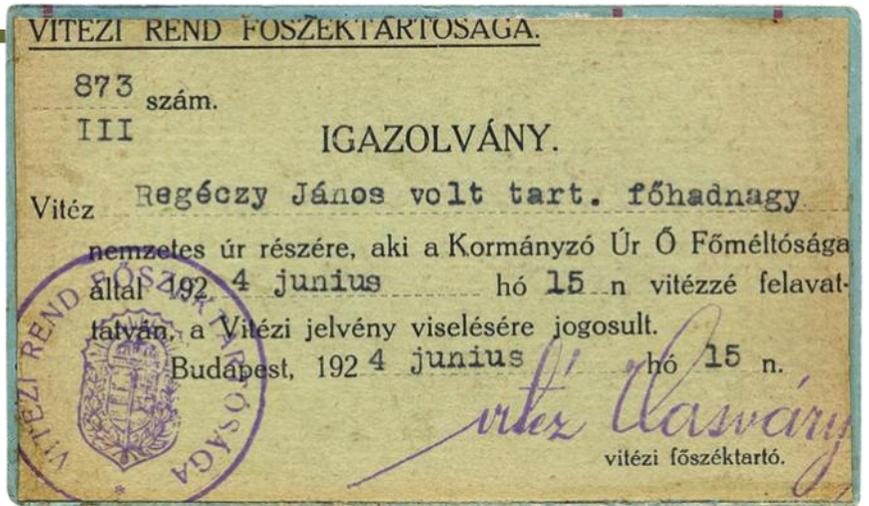
The rubber stamp is from the MOVE Budapest headquarters.

The square on the right side is for the member's photograph, which he never attached, and the space below for his signature remains unsigned.

Shown actual size.

These documents (shown actual size), found with the Frontline Fighters' Association membership card on the facing page also belonged to János v. Regéczy.

Right: This bi-fold card was meant to be carried on his person as proof of his membership in the Order of the Valliant (Vitézi Rend). Regéczy was made a knight of the order on June 15th, 1924, and according to their records he was awarded the Order of the Iron Crown, Third Class with Swords; Military Merit Cross Third Class with Swords; Silver and Bronze "Signum Laudis" with Swords; Emperor Carl's Troops' Cross and the Medal for the Wounded with one stripe.



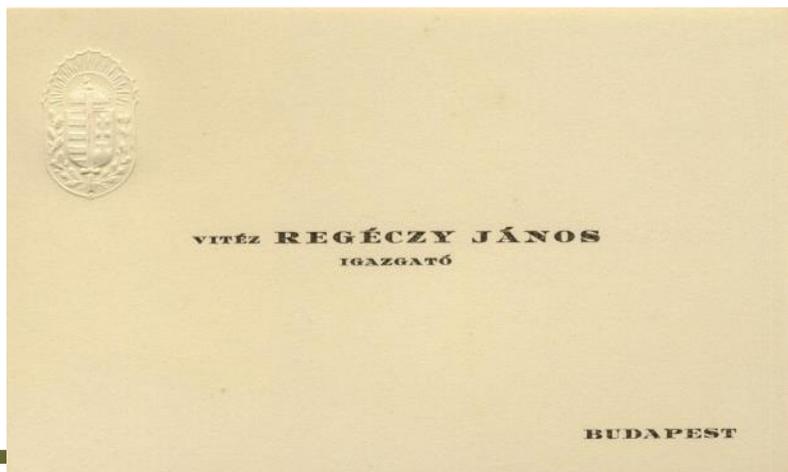
CZINK COLLECTION

Below:
Chief Executive Officer
János Regéczy's
peacetime
business card
features an
embossed badge
of the Order
of the Valliant
(Vitézi Rend).

CZINK COLLECTION

Above:
This ID document from 1930 gives Regéczy permission to wear his military uniform (he served in the 6th Royal Hungarian Infantry Regiment) even though he was retired. The Frontline Fighters' Association later discouraged this practice and members were required to acquire the organization's distinctive uniform.

Note that his name was "hungarianized" from Regecz to Regéczy; and the red *cimz. százados* notation means he was promoted to the rank of captain following his war service.





