FRONT VOLUME XII, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2010



PAGE 8 - ROYAL HUNGARIAN UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA - PART V



MAGYAR FRONT VOLUME XII, ISSUE 1 WINTER 2010

Published quarterly by

Peter Czink VRNT, Editor

Photography by

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(unless otherwise noted)

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

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

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

A note from the Editor

This New Year's issue of the *Magyar Front* is full of things to get us re-invigorated about our passion for the preservation of Hungarian military history and its use for the betterment of the future.

I have established a series of new awards to thank you for your support and dedication, and an old comrade has been honoured by the Hungarian Ministry of Defence. I think you'll continue to be inspired by our fellow members' hard work, and I encourage you all to take an interactive part in the IHMHPS. Share your family history with us, hone your writing skills, or do some historical detective work – whether you're a historian or hobbyist, delving more deeply into your interests will make them all the more satisfying.

I would also like to introduce an exciting and very useful new aspect of our association:

THE IHMHPS MILITARY DOCUMENT TRANSLATION SERVICE

The IHMHPS now offers both members and non-members a Hungarian to English military document translation service. You can be assured that our translations will be accurate – done by experts in both languages, as well as in Hungarian military history.

Translations will cost \$0.02 per letter (with a \$20.00 US minimum) – just send us copies of the documents you would like translated, and we will promptly reply with the price and a time estimate for the work. Following payment (via Paypal), your translation will be sent to you electronically.

Our translation service is for documents only – we are unable to translate larger works such as books or diaries.

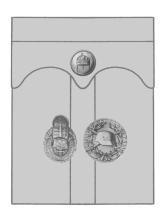
KATONANÓTÁK

A new work by IHMHPS member, retired Royal Hungarian Armoured Corps Lt. Colonel László Tokay is now available: *Katonanóták (Soldier's Songs)* – a collection of over 200 World War II era Hungarian military songs lovingly complied by this dedicated officer. Lt. Colonel Tokay is interested only in making this work available to anyone interested, and now it can be download free of charge from our website.

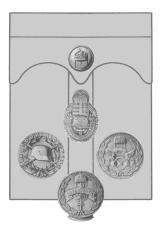
CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *Magyar Front*, I inadvertently made an error in the diagram showing the correct wear of the qualification badges (Fall 2009, page 7). Below is the correct order of precedence:

P.Cz.







Our Cover:

Pictured is an unknown former NCO of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association. This is our first colourised cover photo - the skilful work of new IHMHPS member Peter Orincsay. We will feature more about this talented photographer in a future issue of the *Magyar Front*.

This NCO was a regular member, not in a leadership role, denoted by his single shoulder cord. His medals include the Silver Bravery Medal II Class, The Bronze Bravery Medal, the Emperor Charles' Troops' Cross, the Medal for the Wounded, the WW I Hungarian Commemorative Medal, and the WW I Austrian Commemorative Medal.

Our new awards for services rendered:







The International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society Service Cross

I have established a new series of awards to recognize meritorious and long-term service rendered to the International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society. The Bronze, Silver and Gold IHMHPS Service Crosses, which I have recently designed and had manufactured, are traditional tokens of sincere gratitude and heartfelt camaraderie to my fellow members who offer continued support to our association, and who actively participate in the service of our interests. The crosses are suspended from traditional tri-fold moiré ribbons, each representing one of the colours of the Hungarian national flag. The overall design is based on classic patterns and symbols, yet displays modern, dynamic elements. The sword is central, recalling our military heritage, and the torch of knowledge remains uppermost, declaring our desire to further our interest and understanding. The letter "V" decorates each arm of the cross in tribute to our beginnings as the Vancouver Chapter of the World Federation of Hungarian Veterans. The "new front" is everywhere, and within anyone, who wishes to use our turbulent past to better our future.

Awards will be made according to a point system: 5 points must be earned for the bronze, 10 for the silver, and 15 for the gold cross.*

Each year of membership in the IHMHPS is worth 1 point.

