

# MAGYAR FRONT.



**Vol. XXIII, No. 1**

**WINTER 2021**



35. Order of the Golden Fleece

36. Commander

37. Grand Cross

38. Small Cross

Royal Hungarian Order of St. Stephen



39. Commander

40. Grand Cross

41. Knight

42. II Class

43. I Class

44. III Class

Imperial Austrian Order of Leopold

Imperial Austrian Order of the Iron Crown



45. Knight

46. Grand Master

47. Honorary Knight

48. Commander

49. Bailiff

50. Knight of Justice

Order of the Teutonic Knights

Sovereign Order of Malta

Orders of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy



**MAGYAR FRONT  
VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 1  
WINTER 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**  
Founder/President

**Lorraine Weldeman**  
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

czink@shaw.ca  
[www.NewFront.ca](http://www.NewFront.ca)

©2020 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.

## A note from the Editor

This issue of the *Magyar Front* is dedicated to my friend and IHMHPS UK Vice-President Jack Keir, who passed away in February of this year (there's a little tribute to him on page 27). He was a very keen collector of Austro-Hungarian medals, and I think this issue would have been his favourite.

Last year, IHMHPS member Jeff Tóth brought an interesting vintage publication to my attention – a beautifully illustrated book on Austro-Hungarian orders, decorations, and medals that I hoped to get a copy of, however, it proved to be extremely rare and prohibitively expensive. Turning to the curator of the numismatic collection of the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum, Dr. Gergely Sallay, I was able to acquire images of the publication's brilliantly lithographed pages.

The complexity of Austro-Hungarian ODMs has confused me on occasion, and I knew that this would be a valuable resource to collectors and enthusiasts. Each award was captioned in German – another stumbling block for an English speaker like myself. I have translated them with the assistance of IHMHPS Austria VP Manfred Winter, and endeavoured to digitally clean up and colour-correct the century-old plates.

Gergely Sallay then graciously went over everything with a fine-toothed comb, ensuring that English speaking fans of Austro-Hungarian ODMs now have a comprehensive reference they will be able to easily understand. He has also provided some background information on the original publication below.

**P.Cz.**

In the spring of 1918, the official gazettes of both the Austro-Hungarian Common Army and the Royal Hungarian Defence Forces published the news that Captain Heinrich F. Michetschläger, assigned to the Presidential Department of the Imperial and Royal Ministry of War, was about to publish his reference work on all Austro-Hungarian orders, decorations and medals, also including the Teutonic Order and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

The publication of the large book, measuring 40cm x 52cm and containing 50 written pages and 35 colour plates with about 450 images, was compiled with the consent of the Ministry of War and it was to be sold for 140 Kronen or korona.

According to the gazettes, the reference book was to be titled *Ordensbuch der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie* (*Book of the Orders of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy*) and supplements were planned to be added to it later. It was also declared that a significant part of the income would go to humanitarian purposes.

The end of the First World War and the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in the autumn of 1918 affected the publishing of this reference work, but fortunately, for the good of those interested in the Austro-Hungarian decorations system, it was published in 1919 in Vienna by the War Charity Office of the Military Liquidation Agency. The book's actual title reflected the political changes: *Das Ordensbuch der gewesenen Österreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie. Orden, Kreuze, Ehrenzeichen, Medaillen, Denkmünzen, Dienstzeichen, Matrikelzeichen, Amtsabzeichen etz.* (*Book of the Orders, Decorations and Medals of the Former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy*). It contained 40 pages of text and 26 plates.

Captain Michetschläger's reference book is a fount of knowledge to all those researching or collecting Austro-Hungarian orders, decorations, and medals. It includes detailed information on all medals: their institution, statutes, history, wearing, order of precedence, but the most useful part is the 24 colour plates that show almost all possible variants of Austro-Hungarian decorations; even versions that were not even awarded or are hardly seen by the ordinary researcher or collector today.

The period images (photographs of actual pieces printed in colour by lithography) are an invaluable reference. Although there are a few mistakes in the book (most of which have now been corrected for the English version) it clearly remains a highly reliable and useable reference guide.

