



# MAGYAR FRONT

THE MHBK VANCOUVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## AN EXEMPLARY YOUNG SOLDIER

JULY - AUGUST  
2007

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 4

WWW.MHBK.COM



I am very happy to announce that Vancouver Chapter member Joseph Gyokeri has been awarded the MHBK Silver Medal of Merit for his work on preserving a very important piece of Hungarian military history. This young man's interest in his culture and heritage prompted him to go to great lengths to translate and publish his grandfather's wartime diary – a fascinating document that chronicles his military career, his grandparents' early times together, and in particular, the time he spent as a POW. It's a lively read that brings into focus the most primary subject during troubled times – the search for enough food to ward off starvation.

Joseph was born in the USA, and just turned 23. He graduated from Norwich University, better known as the Military College of Vermont, where he earned a degree in history, in May 2006. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, of the US Army Quartermaster Corps, and is currently in command an infantry support platoon in the Massachusetts National Guard.

His work is entitled "Memoirs of a Hungary Soldier: Struggle of a Hungarian Family in the Second World War." "I thought that this would be a fitting title for the book. Obviously, it has a double meaning that I think is very appropriate for what my grandfather describes in much of his journal entries. My grandparents and my father had moved to the United States in 1958 after escaping Hungary during the 1956 Revolution, and in 1994, my grandparents decided to move back. I found out about my grandfather's journal about a year ago.

When I heard about it, I asked my grandmother to bring it on her next visit to the USA. Unfortunately, I do not read or speak much Hungarian so I was not able to decipher its contents. She allowed me to scan every page of the journal so that I could have a copy of my own. After she had gone back to Hungary, my father informed me that she had left the journal in his care. So not only do I have electronic scans of the journal, but I actually now have the original one. It also contained two very detailed maps of Hungary and Eastern Austria showing the places and dates of the family's retreat from the Soviets in 1944-45.

To me, this journal makes history even more exciting, especially since it was a close member of my family who wrote it. During some free time at school up in Vermont, I continuously searched the internet for any site at all detailing the Hungarian Army during the Second World War. There was practically nothing available in English as far as that subject goes. Somehow, one day I was lucky enough to stumble upon the MHBK website. As I looked through the archive of newsletters, I was ecstatic to see the wealth of information about Hungarian soldiers of the Second World War. More importantly, I was able to contact Peter Czink, and communicate with him in English. It seemed like I had an infinite amount of questions. I had old pictures of my grandfather in uniform, but I wanted to see actual colour pictures of badges and medals, and he was able to answer all of my questions – he even sent me the Hungarian regulations and specifications on the border guard badge and uniforms that I was interested in. The website was everything I had been looking for. Even better was the fact that a network of Hungarians with a shared interest in Hungarian military history actually existed - much to my surprise!

More importantly, it was Peter who directed me to Vancouver translator Zita Szilágyi, to have my journal translated. I contacted Zita and asked her if she could do the translation and I sent her a sample of some of the journal scans. After a couple of months, I decided that I could not wait any longer (not knowing what the journal actually said), so I contacted her again to go ahead with her work. The journal was well worth what it cost me to have translated - for the amount of time she spent, it was a great value. Without Zita's help, I probably never would have known exactly what was contained in the journal.

I cannot call the final work "my" book, because while I did compile it and manufacture it into its final form, my grandfather is the author of its contents, with a little help from my grandmother and me. I hope to see the book in its final form no later than five to six months from now. It is difficult to tell, but I do promise that it will come out."

Congratulations to Joseph for his inspirational dedication to Hungarian historical preservation!

**If you have any questions, or would like a copy of the book, please contact:**

**Joseph Gyokeri 138 Forge Road Coventry, CT 06238 USA**

**mgyokeri@yahoo.com**

# vitéz Németh Endre

I only met Andrew Németh a couple of years ago after I received a phone call from him asking me if I was interested in some old books about the Hungarian Air Force. In fact, I had never even heard of him up until that point, as the local senior MHBK members have rarely informed me of veterans that hadn't been active in the established Hungarian community. It turned out that Mr. Németh had distanced himself from the MHBK and the local organizations for reasons that are now very familiar to me – cliques were not something he was very fond of.

We soon made arrangements to visit him, and we were greeted by his charming wife Brigitte, who also treated us with the utmost kindness and hospitality. Meeting such larger-than-life people can make anyone a little nervous, but the noble and friendly personalities of both Andrew and his wife made us feel at ease immediately.

In the short time that I knew him, I learned that he was a highly decorated pilot who served during the Second World War – of course we spoke a great deal about his military past. His mind was sharp, and the names, dates and places were obviously still fresh in his memory, however, what struck me even more, was his easy going and enlightened character. His disarming laughter, his love for his garden and the birds that flitted about, and his sincerity in discussing any subject

made for very refreshing visits. Lorraine Weideman and I spend many hours with him – while we photographed and documented his military papers and decorations, which he always kept in an elegant glass cabinet in the living room.

One day not long ago, Bandi, as we later called him, phoned me and bravely informed me that he was not doing well, and that he wanted to say goodbye. At that point, we were still unable to arrange for him to come by and look at my collection of military items, so we packed up a few things that I thought would interest him, and went to visit. We spent a wonderful afternoon together, and the old days were the main topic of conversation.

Bandi passed away on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and his family asked me to prepare a brief eulogy for his funeral service:

“We all think of Andrew Németh, or Bandi; as a family man – a dedicated father – a devoted husband – a hard working man who could always be depended upon – and as a friend. His remarkable life and experiences tempered the man we looked up to. He was an immigrant who worked tirelessly to make a name for himself in a new country – a man whose perseverance ensured the comfort and safety of his family. He won the respect of everyone he came in contact with.

We can't help but admire a rich and successful life – and Bandi's dignified kindness and wisdom was a testament to his experience and enlightenment. His love of nature, and of humanity and peace, however was forged in a turbulent era – during the wartime years of his youth. Over a half-century ago, Bandi served his country as a military pilot, and was known as First-Lieutenant Németh, of the Royal Hungarian Air Force. He excelled then too – taking part in the reclamation of Transylvania and Southern Hungary; flying missions over Yugoslavia; and fighting in the skies above the Soviet Union. Back then he made a name for himself in the service of his homeland.

The press called him ‘A Hungarian hero of the air war.’ As a high altitude reconnaissance pilot he would fly deep into enemy territory to map and photograph their positions. It was a dangerous and lonely job that took nerves of steel and great skill – flying his aircraft and operating sensitive observation equipment while contending with enemy fighters and anti-aircraft guns. High over the freezing steppes of Russia he became an ace – 8 times the victor in aerial combat. His men revered him and his superiors commended him, while he put the safety of his crews first and foremost during the 70 missions and more than 1100 hours that they spent in the air together.

He received the highest awards for bravery from Hungary and her allies and was even knighted for his extraordinary feats of





gallantry. I doubt that many of his neighbours here in Canada knew that he was officially known as Andrew Németh, the Valliant, or *vitéz Németh Endre*, back home in the old country.