CZINK COLLECTION

Right:
**“With honour
 for the homeland”
 MOVE stickpin.**



CZINK COLLECTION

Below:
**Unspecified MOVE
 medal featuring their
 “with honour for the
 homeland” slogan.**

Above:
**A medal for the
 MOVE Csillaghegy Rifle
 Section’s first “Victoria”
 Competition, 1942.**



CZINK COLLECTION



CZINK COLLECTION

Above:
**Second place medal
 for an unspecified
 MOVE competition
 dated 1928.XII.16.**



CZINK COLLECTION

**Right: Medal
 commemorating MOVE
 leader Gyula v. Gömbös
 dated 1936.X.6.**

Shown actual size.

...continued from page 3

independence. Their case was finally put forward in October, and it was suggested that the new MOVE sub-group should have a unique badge, and that it would be led by some of the MOVE leaders, along with other notable members of Hungarian society.

Their next step was to connect with the Hungarian Ministry of Defence. Their basic idea was to offer themselves as ex-soldiers who were willing and ready to defend their nation as experienced veterans. They also wanted to be the only organization to represent veterans and have exclusive rights to things like their unique insignia. They also demanded that there must be no political affiliation or religious bias of any kind. Emphasis was placed on patriotism and military discipline, and members were expected to “obey orders; wear their new insignia at all times; and to greet fellow members with a military salute.” Members were expected to help and support one another and to pay two years of membership dues upon joining. Using the organization for political purposes was forbidden, and money collected through membership dues could only be spent on the cause of the Hungarian veterans.

Some of the MOVE leadership was still not cooperative and attempts were made to delay progress. Mándoky and Lázár decided to approach the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 18th, 1926, however, and argued that other countries already had official veteran’s associations (In 1926, the German veteran’s association Der Stahlhelm, which had its beginnings in December of 1918, reached out to Hungary for a delegation of Hungarian veterans to take part in their convention, only to find out that such an organization did not exist in Hungary).

In April of 1928, after further discussion of Kertész’s ideas and plans, it was decided to name the new association the Frontharcos Szövetség (Frontline Fighters’ Association). Kertész emphasized that so many people who had sacrificed so much for their country were still not represented and that only a large and efficient organization could overcome the indifference of the Hungarian people and government. There was still a long way to go, however, as many former officers thought it only necessary to gather on certain anniversaries and on national holidays. That was already happening here and there – small groups of veterans would gather from time to time and publish regimental histories and erect war monuments, but they worked independently and lacked a central organizational body. Great steps had been taken to achieve broader unity, and the future of the Frontline Fighters’ Association looked promising.

On February 2nd, 1929, Kertész’s plans were accepted and this date is considered the historical founding day of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters’ Association. The yearly membership dues would be set at 4 pengő – a small enough sum that would enable even the poorest veterans to join. Originally, it was planned that the insignia would also include the former rank of the member. Eventually, Nándor Berán, a veteran himself, was chosen to design the iconic shield-shaped badge.

It was very important for Kertész, the true founder of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters’ Association, that his concept

Continued on page 10...



This insignia, printed on paper and glued to cardboard, can often be seen decorating walls, podiums, and vehicles on period photographs. (actual size: 29cm x 46cm)

WEIDEMAN
PHOTOGRAPH

CZINK
COLLECTION

It would have been an inexpensive way to display the Frontline Fighters' Association emblem, and it is clearly an example of Nándor Berán's first watercolour design.





This remarkable photo is of the inaugural meeting of Budapest's VII District Frontline Fighters' Association Chapter, which took place on April 1st, 1931.

General Aladár Somogyi stands near the middle of the table, and the association's leader Count József v. Takách-Tolvay is seated third from left. Elemér Kertész is the sixth man from the left, seated and taking notes. The gentleman looking down at the right end of the table is future HONSz leader Gyula Hittig.

Although these men wear the veteran's association buttonhole badges, they have neither their uniforms nor their own meeting place. The location is the main hall of the Catholic Youth Club.