A full length article, published in the Magyar Front, is worth 1 point

A professional quality Hungarian military historical display, presented to the public, is worth from 1 to 2 points (depending on its size and duration)

Publishing a book, recognized as being of acceptable quality, accuracy and integrity, on Hungarian military history is worth from 1 to 3 points

The donation of an item to the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum, that is of important historical significance, and is either missing from the museum's collection or the museum is in need of the item, is worth from 1 to 3 points

Additional points may be awarded, at the discretion of the IHMHPS President, for exemplary dedication and service to the IHMHPS. Only IHMHPS members (including honorary and lifetime members) are eligible to receive the Service Crosses.

*Points for years of service will be awarded from the beginning of 2009 All other service points are awarded retroactively from July of 2008



Crosses are to worn on the left breast, with the highest grade closest to the centre of the body



AN IHMHPS UPDATE:

It was one year ago when I ran "Bandi's Story" in our Winter 2009 issue of the *Magyar Front*.

I am very pleased to announce, that with the very gracious help of our own Honorary President Lt. General Dr. József Holló, Bandi has been honoured with a decoration from the Hungarian Defence Ministry. The following are a few excerpts from the media, and some of the inspirational words from the Hungarian ambasador in Australia.

P.Cz.
**P.Cz.*

Last November 11th, Justine Geake of the Australian Hawkesbury Gazette, wrote about a World War II saviour honoured on Remembrance Day.

"This Remembrance Day Hawkesbury residents will dwell on the experiences of our soldiers in wars over the last century, but in our midst there's another war hero who resisted the Nazis on behalf of Hungary, and whose efforts are only just about to receive recognition.

Endre Hitesi, who became Andrew Hennessy when he arrived in Australia after the war, turns 99 at the end of this month, and now lives at Chesalon Nursing Home in Richmond.

Next week he will receive a visit from the Hungarian ambassador to honour him with a First Class Defence Medal for his World War II resistance activities.

His son George Hennessy of Kurrajong Heights said his father's efforts saved many. 'Hundreds of people owe their lives to him and his activities,' Mr Hennessy said. 'His nickname was 'the engineer' as he engineered the escape of so many people.'

Prior to the war he had a shoe importing business, but this mild-mannered occupation didn't reveal what he was capable of. When Mr Hennessy's resistance activities began he had been married ten years, living in Budapest. Germany was on the side of Hungary, but occupied it during the war for its own purposes. Towards the end of the war a harsh faction of the Hungarian Nazis called the Arrow Cross were installed as the Hungarian government by the Germans. Its militia were out in the streets of Budapest, openly murdering all the Jews they could. Thousands were shot and their bodies tossed into the Danube River.

Wearing a Hungarian officer's uniform (though Hungarian Jews were not allowed to join the Hungarian Army), Mr. Hennessy began his resistance activities, running a



document forgery business out of a bombed-out munitions factory, giving Jews false identities as Christians. 'He also physically retrieved people from the (Jewish) ghetto (in Budapest),' his son said. 'When he heard someone needed to get out, he would arrange it.'

One time he drove in to a Jewish forced labour battalion in his Hungarian officer's uniform and pretended his car broke down. Pretending not to recognise the two men he was rescuing, he ordered them to push his car for him. When safely out of sight of the Germans, they hopped in and drove off.

The Hungarian Ambassador Gábor Csaba will visit Andrew Hennessy at Chesalon on November 20th to finally recognise his efforts at saving so many lives."

Later, on November 25th, the Hawkesbury Gazette published another piece by Justine Geake:

"The wartime heroism of Richmond resident Andrew Hennessy was honoured in the highest possible way last Friday when the Hungarian ambassador visited him in his nursing home. Gábor Csaba came to Chesalon to give Mr. Hennessy the Hungarian Government's First Class Defence Medal for his resistance activities in Budapest during World War II.

Changing his name from Endre Hitesi to Andrew Hennessy when he arrived in Australia with his family just after the war, Mr Hennessy is now 99, so the award has come in the nick of time.

Sophie Brown, the daughter of one of the people he rescued, was also at the ceremony last Friday. Mr. Hennessy's son said he was overwhelmed by the warm and heartfelt manner in which Mr. Csaba presented his father with the award. 'He said he was very proud to be able to perform the presentation and recognise my father's contribution.'



'My father was very emotional, and the ambassador said he was moved that receiving the honour meant so much to my father.'