History is full of larger-than-life figures, and heroes who influence us – we all hope for inspiration and guidance from great people. I think that all of us here today are truly fortunate to have been so close to such a great and noble man. Although this hero is now at rest, the flame of his courageous, honourable and faithful soul will live within us forever.”

A few of his awards (left): Hungarian Pilot's Badge, insignia of the Order of Vitéz, Bulgarian Pilot's Badge and Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit with Swords and War Ribbon (right). Bandi decided to donate his military items to the Military History Institute and Museum in Budapest, so they can be enjoyed by future generations.

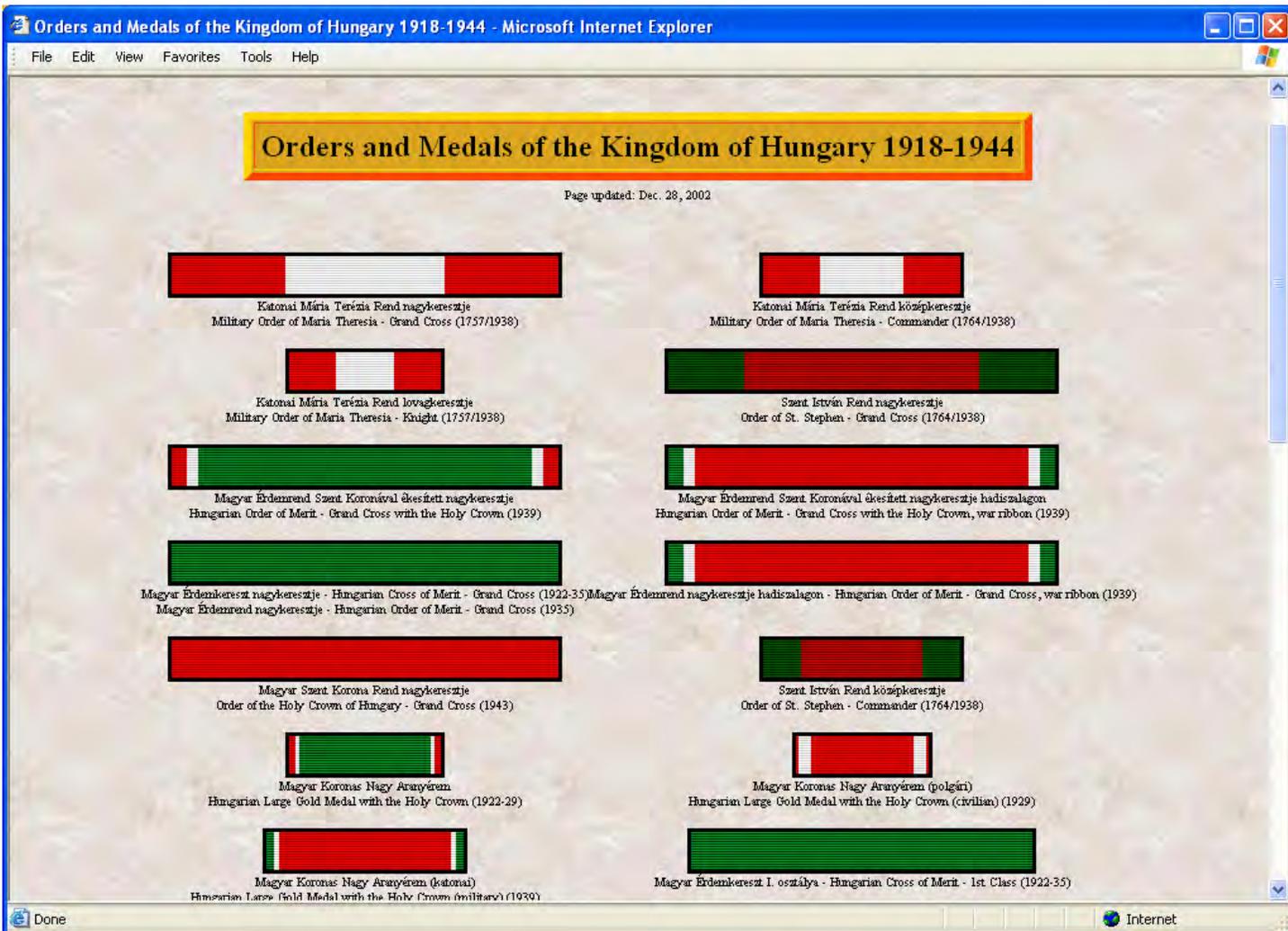
Jogosult az alábbi géptípusok repülésére:

Gyártmány	Géptípus	A bev. aláírása
Udet	U. 12. b	Q. [Signature]
W.M.	Hungaria	[Signature]
Heinkel	HD. 22.	Mally.
W. M.	Fokker C.V.D	[Signature]
Bücker	Jungmann	[Signature]
W. M.	Budapest 9	[Signature]
Heinkel	He. 46.	[Signature]
Arado	Ar. 96.	[Signature]
Heinkel	He. 70	[Signature]
W.M.	N.M. 10.	Mócs Gyula
Bf. 108.	Messerschmitt "Taifun"	Mori Sándor
Focke Wulf	F.W. 58. Wehe	

Gyártmány	Géptípus	A bev. aláírása
Stöcker	Fw. 56	Pötery János
Heinkel	He. - 111	W. M. [Signature]
Doxa	Do. - 215.	W. M. [Signature]
Junkers	Ju - 88	W. M. [Signature]
Junkers	Ju. 86	Peterffy [Signature]
Fieseler	Storch	Peterffy [Signature]
Fw.	Fw. 189	W. M. [Signature]
Caudron	C-635	[Signature]
Márvag	Heja	[Signature]
Arado	Ar - 96/b	[Signature]
Potez	Potez 63	[Signature]
Heverschmidt	Me. 210	[Signature]
Rep. gép. gy. st. devente II.		[Signature]

One of Andrew v. Németh's papers documenting what types of aircraft he was trained to fly.



“Ribbons of Orders and Decorations of the World” is a beautifully put-together website that includes very well done pages for the Hungarian Regency period 1918-1944, the Republic 1944-1949, the People’s Republic 1949-1990 and the current Republic’s decorations. The ribbons of the Austro-Hungarian Empire are also covered. Ribbons are illustrated in their proper order of precedence and the Hungarian ones are conveniently labelled both in Hungarian and English.

Highly recommended! [www.medals.lava.pl](http://www.medals.lava.pl)



**Now available - Full-colour, full-size (15cm x 17cm) reproductions of the World War II Hungarian Military vehicle insignia**

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Cut-out and mounted on flexible magnetic material (perfect for your car door or tank turret):

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## THE MAGYAR FRONT

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# MAGYAR FRONT

THE MHBK VANCOUVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## OFFICIAL INSIGNIA OF ROYAL HUNGARIAN ARMY VEHICLES

JANUARY - FEBRUARY  
2007

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Hungarian culture is full of rich contrasts. It seems that every aspect of it, from politics to cuisine can wildly range from spicy and fierce to refined and delicate. I have always been attracted to our anachronistic martial past, which always seemed to be on the forefront of so many conflicts, while maintaining a kind of old-fashioned elegance – almost hoping that our equestrian code of honour and braided and embroidered uniforms might somehow hold modern warfare's bloody realities at bay.