**G.S.**

### Our Cover:

The images on this issue's cover are from Plate VI in the series of illustrations from *Das Ordensbuch der gewesenen Österreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie. Orden, Kreuze, Ehrenzeichen, Medaillen, Denkmünzen, Dienstzeichen, Matrikelzeichen, Amtsabzeichen etz.*, and chronologically followed the plate on page 5.

High ranking national orders and orders of knighthood came with appropriate forms of gala dress, worn according to their various grades.

THE ORDER OF  
THE GOLDEN  
FLEECE

2. Collar Chain  
of figure 1.

THE MILITARY  
ORDER OF MARIA  
THERESA



3. Star for figure 4 (An illustration of the type awarded to Archduke Karl, Archduke Albrecht, and Archduke Friedrich.)

THE ROYAL  
HUNGARIAN ORDER  
OF ST. STEPHEN

1. Order of the Golden Fleece



GRAND CROSS AND FIRST CLASS SASH RIBBONS OF THE ORDERS



19. Grand Cross of the Imperial Austrian Order of Leopold  
 (17. The ribbon of the Royal Hungarian Order of St.  
 Stephen can be seen in Plate III, fig. 10. That of the  
 Military Order of Maria Theresa is pictured in fig. 4.)



20. First Class of the Imperial  
 Austrian Order of Leopold



21. War Ribbon of the Grand Cross  
 of the Order of Francis Joseph



22. War Ribbon of the Grand Cross  
 of the Order of Francis Joseph



23. Peacetime ribbon of fig. 22.



24. First Class of the Imperial  
 Austrian Order of the Iron Crown



25. Same as fig. 24.

26. Same as fig. 21.  
 (In the fashion worn  
 by the Clergy.)

27. Same as fig. 20.  
 28. Same as fig. 21.  
 (In the fashion worn  
 by the Clergy.)

29. Same as fig. 22.  
 30. Same as fig. 23.

GRAND CROSS AND FIRST CLASS COLLAR CHAINS



33. Imperial Austrian Order of Leopold

31. Order of the Golden Fleece

34. Imperial Austrian Order of the Iron Crown

32. Royal Hungarian Order of St. Stephen



52. Small decoration for 51. 61. Small decoration for 52. 62. Small decoration for 53. 63. Small decoration for 54. 64. Small decoration for 55. 65. Small decoration for 56. 66. Small decoration for 57. 67. Small decoration for 58. 68. Small decoration for 59. 69. Ribbon bar 70. Ribbon bar 71. Ribbon bar 72. Ribbon bar 73. Ribbon bar 74. Ribbon bar 75. Ribbon bar 76. Ribbon bar 77. Ribbon bar



MILITARY MERIT  
CROSS SECOND AND  
THIRD CLASS



108. Military Merit Cross  
2nd Class with the War Decoration  
and Swords of the 3rd Class



105. Military Merit Cross 2nd Class with  
the War Decoration of the 3rd Class.  
(106, 107. Small Decoration and ribbon  
bar of fig. 105 - see fig. 81 and 82.)