**„MOVE”
Országos Frontharcos Szövetség ujbpesti főcsoportja.**

Ügyvezetőség:
UJPEST, ERKEL-UTCA 26.
Egyetemi Szoc. politikai intézet.
Hivatalos órák: vasárnap délelőtt 9—12.

Titkárság:
UJPEST, MIKSZÁTH K.-U. 55.
Telefon: Aut. 95-2-52.
Hétfőn, szerdán, pénteken d. u. 4—6-ig.

Ezen igazolvány 8 napig érvényes.

Fekintetes
Nagyságos
Nemzetes
Méltóságos

Vitéz
Dr. Fraknóy - ügyvéd úrnak

Ujpesten

Kolozsváry u. *33.* sz.

Balogh Lajos

Tisztelettel kérjük, hogy
bajtársunkat, lakik: Ujpest, *Attila u.* u. *20.* sz.

jogvedelemben részesíteni sziveskedjék.

Ujpest, 1931. *Ok.* hó *19.* nap.

Höflich Árpád
II. csoport elnöke.



„ATTILA”-NYOMDA, UJPEST

Left:
A rare piece of ephemera - this MOVE veteran's document certifies that Dr. v. Fraknóy, a lawyer, will help his comrade Lajos Balogh with legal counsel (presumably free of charge).

One of the main reasons for the development of such associations was to ensure that veterans - especially the needy, would be looked after.

Issued in 1931, this paper bears the MOVE Frontline Fighters' Association Ujpest Chapter stamp. (shown actual size)

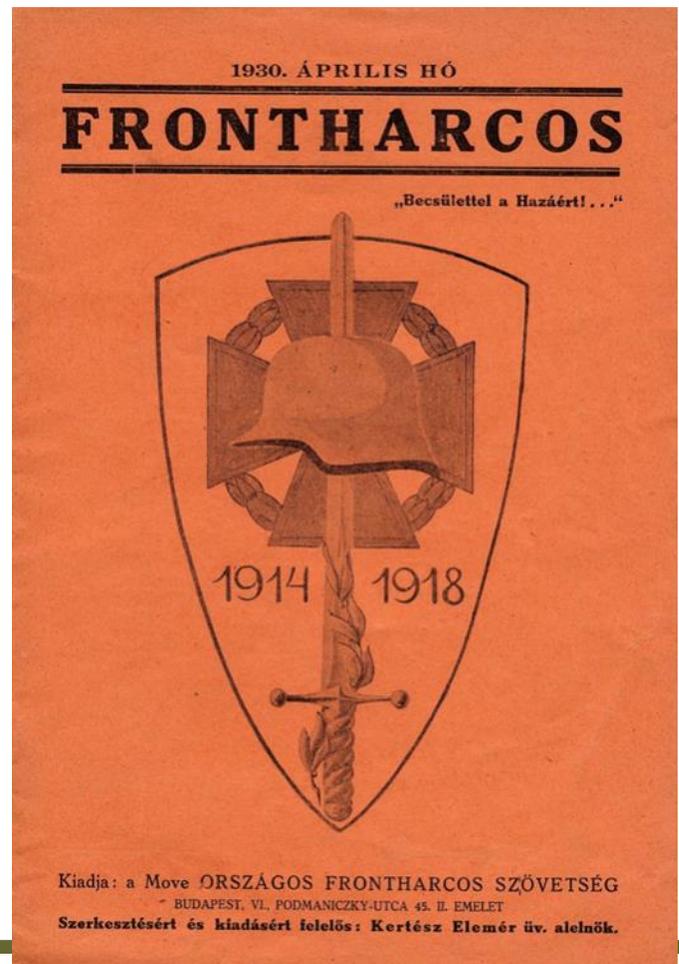
Right: The very first Hungarian veteran's magazine. *Frontharcos* was a 16-page black and white newsprint publication produced and edited by Elemér Kertész. Actual size: 16.4cm x 24cm.

...continued from page 6

was adopted by MOVE in its entirety. It would have to be a safety net for needy veterans across the country, and a movement to raise awareness of the difficulties and sacrifices that veterans had to deal with. A community centre for veterans was also a top priority. (To be recognized as a veteran, one had to provide proof of at least six weeks of service on one or more of the frontlines during World War I.)