By the 1930s, Hungarian military vehicles carried a special insignia unlike that of any other modern army. It was a resplendent aluminium trophy of arms – a cannon, rifle and sword, behind a wreath of traditional oak and laurel leaves, held together by a bow, the whole surmounted by the old World War I style helmet. Mounted on it was a beautifully executed Hungarian coat-of-arms picked out in full colour enamel. Without a doubt it must have been a costly item to produce, and I would think that it wouldn't have held out too well

**Left: The first type of vehicle insignia - made of injection-moulded aluminium with an enamelled brass Hungarian coat-of-arms. The number 127 is stamped on the obverse right of the cannon, and the letters H.M. are impressed in the reverse of the helmet. The two holes, on either side of the cannon, are for the mounting bolts or screws. The actual size is the same as the decal version - 16.4cm wide by 13.7cm tall.**



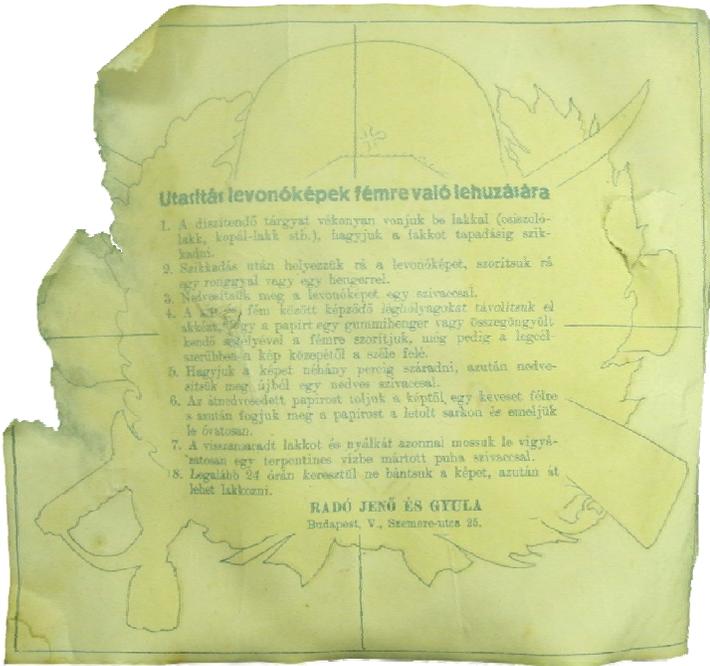
CZANK COLLECTION  
WEBERIAN PHOTO



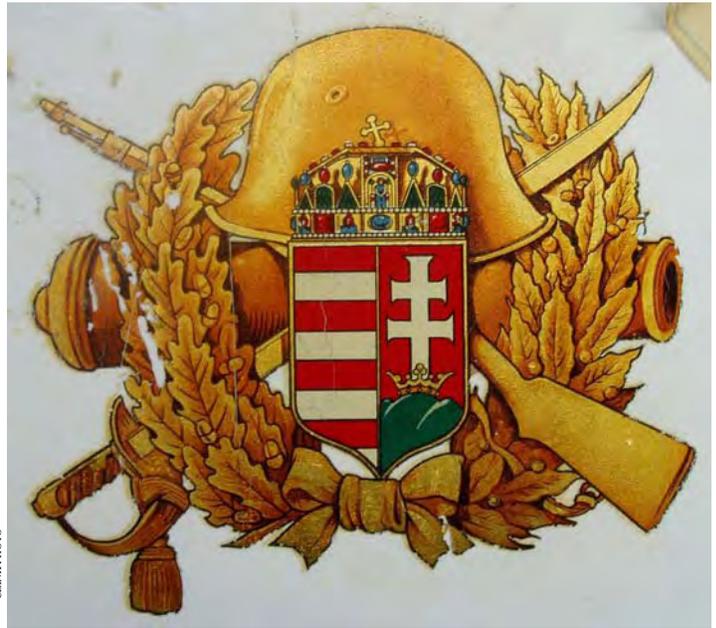
KÖRÖSSY COLLECTION

**Above: Hungarian Armoured personnel in an Ansaldo 35M light tank. The decal version of the military vehicle insignia looks delicate in juxtaposition with the armour, rivets and hand-painted skull and crossbones unit insignia.**

*(Courtesy of Vancouver Chapter member Zoltán v. Körössy)*



LABORC COLLECTION  
CZINK PHOTO



LABORC COLLECTION  
CZINK PHOTO

**Left: The backing paper with application instructions in Hungarian - the manufacturer's name and address are also printed on it. Right: The fragile and unstable decal, after the paper was removed. Some of it remained on the protective tissue.**

considering what soldiers put their vehicles and equipment through. According to honorary MHBK Vancouver Chapter member Gergely Sallay of the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum, sometime around 1938 a decal version of the insignia was put into service. Although it must have been considerable less expensive to manufacture, it was beautifully and artistically produced.

Last year, Vancouver Chapter member Peter v. Laborc found an unused decal and sent it to me, hoping that my

modelling experience might help in transferring it onto a flat surface. This type of decal differs from the water transfer types that come in commercially produced model kits that we are familiar with. They are fixed to their protective backing paper face-down (so you can't see the details until you apply it), and have a fine tissue covering their reverse side. According to the instructions printed on the backing paper, one must first apply clear lacquer to the surface on which the decal is to be applied, and when it becomes tacky, the decal is laid on top of it and air bubbles are to be pressed out with a roller. Once that is done, the backing paper is soaked with water and peeled off. In the case of this almost 70 year-old decal, that was easier said than done – it was covered with hairline cracks and some of it came off with the backing paper. I was left with a very badly damaged and fragile decal.



Once another coat of lacquer was applied I at least had a stable object to work with, so I scanned it and spent the next few evenings restoring it digitally.

It turned out quite well, with the exception that the gold and copper colours are much more metallic and reflective on the original.

**Reproductions of the decal will be available soon - full size (peel-and-stick or mounted on magnetic material) and as water transfers in popular miniature scales for model builders. Contact the Vancouver Chapter for details.**

## 17. §. Lövészjelvény.

89. A lövészegyesületi tagok a *lövészjelvényt* a lövészkalapon, a 31. ábrán feltüntetett helyen viselik.

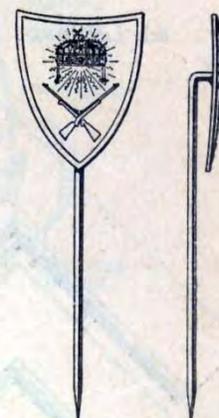
A lövészjelvény alakját a 34/a. és b. ábra mutatja.