111. Military Merit Cross  
2nd Class with War Decoration  
and Swords of the 3rd Class.



117. Military Merit Cross  
2nd Class with War Decoration, and  
the Swords of the 3rd Class.



114. Military Merit Cross 2nd Class  
with War Decoration and Swords



117. Military Merit Cross  
2nd Class with War Decoration, and  
the Swords of the 3rd Class.



111. Military Merit Cross  
2nd Class with the War Decoration  
and Swords of the 3rd Class



115. Small Decoration of fig. 111.  
116. Ribbon bar for fig. 114.



108. Military Merit Cross  
2nd Class with the War Decoration  
and Swords of the 3rd Class



112. Small Decoration of fig. 111.  
113. Ribbon bar for fig. 111.



117. Ribbon bar for fig. 120-123.  
128. Ribbon bar for fig. 124-126.



125. Military Merit Cross 3rd  
Class with War Decoration and  
Swords awarded for the second time.



125. Military Merit Cross 3rd  
Class with War Decoration and  
Swords awarded for the second time.



125. Military Merit Cross 3rd  
Class with War Decoration and  
Swords awarded for the second time.

102. Military Merit Cross  
2nd Class Peacetime Decoration  
(103, 104. Small Decoration  
and ribbon bar for fig. 102.)



122. Military Merit Cross 3rd  
Class with War Decoration  
awarded for the second time.



120. Military Merit  
Cross 3rd Class



125. Military Merit Cross 3rd  
Class with War Decoration and  
Swords awarded for the third time.



129. Star of the Peacetime Decoration



132. Star of the Wartime Decoration



133. As 132 with Swords.

134. As 132 with Swords of a lower grade.



IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN ORDER OF LEOPOLD  
GRAND CROSS



140. As 138 with Swords of a lower grade.



141. As 138 with Swords.



142. As 138 with Swords of a lower grade.  
(142 and 143. As the other Small Decorations.)



143. As 138 with Swords of a lower grade.  
(143. As 136 and 137. Decorations to  
fig. 132 and 138. Stars 130 and 131 are unchanged.)



144. Small Decoration as fig. 144 but  
without the laurel wreath under the Star.  
(141. Small Decoration as fig. 144 but  
without the laurel wreath under the Star.)



145. As 144 with Swords.  
(145. As 146 with Swords of oxidized silver.)



146. As 145 with Swords of oxidized silver.  
(146. As 147 - 152. Ribbon bars with  
corresponding devices for the  
Small Decorations.)

IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN ORDER OF  
LEOPOLD - FIRST CLASS



153. Peacetime Decoration



154. As 153 with War Decoration of a lower grade.  
(155, as 154, with Swords of a  
lower grade, Swords as in fig. 134.)



156. War Decoration.

(157. War Decoration with Swords.  
Swords as in fig. 133.)

(158. War Decoration with Swords  
of a lower grade, as in fig. 134.)



160. As 159 (War Decoration of a lower grade).  
(161. As 159 (War Decoration of a lower grade) and  
Swords as in fig. 163, except of oxidized silver.)



159. Peace-time  
Decoration



162. War Decoration



163. As 162 with a  
(164. As 162 with Swords of a  
lower grade, of oxidized silver.)



170. As fig. 169 with  
Swords of oxidized  
silver (to fig. 164).



169. Small Decoration  
of fig. 163.  
(168. Small Decoration of fig. 162,  
in that case without Swords.)



166. Small  
Decoration to fig. 160.  
(167. Small Decoration to  
fig. 161, when the Swords to  
the Small Decoration are of  
the oxidized silver, as fig. 170.)



165. Small Decoration of fig. 159.  
(168. Small Decoration of fig. 162,  
in that case without Swords.)



IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN  
ORDER OF LEOPOLD -  
COMMANDER AND  
KNIGHT



178. Peacetime Decoration



177. Peacetime Decoration



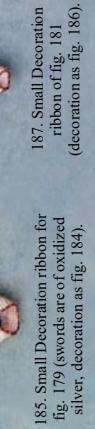
180. Wartime Decoration  
(179. As fig. 178 with Swords of a lower grade;  
swords as fig. 181 made of oxidized silver.)

181. As fig. 180 with Swords.  
(182. As fig. 181 with Swords of  
a lower grade - swords are  
of oxidized silver.)



183. Small Decoration  
for fig. 177.

184. Small Decoration  
for fig. 178.



185. Small Decoration ribbon for  
fig. 179 (swords are of oxidized  
silver, decoration as fig. 184).

186. Small Decoration  
for fig. 180.

187. Small Decoration  
ribbon of fig. 181  
(decoration as fig. 186).



188. Small  
Decoration for  
fig. 182 (with swords  
of oxidized silver).



205 (206). Ribbon bar for fig. 202  
and 203, and for fig. 204 with Swords.



204. Knight's  
Cross with War  
Decoration and  
Swords



203. Knight's  
Cross with War  
Decoration



189 - 195. Ribbon bar for  
fig. 183 - 188 with Small  
Decoration device.



202. Knight's Cross  
(Peacetime Decoration)



196, 197, 198. Proposed green enameled laurel  
wreath above the decoration for the Commander's Cross  
with War Decoration and Swords awarded for the second  
time, Small Decoration, and ribbon bar.)