Mr. Hennessy said the night before the presentation he was touched to receive a phone call from the ambassador, asking whether he would prefer the ceremony to be conducted in English or Hungarian. He was also gratified that Mr Csaba knew exactly who he was honouring, and what his father had done.

'He seemed genuinely moved by the ceremony and very proud to do it. He even apologised for his tender years! He's 39. We couldn't thank him enough for the manner in which he conducted the ceremony.'

'And Chesalon staff? What a show they put on! The place was spotless, the lawns were mown and the dining room was set up with balloons and flowers, and they invited the other residents who wanted to attend.'

Ambassador Csaba awarded the decoration on behalf of the Hungarian Minister of Defence, which "bestowed upon Mr. Endre Hennessy (Hitesi), the First Class Award for the protection of the homeland, in recognition of his long time, extraordinary contributions, while serving his country Hungary faithfully and loyally in the Second World War."

The ambassador added: "I am really proud to be here today, and I truly hope that this award will add something special to his approaching 99th birthday, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best, the best of health and every happiness on that occasion. I assume that it must be doubly sweet to celebrate this occasion in the company of family and good friends. As someone writing about him put it: 'Mr Hennessy's is a Hungarian story,' and I am proud to be here to acknowledge and recognize him for what he has done for his country and his fellow Hungarians."

Josef Lang's inspirational initiative



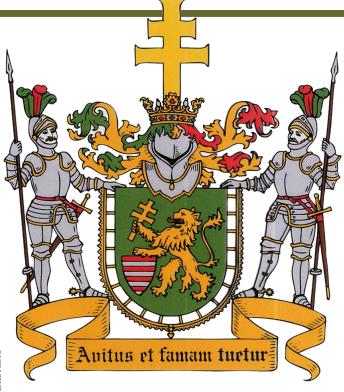
Bavarian PM Stoiber and Josef Lang - 2006



With Cardinal Wetter in Munich - 2006



Lang with Bavarian Prime Minister Beckstein - 2008



Josef Lang VRNT RVM, IHMHPS German Vice-President, is one of those rare, inspiring people that always seem to be going above and beyond the call of duty. He is a staunch promoter of Hungarian culture – and he does it in German too, for the benefit of new generations of Hungarians born in Germany, as well as for all German speaking people. This bright young man is always ready to roll up his sleeves and get down to work for any worthy Hungarian cause – and has tirelessly promoted the need for selfless volunteerism and service. His brainchild and labour of love is a new chivalric association, based on a very ancient one - the establishment of a commemorative Order of the Golden Spur.

The original Order of the Golden Spur is ancient, shrouded in mystery, and thrived in several parts of the world. The Hungarian branch first came into existence centuries ago, as an incentive for nobles to support the monarchy - choosing the most illustrious noblemen for knighthood into the Order of the Golden Spur was a royal tradition, done during coronation celebrations, until 1916. During the last Hungarian coronation, on December 30, 1916, King Charles IV (IV Károly Király) knighted 47 individuals. On April 21, 1918, for the first time, an insignia of the Knights of the Golden Spur was manufactured for the worthy knights.

Ninety years after, Lang decided to establish a new, commemorative Order of the Golden Spur (now registered as a chivalric society in both Hungary and Germany) to honour the chivalry of the past, and to facilitate a new interest in it. There are already the ten required founding members, and currently only a treasurer is needed to complete the administrative body. This year, the order will be ready to begin its work.

Any honourable person who is over the age of 18 is welcome to apply to join the Order of the Golden Spur, on



the recommendation of two members. On acceptance, a oneyear probation period will be required for the candidate. During this time the candidate is welcome to take part in the gatherings and work of the order. For people who are not ready to join or to actively take part, there will also the option of becoming simply a "supporter" of the order. Members will be required to support the order's aims:

• To work for the preservation of Hungarian military monuments, and to assist like organizations with such projects

- · To embrace chivalry
- · To promote international cooperation

· To commemorate Hungary's last king, Charles IV

The Order of the Golden Spur welcomes people from all countries, races and religions. Political activism in the name of the order is not acceptable, and anyone with affiliations to radical or racist organizations are not eligible for membership. If you are interested in joining the order, or supporting its projects, you may contact the IHMHPS, or get in touch with Josef Lang directly at joschi.lang@web.de
The order's website is currently in the works.