34/a. ábra  
Lövészjelvény  
frontharcos tagok részére



34/b. ábra  
Lövészjelvény  
az összes többi tagok  
részére



34/c. ábra  
A lövészjelvény  
kisebbitett  
alakja



CZINK COLLECTION

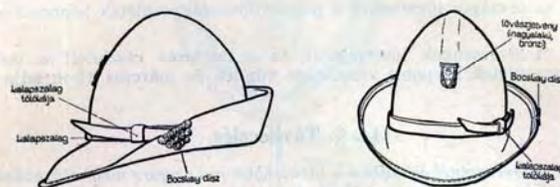
Thanks to Gergely Sallay of the Military History Institute and Museum, another mystery has been solved. I have a number of these badges (pictured above, actual size - the reason for the two variations is not known) in my collection that bear a strong resemblance to the insignia of the Front-Line Fighters' Association. In fact, when I originally bought them I was told that they were from that organization and I had no reason to believe otherwise. I also have some without the attached helmet and sword device, which prompted me to ask various experts about their exact purpose – never seeing them in any veteran-related photographs or publications, I became very curious.

Later, I came across a 1941 publication entitled *Honvédelmi Kötelezettségeink* (National Defence Obligations), a book of military protocol written by Caesar De Sgardelli, one of the veterans' movement's most prolific scribes. A picture of the

badge appears on the cover and inside the book, but no mention is made of it.

I asked Gergely about the unusual badge and he told me it was from the *Lövészegyesület*, or Rifleman's Association – an inter-war shooting organization. After some research he found that there were two branches – the *Polgári Lövészegyesület* (Civilian Rifleman's Association) and later the *Egyetemi (Főiskolai) Lövészegyesület* (University Rifleman's Association). He kindly sent me copies of two manuals, one from 1930 and the other from 1931, that verified that they operated similarly to sport shooting clubs, however, whether it was simply the fashion of the time or a para-military organization in disguise, the rules and regulations were very martial. Our veterans even had their own sub-group, with a special version of the cap badge.

87. A lövészegyesület tagjai a löökutatással kapcsolatos foglalkozások és a lövészünnepélyek alkalmával a *lövészkalapot* (31. ábra) és a *lövész-zubbonyt* (32. ábra) viseljék.



31. ábra

A magyar roncskutatók hivatalos honlapja - Nincs elfeledett történelem! - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

# TAPINTHATÓ TÖRTÉNELEM

A Második Világháború Hadtörténelmi Portálja  
A Magyar repülőgéproncs-kutatók hivatalos honlapja





**Belépés**  
 Név:   
 Jelszó:   
 Tag belépése  
 Elfelejtetted a jelszót?  
 Regisztrálj most!  
**Keresés**  
  
 Keresés  
 Részletes keresés  
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 HONLAPTÉRKÉP  
 FÓRUM  
 KÉPGALÉRIA  
 LINKEK  
 Partnerek  
**MŰLT-KOR**  
 TÖRTÉNELMI PORTÁL

**Új híreink**  
 Süren Kam megúsza az EU... (2007/2/21)  
 Figyelemre méltó fotókiállítás... (2007/2/20)  
 VII. MW és II. Roncskuta... (2007/2/16)  
 Császári és Királyi 26. ... (2007/2/16)  
 A 110-es fogolytábor tem... (2007/2/15)  
 Villám Mihály repülő rád... (2007/2/15)  
 27. székely könnyű ... (2007/2/15)  
 Vitéz nemes sárbogárdi M... (2007/2/14)  
 Kérdés a 17. gyalogezred... (2007/2/12)  
 Ki volt a kapitánya VÍRI... (2007/2/11)

**Új cikkeink**  
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 Négy év fogság Ukrajnába... (2007/2/19)  
 Herceg Odescalchi Miklós... (2007/2/15)  
 Heves megye '56 (2007/2/9)  
 Magyar békemisszió Vietn... (2007/2/4)  
 Adattár - Védvonalak (2007/2/3)  
 Ejtőernyősök a Magyar Ki... (2007/1/21)  
 Adattár - Horthy (2007/1/14)  
 Apám halálára (2007/1/7)  
 Pongrácz Imre naplójából (2006/12/30)

**Egy kép a galériából**  


**Új hozzászólás/ Fórumok**

Téma	Válasz	Hozzászólás
Hitler (bolond vagy láng elme?)	141	2007/2/21 23:05 Tyimosenko

There are a lot of military websites and forums on the internet, but by far the best one for those of us interested in World War II era Hungarian topics is this site: [www.netlabor.hu/roncskutatas](http://www.netlabor.hu/roncskutatas). Although it does have some information in English, it is primarily in Hungarian and focuses on military archaeology - an interest that is far more interesting and accessible in Hungary. There are plenty of pages and threads, however, on Hungarian militaria and all aspects of Hungarian military history. For people whose knowledge of the Hungarian language is limited, it is still a pleasure to browse and explore the vast amount of images.

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## THE MAGYAR FRONT

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Chapter Leader, Vancouver Chapter, World Federation of Hungarian Veterans  
Csoport Vezető, Vancouveri Csoport, Magyar Harcosok Bajtársi Közössége

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# MAGYAR FRONT

THE MHBK VANCOUVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## UNIFORMS OF THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN ARMED FORCES

MARCH - APRIL  
2007

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 2

WWW.MHBK.COM



Many years ago, I was given an impressive full colour fold-out poster of World War II era Hungarian military uniforms. It was produced during the period – the head of the Hungarian Armed Forces General staff made it official on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1942, and it was printed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the same month. The designer and publisher was Colonel Alajos v. Loósy, and the drawings were done by András Biczó. It was printed by György Klösz and Son. It's quite a large document, measuring 33.8cm x 98.4cm, and is double sided. Interestingly, the text is not only in Hungarian, but also German, Italian, Japanese, Bulgarian and French.

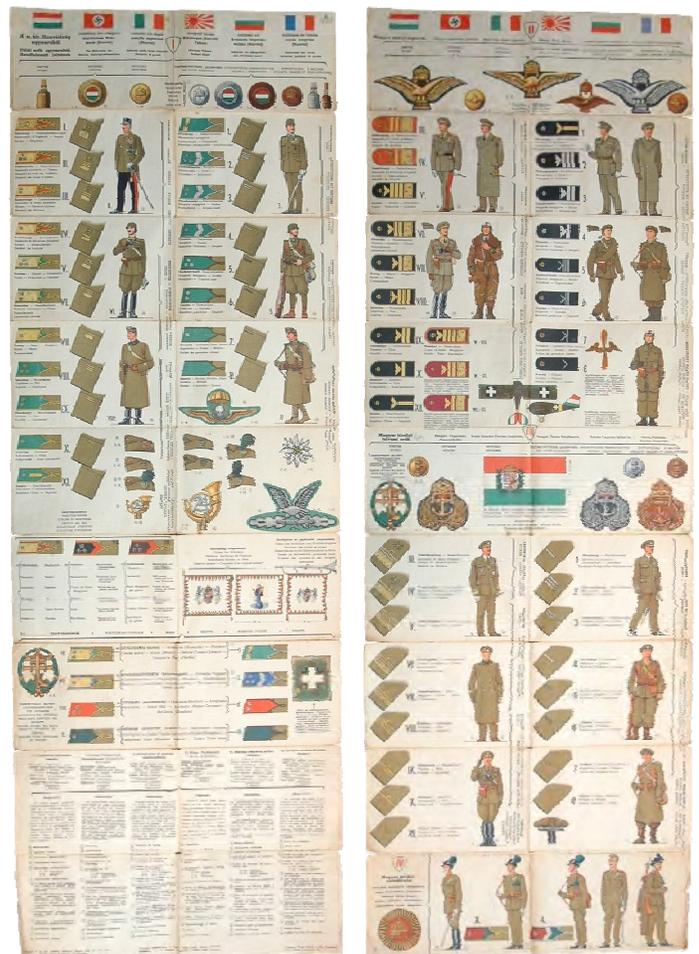
It was printed on average quality, somewhat heavy paper, which has yellowed over the years. When I first took a serious interest in this period of Hungarian history, I poured over it constantly, and the folding and unfolding of it has taken a toll on its condition. Even though I now have a considerable amount of reference material at hand, I find myself consulting this fine little poster often. The information it contains is excellent, and the illustrations are not only useful, they also treat the viewer to the unique graphic style of the period.