MOVE reached out to Hungarian veterans through the media and immediately garnered great interest. Responses and membership requests came by the thousands, and the first general meeting was held on May 12th, 1929, attended by 400 new comrades. The MOVE Országos Frontharcos Szövetség (MOVE National Frontline Fighters' Association) was underway.

The association was to be an integral part of MOVE and was to maintain a close relationship with the Order of the Valliant (Vitézi Rend). Although I have been unable to find exact documentation of the reason why the Frontline Fighters' Association eventually broke away from MOVE, we can surmise that it was most likely due to differences of opinion. Whether these were organizational conflicts or political disparity, the Frontline Fighters' Association became completely independent from MOVE sometime in the early 1930s.



The portrait of Elemér Kertész on our cover was used to produce a bronze medallion - a period postcard featuring it is pictured (actual size) at right.

On our cover portrait he wears Frontline Fighters' Association vice-president's collar insignia and shoulder boards on his uniform.

He was awarded the Silver and Bronze "Signum Laudis" on War Ribbon with Swords; Silver and Bronze Bravery Medals; Emperor Carl's Troops' Cross; National Defence Cross; and the Hungarian, Austrian and Bulgarian World War I Commemorative Medals (in this photo he wears only the Bulgarian one). He also received the Italian Knight's Cross of the Order of the Crown which he prominently displays in his buttonhole. The HONSz Badge of Honour is pinned to his pocket.

There are three badges on his lapel - this is the only known photograph of the miniature Lifetime Membership Badge being worn. The other shield-shaped pin is from the German veteran's association, however, the round one to the left remains unidentified.

Below: An unusual hand-made certificate awarded to Elemér Kertész from the MOVE Astra artist's sub-group. It illustrates the extent of MOVE's cultural and social involvement in Hungary during the 1930s.



Issued on May 7th, 1932, this "certificate of thanks" is a declaration of high praise for Kertész's exemplary and tireless work in the name of Hungarian arts and culture.

This document also identifies Kertész as the vice-president of both the Frontline Fighters' Association and the MOVE Budapest headquarters.

Actual size: 30cm x 37cm

Inside the Szolnok Aviation Museum

Every cloud has a silver lining, or is it the other way round?

by Jack Keir



The Szolnok Aviation Museum
www.reptar.hu

It is not very often that I do this - in fact I cannot remember doing this before. Until I subscribed to Amazon Prime and acquired a Fire Stick for my television set, the ability to do so would have been somewhat limited. But there I was that morning at about 02:00, very weary, very exasperated, filled to the brim with the seemingly endless pots of tea I had started consuming hours before, my head laid back. I sighed, yawned, and uttered a few curses all very inappropriate for the crashing climax of Mahler's 7th Symphony. Many hours before I had started with the almost inaudible strings in A minor of the first symphony and listened to, or at any rate, had playing in the background, every movement of every symphony between. I pressed the send icon and fired back to Budapest the excel document containing over 200 descriptions of inventory items of the aviation museum at Szolnok crudely translated from the Hungarian and, with the pressure of time, not as well tidied up in its English form as I would have liked.

This was to be the crash landing of the turbulent flight during which my finger hovered over the ejection seat activator of my assistance to those preparing materials for the new aviation museum at Szolnok. I should at this point make something crystal clear - I had been asked to assist with proof reading and editing translations into English of exhibit descriptions and other texts. The exercise of prepar-

ing these had been contracted to a private company. If ever there was a way not to execute such an enterprise this was it. All of my dealings were with that private company and not with the Military History Institute and Museum or any individual connected therewith.

I was asked to help with this project and I was more than happy to do so. When my name was suggested the set up was unknown to the proposer and we both imagined some kindly academics with deep knowledge and understanding of their subject, providing translations which would need tidying up. Upon first contact I explained my situation - an enthusiastic, Magyarophilic, MiG loving amateur with a fulltime mentally demanding day job. I would be doing what I had to do after work and at weekends. I received the first batch of texts - most were crudely translated and with not a few factual errors.