P.Cz.





With former Hungarian President Mádl - 2008



Lang with Bishop Marcello Sánchez Sorondo - 2009



Josef Lang and current Bavarian PM Sehofer - 2009

Left: Proposed designs for the insignia for members of the new commemorative Order of the Golden Spur



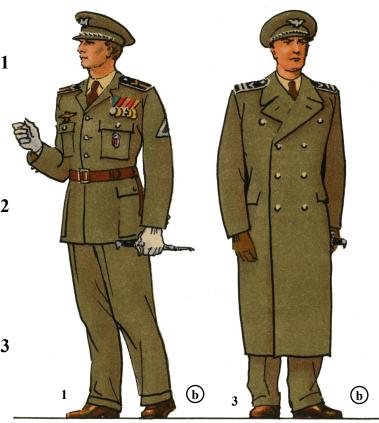
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SERGEANT ÖRMESTER



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CORPORAL TIZEDES





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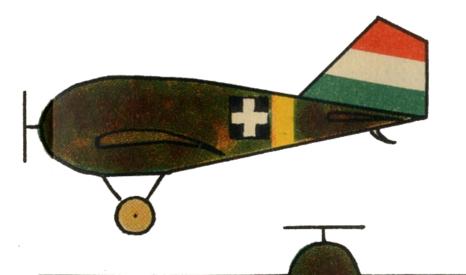
SENIOR SERGEANT FŐTÖRZSŐRMESTER



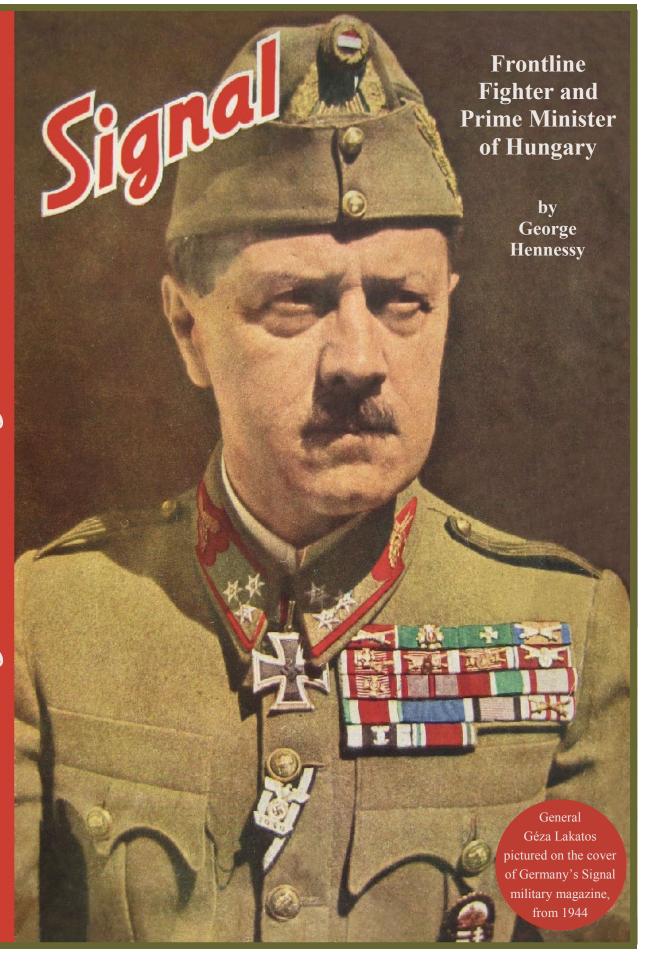
Air Force OR/NCO greatcoat and tunic (collar) insignia

Repülő-legénységi köpeny és zubbony jelvény









Géza Lakatos was born in Budapest in 1890, into a family with strong military traditions - his grandfather having been an army officer before and during the 1848-49 War of Independence with Austria.

After the death of his father when Géza was 14, and on completing junior school, he enrolled with his brother Kálmán as a boarder in the military school in Sopron. On graduation he continued his career at the famous Ludovika Military Academy in Budapest, graduating as a lieutenant. His first posting was with the 1st Honvéd Infantry Regiment in Budapest. His ambition was to complete the General Staff Imperial and Royal training school in Vienna, and as this required a good knowledge of German, he joined an Austrian infantry regiment at Linz. He eventually qualified for admission to the Vienna Military Staff Academy, however, his plans were thwarted by its closure on the outbreak of World War I.