Especially since we have created or MHBK website, I often receive questions about Hungarian uniforms and badges, branch-of-service colours and orders of dress. This document is an excellent resource for anyone interested in deciphering the rich visual military language of the Horthy era – both the beginner and the expert would find it very useful.

These days, I open it only when it's absolutely necessary, and then only very gingerly. I will spend some time digitally cleaning-up the poster and translating the text into Hungarian – a project that I think will be very helpful to MHBK members, and in the meantime I will look into acquiring permission to re-print this very useful document. The following two pages contain the first sections that I have completed.

**Right:**  
Photographs of both sides of the poster showing its discolouration and wear. The reproduced version will be formatted for standard letter size paper so that the artwork will be the same size or slightly larger than the original. The text will be in Hungarian and English, and a more extensive branch-of-service colour chart will be added.

**Left:**  
One of the new 1:6 scale figures I have made - a Colonel General or *vezérezredes* wearing the Horthy era khaki dress uniform with full decorations.



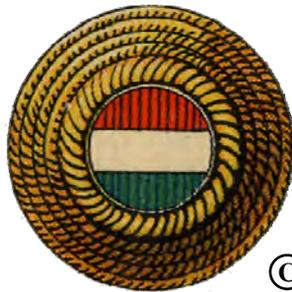
# UNIFORMS OF THE ROYAL HUNGARIAN ARMED FORCES A MAGYAR KIRÁLYI HONVÉDSÉG EGYENRUHÁI

## UNIFORMS AND RANK INSIGNIA OF THE GROUND FORCES FÖLDI ERŐK EGYENRUHÁI - RENDFOKOZATI JELZÉSEK

### OFFICERS TISZTEK



I - XI



I - XI



I - XI

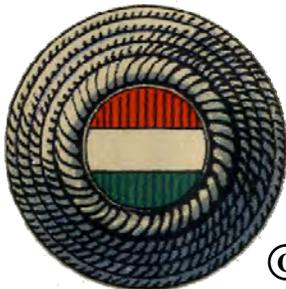
### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, OTHER RANKS - TISZTHELYETTESEK, LEGÉNYSÉG



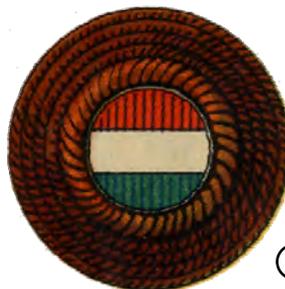
1 - 4



1 - 4



1 - 4



5 - 8



5 - 8



5 - 7

### Bicycle and Motorized Troops' Standard Kerékpáros és gépkocsizó csapatzászló

### Infantry Standard - Gyalogsági csapatzászló



140cm



40cm

GENERALS - TÁBORNOKOK



**FIELDMARSHALL**  
**TÁBORNAGY**

I



**COLONEL GENERAL**  
**VEZÉREZREDES**

II



**LIEUTENANT GENERAL**  
**ALTÁBORNAGY**

III



**MAJOR GENERAL**  
**VEZÉRŐRNAGY**

IV



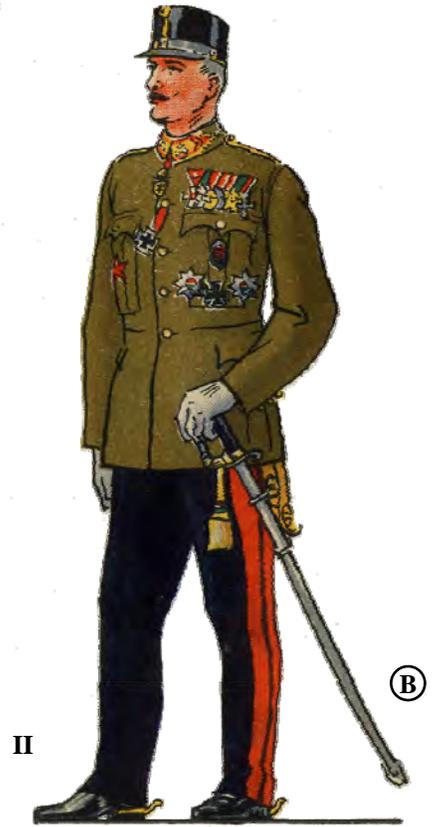
**COLONEL**  
**EZREDES**

V



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**  
**ALEZREDES**

VI



SENIOR OFFICERS - TÖRZSTISZTEK





Hungary's famous Order of Vitéz now has a new and more up-to-date website: [www.vitezirend.co.hu](http://www.vitezirend.co.hu)

It's always nice to come across an interesting website, especially when it serves our interests so well, and it is refreshing to see that older, established Hungarian organizations are using modern tools for their promotion, and nurturing the younger generations to keep alive causes that we know to be of value. This site is in Hungarian only for the time being, however I hope there will be English language material in the future. Keep your eyes on this fine website - it looks like an exciting work-in-progress.



### Now available - Full-colour, full-size (15cm x 17cm) reproductions of the World War II Hungarian Military vehicle insignia

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## THE MAGYAR FRONT

Is published bi-monthly by **Péter Czink VRNT**  
 Chapter Leader, Vancouver Chapter, World Federation of Hungarian Veterans  
*Csoport Vezető, Vancouveri Csoport, Magyar Harcosok Bajtársi Közössége*  
**P.O. Box 74527 Kitsilano P.O. Vancouver B.C. V6K 4P4 Canada**  
 telephone: 604 733-9948 email: [czink@shaw.ca](mailto:czink@shaw.ca)





# MAGYAR FRONT

THE MHBK VANCOUVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## ARTIFACTS FROM A NOBLE HUSZÁR RETURN TO HUNGARY

MAY - JUNE  
2007

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 3

WWW.MHBK.COM

The Military History Museum and Institute will be receiving a very interesting and valuable donation this summer from well known Vancouverite George v. Draskóy. I have known George for many years now, and it is always a pleasure to visit him and drink in the esoteric and fascinating objects that fill his rooms. Visitors are treated to impressive artifacts from his ancient and noble family – from portraits, engravings, furniture and bits and pieces from the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, to exotic carvings from far away places. His walls are covered with sensitive and provocative photographs that he has taken over the years, and organized piles of pictures and documents stand everywhere, ready to be catalogued. His sophisticated computer hardware, however, yanks us back to the present.