(199, 200, 201. Proposed ribbon device (golden bar)  
for the Knight's Cross with War Decoration and Swords  
awarded for a second time, and its ribbon bar.)



207. Star of the Peacetime Decoration



210. Star of the Wartime Decoration



211. As 210 with Swords.  
Swords of a lower grade.

212. As 210 with  
Swords of a lower grade.



213. Peacetime Decoration



214. Wartime Decoration



215. As 216 with  
Swords.



216. As 216 with  
War Decoration

217. As 216 with  
Swords.

218. As 216 with  
Swords of a lower grade.



219. As 223 with  
Swords of a lower grade.

220. As 223 with  
Swords of a lower grade.

221. As 223 with  
Swords of a lower grade.

222. As 223 with  
Swords of a lower grade.

223. As 223 with  
Swords of a lower grade.

224. As 223 with  
Swords of a lower grade.

## IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN ORDER OF THE IRON CROWN - FIRST CLASS

## IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN ORDER OF THE IRON CROWN (SECOND AND THIRD CLASS)

236. As fig. 235  
with War Decoration  
of a lower grade.



235. 2nd Class (Peacetime Decoration)

(237. As fig. 235 with War  
Decoration of a lower grade  
and Swords of a lower grade.  
Swords are oxidized silver.)



238. 2nd Class with  
War Decoration

239. 2nd Class  
with War Decoration  
and Swords

240. As fig. 239 with  
Swords of a lower grade.



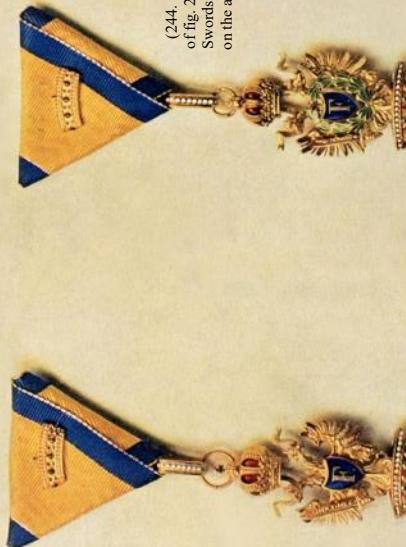
241. Reverse of fig. 238.

(231. Proposed 2nd Class with War Decoration and Swords awarded for the second time - as fig. 238 with the addition of a 12mm green enameled laurel wreath between the decoration and attachment ring.)  
(232. Proposed Star to be worn on the right breast is planned. 233 and 234. Small Decoration and ribbon for the second award of the 2nd Class following the pattern of all other Small Decorations and ribbons.)



242. Small Decoration of fig. 235.

(244. Small Decoration  
of fig. 237, in this case the  
Swords are oxidized silver  
on the appropriate ribbon.)



243. Small Decoration of fig. 235.



244. Small Decoration of fig. 238.

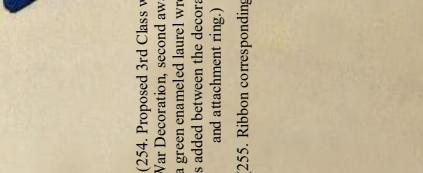
The ribbon is the same as  
fig. 246 but without Swords.



245. Small Decoration of fig. 238.  
The ribbon is the same as  
fig. 246 but without Swords.



(246. Small Decoration of fig. 239.  
The ribbon is the same as fig. 246  
but with Swords of oxidized silver.)



(254. Proposed 3rd Class with  
War Decoration, second award -  
a green enameled laurel wreath  
is added between the decoration  
and attachment ring.)  
(255. Ribbon corresponding to)



With the miniatures of the  
matching Small Decorations:

248 as 242, 249 as 243, 250 as 244

251 as 245, 252 as 246, 253 as 247

261 as 259 with attached Swords as fig. 258.

262. Reverse of fig. 256.

259 and 260. Ribbon bar for fig. 256 and 257.