He rejoined his infantry regiment and sustained a serious stomach wound on the Russian front, and his brother was killed in action. Géza recovered, having been evacuated to Budapest, and then returned to the front and remained there until the end of the conflict. His unit earned high praise from the German Kaiser, but the news was suppressed by the Austrian High Command in order to downplay Hungarian bravery.

He joined an Austrian unit for a year as staff officer, and then was transferred as an Austro-Hungarian liaison officer to a unit of the German army. At the end of the war, he had been in Italy, and returned home in 1918. Taking leave, he married, and in 1919 was ordered to take up a position as aide-de-camp to Vilmos Bohm, commander-in-chief of the short-lived Hungarian Red Army. After the post World War I communist government fell, he soon found his place with Admiral Horthy, and in 1920, he completed a course at the new General Staff Academy and was admitted to the General Staff, received the title of *vitéz*, and then taught at the Ludovika Academy.

In 1928, he was posted to the Hungarian embassy in Prague as military attaché, and held the role for six years, gaining promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the General Staff. He returned to Budapest in 1934, and then was posted to Miskolc as regimental commander of the 13th Infantry Regiment. After six months he was promoted to colonel, and became chief of staff of the 7th Mixed Brigade at Miskolc until he was transferred back to Budapest to take command of the 3rd Infantry Brigade. In September 1938, with World War having broken out, he entered what had been Czechoslovakian territory under the terms of the First Vienna Award. In 1940 he became Chief of Staff of the Hungarian 2nd Army under Colonel-General Gustav Jány, and took part in the reclaiming of part of Transylvania under the Second Vienna Award.

By 1941, he was in Kassa as an Army Corps commander, and during his two years there, received promotion to Lieutenant General, while the bombing of Kassa brought Hungary well and truly into the war. In May 1943, Lakatos was appointed by Horthy as commander of the nine Hungarian divisions at that time in Russia, serving as occupying forces. For nine months, under increasingly

heavy counter attacks by the Russian Army, and while in charge of occupation troops (with few weapons and suffering low morale), Lakatos tried everything, including a personal visit to Hitler, to safeguard and relieve his troops.

Having returned to Lvov and still commanding the Hungarian occupation forces, Lakatos received news that the Germans had invaded Hungary. Orders keeping the occupation forces from fighting were rescinded by the new government installed by the Germans. Soon after, the Hungarian First Army arrived, and Lakatos was recalled to Hungary for two days, and was ordered to take command of this army. He was subordinated to German command, and within days, he was notified that Regent Horthy had promoted him to Chief of the General Staff, however, this appointment was overturned by the Germans and Lakatos remained in command of the First Army. This army was ordered into the offensive, and indeed gained a lot of ground for the time being.

In May 1944, Lakatos was replaced as commander and returned to Budapest. After reporting to Horthy, he took leave to spend time with his family. During this period, Horthy became increasingly concerned about the German influence on Hungary and the government's German leanings, and on the advice of Count István Bethlen, Horthy called Lakatos and informed him that it was proposed to dismiss the government and appoint Lakatos himself as Prime Minister. Twice these plans were delayed as the Germans threatened reprisals if the pro-German Sztójav government was dismissed. Events took a turn with the Romanians changing sides in August, and Lakatos was again summoned by Horthy. Plans to take Hungary out of the war were discussed, and by the end of that month, Lakatos was Prime Minister and a new cabinet had been sworn in, despite German protests.