In the May-June 2004 issue of the Magyar Front, I featured a few photos from an album that belonged to George's father – an amazing collection consisting of 80 pictures from the early years of World War I – Ferenc Draskóy's personal documentation of his *huszár* officer training. We spoke of this exciting album many times, and since then, George has decided to donate it, along with other items he recently re-discovered, to the Military History Museum in Budapest. More photographs, his father's miniature medals and regimental badge, among other things, will now be part of the most important military history collection in Hungary, and will be accessible to everyone, forever.

Ferenc Draskovich was born on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1894 in Kalocsa. At the outbreak of W.W. I he was attending the agricultural academy, which he finished after the war. After being invested with the title of *vitéz* at Székesfehérvár in 1938 by Regent Miklós Horthy, he "Hungarianized" his surname to Draskóy.

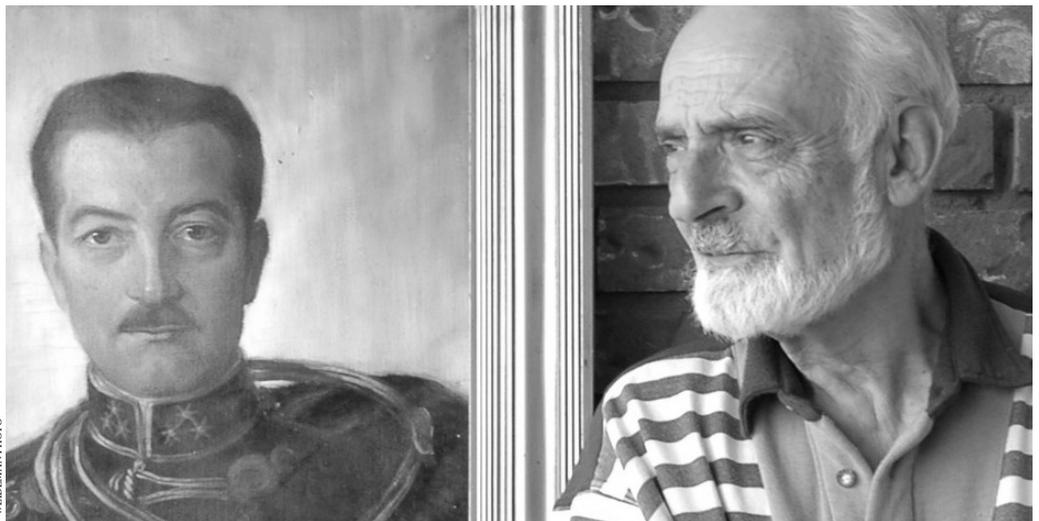
George Draskóy remembers how his father would talk about the bravery of the *huszár* officers during his time of service in W.W.I. They suffered a lot of casualties, he would recall, because it was common for officers and NCOs to lead their men into battle. Instead of the usual order of "forward," these leaders would call "follow me!" A result of his exemplary bravery, Draskóy was declared a "60% war invalid" because of his very serious wounds.

He also took part in the reclamation of Délvidék, or Southern Hungary, in 1941 and continued his service throughout the Second World War. In 1944 he was put in charge of anti-aircraft defence in Kalocsa, and later was the commander of the national guard there. He served until the last minute before being over-run by the Red Army, then returned to Hungary, only to be arrested, as most career military officers were. He was later released.

**Below: A recent photo of George next to the oil portrait of his father, Ferenc Drakóy.**



WEIDEMAN PHOTO



WEIDEMAN PHOTO

**Above left: One of my latest 1:6 scale figures - a W.W.II Hungarian Major General, or *vezérőrnagy* in his field uniform. Rather than wearing all of his decorations, only a few are worn with his ribbon bars. Subdued rank insignia was regulation on the front line, as well as the pistol and holster, binoculars and mapcase.**

Two excellent studies of the what a Hungarian *huszár* officer wore:  
The dress uniform on the left, with the addition of the *csákó* and the *mente* on the right.



Ferenc Draskóy's set of miniature medals from the 1930s (shown actual size). From left to right: the First Class Silver Medal for Bravery (*Ezüst Vitézségi Érem I. osztálya*), often called the Large Silver Bravery Medal; the Second Class Silver Medal for Bravery (*Ezüst Vitézségi Érem II. osztálya*), often called the Small Silver Bravery Medal - twice; the Bronze Medal for Bravery (*Bronz Vitézségi Érem*); the Karl Troop Cross (*Károly-Csapatkereszt*); the Medal for the Wounded (*Sebesültek Érme*); the World War I Commemorative Medal (*Magyar Háborús Emlékérem*); the very rarely seen Lajtabanság Commemorative Medal (*Lajtabansági Emlékérem*); the Austrian World War I Commemorative Medal (*Osztrák Háborús Emlékérem*); and the Bulgarian World War I Commemorative Medal (*Bolgár Háborús Emlékérem*).

A large oil painting of Ferenc Draskóy still hangs proudly in his son's home. The reproduction at right has been digitally enhanced - the original is in need of cleaning and restoration, as well as a proper re-stretching. Also, a portion of it has been folded back in order to fit into a smaller picture frame. The frame shown here has also been added digitally, strictly for aesthetic reasons.

Below: Ferenc Draskóy's signature rubber stamp. He was a refined gentleman who was very interested in the arts and literature, and his elegant signature, a facsimile of which appears below, goes well with this collection that is so representative of a chivalrous and bygone era.



*Ferenc Draskóy*

It was quite common for military units to produce unofficial regimental insignia during World War I. These badges were worn on the side of the soldiers' caps - the specimen illustrated at right belonged to Ferenc Draskóy, and is from his unit, the Royal Hungarian 8th Huszár

Regiment from Pécs - *M(agyar) Kir(ály) Pécsi Honv(éd) Huszár Ezred*. It's quite a large example (shown actual size) - the obverse is above, and the reverse below. Although now tarnished with age, this badge is of very fine quality.



Austro-Hungarian Land Forces 1848-1918 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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**Austro-Hungarian Land Forces 1848-1918**  
By Glenn Jewison & Jörg C. Steiner



**Discussion Forum**



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His Imperial and Royal Majesty Kaiser Franz Josef takes the salute as the 1st Tyrolean Kaiserjäger Regiment march past at Schönbrunn Castle on the 18th July 1915.