256. 3rd Class (Peacetime Decoration)

257. 3rd Class with War Decoration

AUSTRIAN ORDER OF FRANCIS JOSEPH - GRAND CROSS



263. Star of the Peacetime Decoration



266. Star with  
War Decoration

267. As fig. 266  
with Swords.



268. As fig. 267 (with Swords of a lower grade).



274. With Swords of a lower grade.

(280. Small Decoration of fig. 268 and 274,  
as fig. 279 but with Swords of oxidized silver.)

(264. As fig. 263 with War Decoration of a lower grade. The cross has a green enameled gold laurel wreath. 265. With Swords of a lower grade - the swords are as fig. 276, 277. As fig. 275, with corresponding miniatures.)



272. As fig. 263.



273. With Swords.



287. Grand  
Cross Chain (for  
civilian wear).



278. Small Decoration  
for fig. 266 and 272.



281 to 286 Ribbon  
bars, either red or red  
and white red with the  
corresponding miniature  
of the relevant figures.

279. Small Decoration  
for fig. 267 and 273.



269. Peacetime Decoration  
(275. Small Decoration of 263  
and 269 as fig. 278, but with a red  
ribbon and without the laurel  
wreath under the star.)





AUSTRIAN ORDER OF FRANCIS JOSEPH - OFFICER AND KNIGHT



ORDER OF ELIZABETH - ORDER OF THE STAR CROSS



359. Star of the  
Grand Cross

367. Medal of the Order  
of Elizabeth obverse and  
reverse.

360. Grand Cross  
on sash ribbon.

364. Second Class  
365. Reverse of figure 364.

361. First Class as figure 364 and 365 in gold.

362. Star of the First Class as figure 359.

363. First Class without Star as figure 361.

366. Elizabeth Cross - a silver cross without enamel  
like that of the Second Class, but a little smaller.



THE MILITARY MERIT MEDAL AND THE BRAVERY MEDAL

413 (414). Ribbon bars.

415 (416). Ribbon bars.



GOLD, SILVER, AND IRON MERIT CROSSES\*



458, 465, 472. With Crown.

459, 466, 473. Reverse.

460, 467, 474. Without Crown.

461, 468, 475. With Crown on the Bravery Medal ribbon.

463, 470, 477. As fig. 461, 468, and 475 with Swords.

464, 471, 478. As fig. 462, 469, and 476 with Swords.



479, 480, 481. Corresponding ribbon bars.

\*Silver and Iron Merit Crosses were never awarded with Swords.



DECORATIONS OF  
HONOUR OF THE  
RED CROSS





DECORATIONS OF THE KNIGHTS  
OF THE TEUTONIC ORDER



569. Grand Master Neck Cross.

575. Sister's Cross.  
(Worn as fig. 572 or 574.)

570. Grand Master Neck Cross.

571. Knight of Honour Neck Cross (blue helmet, red helmet lining).  
572. Priest's Neck Cross.

573. Knight's (professed of solemn vows) Neck Cross, reverse.  
Also reverse of fig. 571.  
574. Knight (professed of solemn vows) Neck Cross, reverse.  
Also reverse of fig. 571.

576. Lay Brother's Cross.

577. Marian Cross

578. Marian Cross

580. As 578, on bow ribbon for ladies.

DECORATIONS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA



581. Bailiff Professed of Solemn Vows and Honorary Bailiff, and Grand Cross of Sovereign Houses. (65mm across.)



582. Ribbon for the Bailiff Cross, can either be worn under the Order of the Golden Fleece, or on the tri-fold ribbon as a Knight's Cross on the left breast.



585. Commander, Knights Professed of Solemn Vows, Knights of Justice, and Honorary Knights.



587. Dames of Honour Grand Cross



584. Ribbon embroidered with a wreath of thorns worn around the neck. (The back is pictured.)



583. Bailiff and Grand Cross, Honorary Bailiff and Grand Cross



586. Magisterial Grand Cross



590. Dames of Honour and Devotion

Cross for Dames of Honour.

DECORATIONS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA



591. Magisterial Knight, Professed and Honorary Chaplains

592, 593. *Donatus* Cross 1st Class with the Half Cross of Justice (Professed of Solemn Vows).