With the Romanian change of sides, Transylvania was unable to be defended and the Russian army soon penetrated the defences there. This had a slightly destabilising effect on the German occupiers of Hungary, allowing Lakatos and his cabinet of loyal Hungarians to steadily remove almost all the German leaning public servants from office. Deportations of Jews ceased and were not started again during the Lakatos government's tenure. Many discussions were held in regard to an armistice with the Russians - it was always Lakatos' intention to do his utmost to save Hungary from destruction. Massive political manoeuvrings were undertaken, however, public opinion had been influenced by German propaganda and the path was very difficult. Coupled with the steady advance of the Russians in Hungary proper, fear in the population seemed to bolster the pro-German Arrow Cross party, so at last Horthy decided to act. In mid October, the Regent broadcast his intention to cease fighting and conclude an armistice with the Russians. Shortly beforehand, the Germans had kidnapped Horthy's son in an effort to prevent Hungary pulling out of the war - now the Germans stormed the royal castle and forced Horthy to surrender. Lakatos was taken to the German embassy, then to the castle to collect Horthy, after which they were taken to SS headquarters under arrest.

Continued on page 13...



NOW AVAILABLE!

Hungarian Military History Museum curator and IHMHPS member Dr. Gergely Pál Sallay's unprecedented work on Second World War Hungarian military badges and insignia.

This massive (2cm x 23.7cm x 33.3cm) 264-page full-colour volume is packed with photographs and descriptions of qualification badges from the various branches-of-service, including pilot's and paratrooper's wings; divisional insignia, squadron badges, and rare prototypes, unofficial emblems and commemorative items.

Rare period photos of Hungarians wearing the insignia bring them to life, and prototype drawings illustrate the design process.

Hungarian text with English language overview - the official name of each badge is also provided in English.

Badges are pictured full -size and in colour, and rarely seen period photographs show their regulation wear.

Award documents and certificates, along with fascinating prototype drawings make Sallay's A Parade of Metal a must for historians, collectors and enthusiasts interested in Hungarian insignia and badges of the 1938-1945 period.



itěz Somfay Elemér ezredes, a M. Kir. "Toldi Miklós" Honvéd Központi Testnevelési Intézet paranomo sebën a caspartivsti jehvëny alatt vild tëlgyfalevellel disztiett olimpiai bajnok jelvënyt visel, bal felsë xubbunyzsebën vitëni jelvëny latbato. (Magángyű femêny) commander of the Royal Hungarian "Miklá Toldi" Central Military Institute of Physical Education, Colonel Elemér Somfay, o ones compay, communities of the responsibility the Olympic Champion's Badge with Green Oak Leaves on to under the Company Officer's Badge on the right breast pocket of his tunic

72/a. Sportbajnoki jekvény / Sports Champion's Badge

Aryag arasyozott rézötvözet, zornánz Letnik Esphén dorzkost, osdin jeheny, előlupján nermetiszinű uzalaggal hásom helyen átkötött zöld ológyközotozban sanyanyain hásítet ésött. SPOKT BAJPOKI JELVÉNY feliresű fehre szalag, hegyével felfilé mantot szürke kard, azon zöld feljefrevelkélel és baran makktermésékel övezett uzürke soban-tását, a hásítében a Szent Koccasolad felett magyar cimerpjat. A kozona háttest és alakú fehr mező. Hásia a jelványáry negattája, reja két, egymással szemkönt elhelyezett, átós állású rögzítő pánt. Viselé belye: a jobb felső zubbonyzseb közepén. Méret: 48×32 mm. HTM lt. sz.: 2005.79.1./É



Sports Champion's Badge - Post-WWII Version



Sporthajnski jelvény viselésére jegesítő igazolvány Gombos Elemér főhadnagyrészére (Magángyűjtemény) Certificate entitling First Lieutenant Elemér Gombos to wcar the Sports Champion's Badge

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Can be ordered directly from the publisher for \$49.00 US, plus \$40.00 US for registered priority shipping. Payments can be made safely and conveniently via Paypal.

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...Lakatos continued from page 11

The Arrow Cross Szálasi government was installed by the Germans, and Horthy was forced to abdicate and transfer all his powers. Soon after, Lakatos was escorted to Tihany

(where his married daughter was staying), and not allowed to leave. Military developments soon forced Lakatos and his family to move to Pannonhalma and then Gyor, where he was arrested and kept confined by gendarmes and the Arrow Cross, while his reputation was soiled by claims of his treachery. They were escorted to Sopron on New Year's Day 1945 and placed in the notorious Sopronkohida prison for a month. They were released, but constantly guarded by gendarmes and not allowed to travel without authority, until April when the Russian army entered Sopron, by which time the Arrow Cross authorities had fled. Lakatos was taken into custody and transported to several destinations and subjected to interrogations, and finally was released from protective custody in January 1946.