The aim of this site is to document the organisational history of the land forces of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy from just prior to the outbreak of the Great War until the collapse of the monarchy in 1918. The subject is complex and large. Very little is available in the English language and what is available tends to be of the allied forces intelligence type information and books derived from those sources. These were of necessity produced during wartime in difficult conditions and are not to be considered as fully reliable or accurate. In compiling the tables of units on this site we have therefore consulted the original "Schematismus" (army lists) and the official Austrian history of the Great War - "Österreich-Ungarns letzter Krieg". These are not only primary sources but also have the advantage of also providing accurate German language terminology and spelling. As previously stated, the subject is huge and therefore the site will be a continually evolving project. We intend to produce as time goes on not only the organisation of the land forces, but also biographies of senior commanders, individual regimental histories and details of particular engagements and battles in the not too well documented Italian, Galician, Carpathian, Rumanian and Serbian theatres of operations. The primary motive for producing a site of this type was to document the largely unknown subject of the Austro-Hungarian forces and to provide a mirror to Mick O'Shea's *Pocket German Army* site. In this way we can hopefully provide information on both of the major



Internet

The Austro-Hungarian Land Forces website has been mentioned before in the Magyar Front, yet I keep re-discovering it, and I often consult the excellent resource. The owners of the site, as well as many of the people who use the forum, are very helpful; and the extensive reference material available there includes unit histories, orders of battle, orders and decorations, badges and uniforms, biographies, engagements and battles, portraits, and even a dictionary of Hungarian and German military terms. Highly recommended! [www.austro-hungarian-army.co.uk](http://www.austro-hungarian-army.co.uk)



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# MAGYAR FRONT

THE MHBK VANCOUVER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## TO ALL MHBK VANCOUVER CHAPTER MEMBERS

I think that change is difficult for everyone – we all like to feel comfortable knowing that the things we are used to will always be there to enjoy. Tradition, therefore is something we collectively cling to, not only in order to perpetuate something we hold dear, but also to assure ourselves that we are on the right and proven track. I am a firm believer in the importance of tradition.

My primary reason for joining the MHBK many years ago was to immerse myself in Hungarian military tradition to satisfy my very keen interest in the subject and to become a part of something bigger and loftier than simple historical preservation – an established organization that represents things that I hold in high esteem – honour, loyalty and camaraderie. The MHBK also suited my needs particularly because it is a Hungarian organization that exists and has grown here in Canada, as well as in other countries; and although its roots are in Hungary, they are also now firmly planted in the English speaking world.

As I became more active in the MHBK, I came across many people like myself who are the children and grandchildren of veterans – along with non-Hungarians who can only study Hungarian military history practically in English, from outside of the homeland. Since the Vancouver Chapter's website has been established, English speaking people from around the world are regularly finding us, and rekindling their interest now that more material is available in their first language. I am very proud that our chapter has successfully been able to help and inform so many kindred spirits.

## IT IS TIME TO BRAVELY FACE OUR CHALLENGES

Many of you may not be aware of the current situation within our organization, and I have been reluctant to speak about it due to some of the lessons I have learned while serving the Hungarian-Canadian community – criticism from a Canadian born person is not appreciated by the original, established generations. I feel that the situation now warrants discussion, however, as leaving it much longer will surely turn our challenges into insurmountable obstacles.

The MHBK was formed outside of Hungary shortly after the end of the Second World War. At that time, and for many decades, it was one of the most influential Hungarian immigrant associations in Canada and the USA, and had beautifully preserved and promoted Hungarian military and veterans' issues and interests. Like most Hungarian immigrant organizations, its leadership was adamant that the vast majority of literature and communication was done in Hungarian, which was to inevitably alienate all of the future generations, due to the decreasing use of the language among those born here in North America and other English speaking nations. Only very recently has a concerted effort been made to introduce a minimal amount of English material, decades after such measures should have been implemented.

Meanwhile, forty years of communism in Hungary had a tremendous negative effect on how native Hungarians perceived us – and the very staunch, far-right attitude of the MHBK ensured that any official relationship with the homeland was out of the question. Under communism, right-wing and Western points of view were suppressed in Hungary, so one of the main missions of the MHBK was to publish material that balanced the Soviet influenced take on the events of the World War II – a situation that made sure the MHBK would be perceived as more than a veterans' association by both its political allies and enemies. Politics, usually excluded from the mandate of soldiers' associations, became the focus.

Tradition can only exist if it is passed down and carried forward. If there is no one to pass it on to, it becomes nothing more than cold, dry history. The MHBK has existed outside of Hungary for much longer than its veteran members had been in military service, and therefore is now more a part of Hungarian-Canadian (or Hungarian-American, etc.) culture; yet very little effort has been made to nurture or support any of the younger generation's potential interest. I can assure you of that from personal experience – in all of the years we have promoted our history through the *Magyar Front*, the *New Hungarian Voice* and other publications, displays and events; our work has been very rarely mentioned in the established ethnic Hungarian language publications, including the official newspaper of our organization, the *Hadak Útján*. For a time I thought that by setting a good example I could convince the elders of our organization that they can happily hand over their beloved traditions to their non-Hungarian born comrades – that we can carry on

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER  
2007

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 5

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**Silver Commemorative  
Medal of the Hungarian  
Ministry of Defence  
Military History Institute  
and Museum awarded to  
Peter Czink VRNT "for  
his ongoing sacrifice and  
dedication to the growth of  
the institute's collection."**

2007.XI.16.

(actual size)

the aims of the MHBK in a way that will ensure that their history will be preserved and their traditions perpetuated. I am afraid, however, that if we are not proactive, the work of the MHBK (the education of the people around us and the promotion of our precious ideals) will be lost forever, here, outside of Hungary. And perhaps this is where it is needed the most! Anyone in Hungary can now freely access whatever historical material they could want, but among the offspring of the immigrants, the voice of the past gets weaker with every passing year. The immigrant veterans may believe that they can rest easier now that so many artifacts have been returned to Hungary, or that volumes of the *Hadak Újtán* languish in the libraries of Budapest – but it will be their descendants that will be the poorer if they cannot access their own heritage.

There are a few people outside of the homeland who are supportive of a systematic and progressive program of support and accessible education for the descendants of Hungarian immigrants, but for the most part, I believe, we are on our own. If we need material in English, we will have to produce it. If we want support from institutions in the homeland, we will have to make an effort to build the bridges. I appeal to you all to sacrifice a little of your spare time to work on projects and to volunteer – with our organisation or other worthwhile Hungarian endeavours.

### **NEW AND EXCITING CHANGES TO THE MAGYAR FRONT**

2008 will mark the 10th year that I have been publishing the *Magyar Front*, and I intend to make some exciting new changes. Some may appear a little unusual at first, but I have given the matter a great deal of thought and I am certain that you all will find it more valuable than ever!