594. *Donatus* Cross 1st Class

598. Merit Neck Cross (worn with breast cross).

599. For wear on the breast

600. Breast Cross of Merit

Both with War Decoration.

596. *Donatus* Cross 3rd Class

597. Gold Cross for Faithful Service.



601. Gold Merit Badge of Honour (with War Decoration)

602. Silver Merit Badge of Honour (with War Decoration)

603. Silver Merit Badge of Honour (Peacetime Decoration)

604. As 601 (for ladies).

605. As 602 (for ladies).

606. (607, 608) Bronze Merit Medal with War Decoration (also in Gold and Silver).

609. (610, 611) as 606 (607, 608) for ladies.



# John Keir 1961-2021

We met for the first time virtually, so many years ago, through a sale of a medal offered on an online auction that was then in its infancy. Jack and I quickly realized that we had a lot in common – I live in Vancouver (his favourite home away from home), we both shared a passion for all things Hungarian, and he was a proper Scotsman (a Scottish couple took my new immigrant parents under their wings here in Canada, after 1956 – my adopted auntie and uncle had a significant influence on my early years).

Thanks to modern technology I had the privilege of getting to know Jack very well over the years, and his passion for travel brought him to my home a number of times too. Now when I look back on our correspondence it lovingly overwhelms me – we shared everything from our aches and pains to our favourite pastimes – he was always ready to chat – even when it was about our saddest moments. When I wanted to revive those sweet memories of my auntie and uncle, we chatted in Scots. Here in my living room, after peppering him with my usual barrage of questions, he patiently

wrote down (in his beautiful script) a detailed explanation of the old British currency, and the mystifying (to me) Scottish terms for meals (“For some lunch is dinner, and if lunch is your dinner, dinner is your tea. If lunch is your lunch then dinner is dinner. Supper is post-dinner...”).

John Keir was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1961. He was admitted to the Edinburgh University Faculty of Law in 1978, and graduated with an Honours Degree in 1982, and after a post graduate year he commenced his training as a solicitor. Following many years in private practice he entered the Procurator Fiscal Service (the Scottish public prosecution and death investigation service) in 1999 and became Senior Procurator Fiscal Depute assigned to a specialist post at Crown Office in Edinburgh. He worked in many places across the country, including Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and Falkirk before he retired in late 2019.

Jack was very highly respected - Derek McEwan, Fife Divisional Police Commander summed it up well: “John always made himself available to provide advice and guidance to officers of all ranks and was a key individual in the preparation for court of some of the most significant criminal investigations policing in Fife have encountered. As a fiscal depute, John dedicated so much of his time, not only in supporting policing in Fife, but in making the communities of Fife and Scotland a safer place for all.”

After becoming involved with the World Federation of Hungarian Veterans, Jack joined my new association, the International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society, in 2008. Always ready to write articles and proof-read others, and offer sage advice on top of that, I asked him to represent the IHMHPS in the UK as one of our vice-presidents. He supported and assisted the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum in Budapest, took part in our 2006 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution commemorations in Vancouver – honestly, he was so enthusiastic I will never be able to calculate the enormous amount of awareness he has raised about Hungary. We Magyars value our native Hungarian heroes – but someone like Jack – a Hungarophile by choice who served our cause above and beyond, ranks him just a wee bit above