Lakatos returned to Budapest, where his apartment had been seized, and he was forced to act as a witness to multiple military and political trials. The authorities, media and others harassed him constantly and

eventually he and his wife retired to their country estate. In 1949, his pension withdrawn, there was no other alternative

but to give up their land. On returning to Budapest, and not in the best of health, Lakatos and his wife earned a living by painting scarves and handkerchiefs, and illustrating books.

In 1951, the whole family, including their son and

daughter were forcefully deported to the countryside to live. There, only manual labour was the only option to make a living, but eventually poor health made Lakatos turn again painting. The fact that his daughter's husband, József Szent-Ivány, had been in Germany and had managed to emigrate to Australia, was used against him by the authorities, but fortunately in 1953, they were allowed to live again closer to Budapest.

The 1956 uprising gave Lakatos' son and daughter the opportunity to escape from Hungary, both eventually reaching Australia, and in 1957 Lakatos regained a small pension. His wife died in 1960, and later, he eventually received permission to emigrate, and in 1965 he joined his children in Adelaide, South Australia. He died in 1967 and is buried in the Athelstone Cemetery.

Géza Lakatos wrote his story down, and years after his death, his daughter Mária Szent-Ivány managed to have it published. The English version entitled *As I Saw It* is an

excellent source of information on the life and career of this remarkable man.



As I Saw It can be purchased for \$25.00 US from: Mr George Redey · Universe Publishing Company 185 West Demarest Avenue · Englewood, NJ · 07631-2239 · USA · phone: 201 567-4296 · fax: 201 567-6488

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Our new IHMHPS membership pin. Shown actual size, this die-struck, beautifully made badge is very high quality, with a very secure, double pin-back. \$10.00 each (plus postage)



"Faithful to the tradition of Hungarian comradely associations that have come before us."

IHMHPS machine embroidered badge (actual size 5.5cm x 8.5cm) \$5.00 each (plus postage)



Uniforms of the Royal Hungarian Armed Forces 1926 - 1945

This is the second expanded edition of Dr. László Tóth's popular book. The second printing contains ninety-three extra pages and is packed full of new colour images and period photographs.

(23cm x 31cm, 239 pages).

Vancouver Chapter Member Péter v. Laborc played a key role in the production of this volume - copies can be ordered through the IHMHPS, and will be sent directly from him.

Copies are sent directly from Hungary

The price of the book is \$70.00

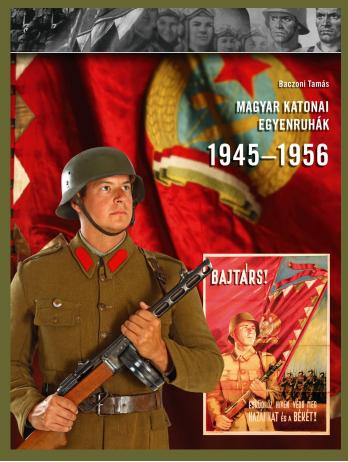
Postage rates are: Europe: Airmail - \$36.00 Surface - \$31.00

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(for registered mail add \$5.00)

(All prices in US dollars, please make cheques payable to "IHMHPS" or Paypal to czink@shaw.ca)

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Hungarian Army Uniforms 1945 - 1956

is a beautifully illustrated new Hungarian language reference book by Major Dr. Tamás Baczoni of the Military History Institute and Museum.

It's a companion volume to *Uniforms of the Royal Hungarian Armed Forces*, by Dr. László Tóth in hardcover (23cm x 31cm, 207 pages).

This comprehensive work details the uniforms of the immediate post-WW II Hungarian armed forces with full colour photographs of extremely rare, short-lived military items. The communist Rákosi era, Soviet inspired uniforms and equipment are superbly documented, as is the brief period of the 1956 Uprising.

Copies are sent directly from Hungary

The price of the book is \$70.00 Postage rates are: Europe:

Airmail - \$35.00 Surface - \$27.00

Outside Europe: Airmail - \$39.00 Surface - \$30.00

(All prices in US dollars, please make cheques payable to "IHMHPS" or Paypal to czink@shaw.ca)

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