At this point I should perhaps halt and fess up to finding anything more than a menu in Hungarian completely baffling notwithstanding considerable time spent in Hungary. Later translations, by a different translator, were much better, but what was very clear was that neither actually knew anything about the subject matter. When it came to very technical subjects including medical effects of G-forces, altitude and space travel I was equally disadvantaged and required to consult online sources to try to understand the subject before

I could tackle the revision of what I was being asked to edit. English subtitles of the propaganda and instructional films were achieved by the sister of an employee writing down what she heard, what she transcribed was then translated. The translator did not view the films, so had no idea of what was on the screen. I was to then edit what was to become the subtitles. Not terribly scientific! As if that did not make the task all the more difficult I would come home on a Wednesday to find an email containing a zip file which contained fifty or more documents for editing and be told there was a strict deadline of Friday lunchtime. A proportion of what I did was returned with queries as I did not understand what the translator meant, however, I rarely received any reply. The volume and time limit substantially prohibited my own researches to work it out. Promised dates by which I would receive texts, having eventually demanded a timetable, were not met. Finally, having been told that I would not be needed for a while, I never heard from them again!

I felt bad. I was not doing justice to my task. For those of you who remember the TV series MASH one of the characters, I cannot remember which, (it was Captain Benjamin Franklin "Hawkeye" Pierce - Ed.) described their task as "meatball surgery." This was meatball editing. I hope the texts survived the experience.

When in 1844 the first train arrived at the newly opened

railway station connecting Szolnok with Pest it would have been beyond the imagination of its passengers, that in 2017 where they were alighting would be surrounded by supersonic jet aircraft and a huge steel and glass structure containing equally unimaginable technology.

Having spent a blissful two hours being guided through the quite splendid and very thoughtful First World War exhibition at the Military History Museum in Budapest by one of its creators, IHMHPs member Gergely Sallay, we repaired to his office where over coffee and sour cherry *rétes* we discussed his proposal that the following day, in the company of family, we visit Szolnok. I readily admit without shame, to having a MiG fetish. Notwithstanding that strong draw I had some reservations about visiting the museum. Given the somewhat difficult times "between take-off and landing" and not having seen the final versions of what would be displayed there, I harboured a certain anxiety. However on being informed that we would be expected and warmly welcomed, most of the anxieties dissipated. Later, that Friday evening I attended a performance by the ever wonderful Budapest Festival Orchestra who happened to be playing some Mahler.

Szolnok has played a significant part in the history of Hungarian military aviation. There remains an operational airfield there today, although not one connected to the



**Main concourse
with MiG 21U
in the foreground.**

KEIR PHOTOGRAPH

present museum. During the Second World War Szolnok was home to fighter and fighter training units as well as reconnaissance aircraft. Szolnok was designated as a military airfield again in 1947. The airfield was home to various squadrons connected with reconnaissance duties but more significantly as a helicopter base with which it remains associated today.

There had been an aviation museum on the boundary of the airfield, but that closed some years ago. The collection of the old museum is now partly with the new one. The present museum is owned and run by the local authority, and while some of the exhibits are from the old museum, others are owned by the Military History Museum.

At about 08:00 the following morning we set off for Szolnok, which is about 115km (72 miles) to the south-east of Budapest. It was wet. The Great Plain stretched out before us without a hill in sight. Having arrived in Szolnok a bit early we headed to the Marcipán Cukrászda for some refreshment. My attention was drawn to the Ischler and when told it was a favourite of Francis Joseph I, there was no alternative. If in Szolnok this is a must visit place.

When we arrived at the museum I was pleased to see many cars in the car park indicating a well-attended venue. As indicated we were expected and we were immediately made to feel very welcome - we were allowed free access to all of the attractions which would otherwise require to be paid for, over and above the entrance fee. For those who fancy themselves as fighter pilots there is an array of flight simulators where one can take to the air in a MiG 29 and engage enemy aircraft with cannon and missiles. There is clearly a knack to this game as I could not find anything to shoot at, the stall alarm sounded almost constantly and I crash landed. Perhaps not too surprisingly, Gergely's 11 year-old son shot down various aircraft with ease. As if that was not exciting enough, one can be strapped into a chair, have a helmet and goggles placed over one's eyes and take to the air in an L29 Dolphin aircraft in a 3D experience of flying over Norway. There is a second experience, but you will have to go and find that one out for yourself.