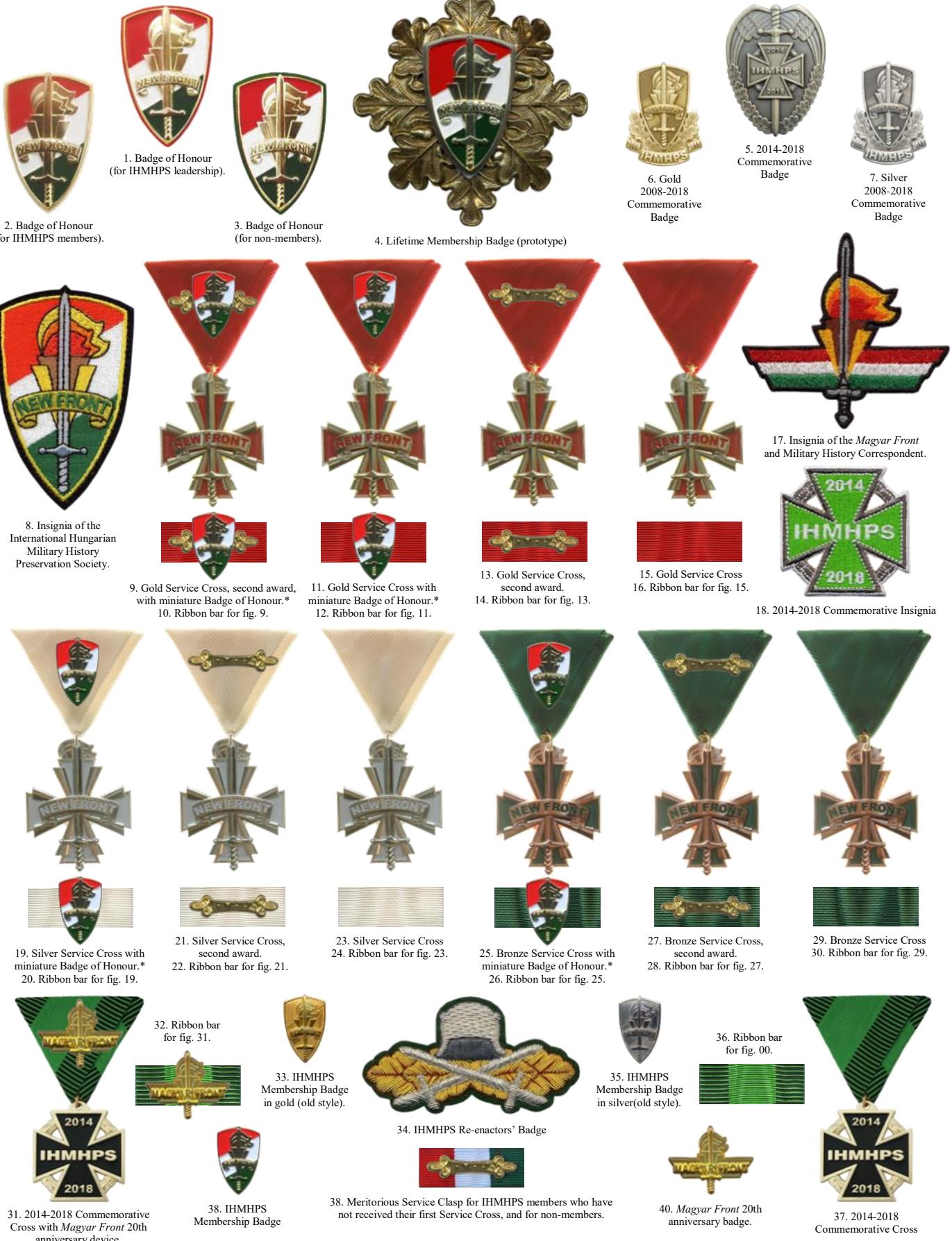
P.Cz.

#### John Keir's military history related awards:

Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum Silver Medal, IHMHPS Gold Service Cross,  
IHMHPS Silver Service Cross, IHMHPS Bronze Service Cross with Clasp, IHMHPS 2014-2018 Cross,  
World Federation of Hungarian Veterans (MHBK) Gold Service Medal, MHBK 1956 Commemorative Medal,  
MHBK Silver Service Medal, Austrian Veterans' Association (OKB) Silver Service Medal,  
OKB Fund Raising Award, OKB 1854-2014 Jubilee Medal, Kálmán v. Mikecz Armed Forces  
and Hussar Historical Preservation Society 2005-2015 Jubilee Medal, IHMHPS Badge of Honour,  
and the IHMHPS 2014-2018 Commemorative Badge.



# AWARDS AND INSIGNIA OF THE IHMHPS



\*The miniature Badge of Honour is only worn on the highest grade of the Service Cross when the full-size badge is not worn.

# MILITARY TREASURES

Selected Artefacts  
from the Hungarian  
Military History Institute  
and Museum in  
Its Centenary Year

HADTÖRTÉNETI 100  
1918-2018