In a step back to reality one can also sit in the cockpit of

MiG 21 and Yak 52 trainers, and in the former have one's photograph taken. Just for fun there is a wind tunnel and a series of aircraft themed tableaux where one can pop one's head through and have a photograph as a pilot taken. Old training and propaganda movies with subtitles are also available should one fancy a seat.

The main exhibition area is very bright and modern and one can follow the history of Hungarian aviation from its beginnings to the space age with rooms dedicated to different eras where there are uniforms, decorations, models, artefacts and descriptions of the events of the time. The main floor contains items of wreckage, aero engines, guns and missiles as well as aircraft too fragile to be kept outdoors. A diorama of the museum area with a working trainset is also on display and if one feels the need for a coffee one can indulge while sitting in some retired airline seats.

We were entertained to lunch which was very tasty. The chaps had the daily special of a bean soup and Brassó steak. Just what was needed to brave the elements while visiting the outdoor displays. Fortunately the well-stocked gift shop had umbrellas and waterproof jackets for sale, as well as models, books, and souvenirs (including some good quality clothing). If, like me, you adore MiGs then heaven awaits. There are over ten MiGs in the outdoor display ranging from the 15 through to the 23. Most of the MiGs are 21s of various designations and paint jobs. Unlike the collection of the previous museum, all aircraft on display served in the Hungarian Air Force or with the Police. Missile launchers, vehicles and some radar equipment are also on show. Part of the old railway station houses anti-aircraft guns and an assault course, which I naturally would have attempted, but I had just had lunch!

In addition to a description of each item on display is an English language text. Some of the English texts are rather good, some not so much, but at least they are understandable. I had a great day at a really great place that was both entertaining and informative. This is a very fine example of what a modern museum, built from scratch, should be. What is more, the people who staff the place were all very friendly and made this a very bright and silver lining. ✈️

MiG 21 of the Sky Hussars aerobatic display team (with the tail of an Aero L 39 Albatros peaking out from behind).



KEIR PHOTOGRAPH

*The Hungarian Frontline
Fighters' Association Motor Corps*



CZINK COLLECTION

Frontline Fighters' Association Motor Corps rally plaque for the Dobogókő First National Hill Climb of 1935.

Two new acquisitions from the Frontline Fighters' Association Motor Corps (see Volume XVII, Number 2 - Spring 2015):

This silver presentation plaque was given to Dr. Aladár Szelnár, the leader of the Motor Corps, by a group of veterans.

It reads:

To Dr. Aladár Szelnár, our beloved leader, on the occasion of his name-day. From the his comrades of the National Frontline Fighters' Association's IX District headquarters chapter. Budapest, February 20th, 1935"

The silver plaque is made by an unknown manufacturer, with a buttonhole badge sized insignia on the upper left corner made by Nándor Berán.

The enamelled oak leaves are reminiscent of the Lifetime Membership Badge, however, for some reason Szelnár was never given that distinction.



The plaque, mounted on hardwood, is shown actual size. The Dobogókő rally plaque at the top of the page is illustrated 50% larger than actual size.

CZINK COLLECTION
WEIDEMAN PHOTOGRAPH



**MAGYARORSZÁG
A NAGY HÁBORÚBAN**

ÁLLANDÓ KIÁLLÍTÁS
A HM HADTÖRTÉNETI
INTÉZET ÉS MÚZEUMBAN



HUNGARY IN THE GREAT WAR **1914-1918**

PERMANENT EXHIBITION OF THE MoD MILITARY HISTORY
INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM



HADTÖRTÉNETI
INTÉZET ÉS
MÚZEUM



HM ZRÍNYI
TÉRKÉPÉSZETI ÉS KOMMUNIKÁCIÓS
SEGÍTSÉGELŐ KÖZHASZNÚ NONPROFIT KFT.

www.militaria.hu