The colour printing does make our little newsletter lively, however, it is quite costly. Even our modest four pages per issue make the publication a financial loss for me (although with a labour of love, that matters little). I also have logistical challenges due to the fact that the *Magyar Front* (and the *Hadak Újtán*) are bi-monthly, while my other publication, the *New Hungarian Voice* is quarterly. The NHV is now very popular among most of the Vancouver Chapter members, so the staggered mail-outs become complicated and costly. Starting next year, I will publish the *Magyar Front* four times a year to coincide with the NHV, and I will produce it in black and white, bound like the *New Hungarian Voice*. Although black and white may seem like a step backward, this will allow me to greatly increase the number of pages in each issue. I have access to an enormous amount of material – including official military uniform regulations and diagrams, along with photographs (that are usually black and white anyway), that I would like to share with our members.

I also will be asking some well-known experts to write articles for us – I believe our publication will be greatly improved. Stylistically, I will give it an attractive “old-school” look – modelled after the original 1930s *Magyar Front* veterans’ association newspaper, complete with authentic art deco style fonts and Hungarian military motifs.

### **OUR NEW PROJECTS**

Our new year will be exciting indeed. Peter v. Laborc will be keeping us informed of some exceptional new military

books and we will ensure that such material will be easier to obtain for people outside of Hungary. Zoltán v. Kőrössy is making tremendous progress on his Csendőr website, and we will update ours as well. UK member Jack Keir has agreed to work on our project in support Countess Ullein-Reviczky – she is currently working on an English translation of her father’s book, and is very open to the idea of an extensive display of her father’s Front-Line Fighters’ Association memorabilia. Our “new” *Magyar Front* will strengthen its commitment to the documentation of the old veterans’ movement, and I think that we will be in store for some very informative articles by other Vancouver Chapter members.

In the meantime, I have also proposed some ideas about working more closely with the Military History Institute and Museum in Hungary. During the summer, *New Hungarian Voice* editorial committee members Angus and Ágnes MacDonald officially met with the director of the institution, Lieutenant General Dr. József Holló, to donate the Draskóy collection (see *Magyar Front* May – June 2007), and two badges from my personal collection. They were very warmly welcomed at the museum, and did a fantastic job representing our interests. They also delivered my proposal to the general, which I would like to share with you (my letter to him is reproduced here):

Lieutenant General Dr. József Ferenc Holló  
Military History Institute and Museum  
1014 Budapest  
Kapisztrán tér 2 - 4  
Hungary

Dear Lt. Gen. Dr. Holló,

Some time ago, after inquiring about some badges from the old Front-Line Fighters’ Movement, I happened to learn that your museum’s Numismatic Collection did not have examples of two pieces I have in my personal collection. I am referring to the large, white enamelled *frontharcos díszjelvény*, and the small *Magyar Frontharcosokért* pin. Since you do not have them, I would like to donate mine to your Numismatic Collection, and you will find them enclosed with this letter.

Please excuse me for being rather bold, but I would also like to take this opportunity to ask something of you – I can imagine how busy you must be, but my request, and the little bit of history which I must include with it, is of very great importance to me. I thank you in advance for your time.

I am writing this to you specifically because of the very deep impression you made on me when you so kindly wrote the introduction to my 1956 commemorative publication last year (*The 1956 Hungarian Revolution – A People’s Sacrifice*). Your words were very moving, and your quoting of my favourite lines of John Donne convinced me of your great love for humanity.

I am very much involved with the Hungarian-Canadian community – I was born in Vancouver in 1964, however, English is my first language and I hope you will excuse me for not writing in Hungarian. Although I speak, read and write in our mother tongue, I cannot do it at a level that is acceptable to communicate with you about such a serious matter. [my letter was translated into Hungarian by Gergely Sallay]

For more than a decade I have done my best to promote Hungarian history and culture to the primarily English speaking

descendants of the original Hungarian immigrants, and together with a select group of very talented and energetic colleagues we have made great strides with a new, more tolerant, and apolitical understanding of our culture. My main focus, however, has been the preservation of Hungary's military history through the offspring of the Hungarian veterans of the MHBK.

Although I am very optimistic and confident in our abilities, I am often reminded of the great difficulties we are facing – in the case of both mainstream and military Hungarian immigrant culture, we face the devastating effects of so many decades of political polarization. Our post-WW II and 1956 immigrants would have nothing to do with Hungary under socialism, and in turn, people belonging to organizations like the MHBK were labelled as warmongers and fascists by the Hungarian government. Even today, there is a great distrust between Hungarians for these reasons.

Consequently, leadership of many organizations like the MHBK have remained in the hands of the original immigrants who are now at an age when even the slightest suggestion of change or a new outlook is thought of as a threat – due to this fact, many of these groups are stagnating or in rapid decline.

Since I have been the Chapter Leader of the Vancouver Chapter of the MHBK, I have done a considerable amount of work in the promotion of our military history and traditions in the English language, and especially since we have created our website, I have found that there is a great deal of interest in our history among English speaking people from all over the world – primarily from people of Hungarian descent, but also from many other cultures who find Hungary fascinating. The senior leadership of the MHBK consider my work exemplary, however, they do not see the importance of the English language – even though their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have been born in Canada, the United States, England, Australia, etc. There is a vast demographic of people of Hungarian descent who are potential patriots, who need to be nurtured and educated in the language that they understand – their first language, which, unfortunately, is not Hungarian.

The MHBK is deteriorating - but it does not have to. I believe that we can keep the MHBK and Hungarian military tradition and history alive outside of Hungary, if we act now to attract new generations to our exciting and relevant past. I will begin a new program of promotion and education through the Vancouver Chapter's activities, our newsletter (the *Magyar Front*) and our website; and I would like to ask if you would consider helping me with this project.

The only support I require is moral support – my work is voluntary and my expenses are paid from my own pocket. I do, however, feel that a great deal could be achieved if the connection and relationship between our organization and “official” Hungary – your museum, for example; was strengthened and promoted. A partnership, perhaps, to show that the nation of Hungary has not forgotten the descendants of Hungarian immigrants and that we have a great bond with and love for our parents' homeland and history.

#### **I propose to focus on these two aspects:**

Firstly, to use the Vancouver Chapter of the MHBK to investigate and explore the original roots of the Hungarian veterans' movement. The post-WW II MHBK did not carry on the established work of the *Magyar Frontharcos Mozgalom* – it

started out virtually from scratch, and became an organization that spent considerable energy fighting against the Hungarian government. Even today, the original immigrants' dislike of the current Hungarian leaders overshadows the role a veterans' association should play. I intend to focus on our very complex roots, using my extensive personal collection of uniforms, badges, documents, photographs, publications, etc. from the old veterans' association, to bring to life an important part of our military heritage.

Along with valuable allies – like my friend, the Countess Lovice Ullein-Reviczky, who now lives in her ancestral home in Hungary and is translating her father's book (*German War – Russian Peace*); I believe that we can reach a great many people who so far have not had access to a segment of Hungarian history that has affected so many of our people, and therefore, our descendants also. This subject not well-known in Hungary either, but at least I am quite certain that I am qualified to promote it in English.

Secondly, to use the Vancouver Chapter of the MHBK to teach the importance of military history in the service of peace. Speaking very idealistically, if all of the world's armies were employed in the defence of their homelands, we would see no more bloodshed. I believe that veterans can be the most convincing pacifists, and the study of conflict is imperative if we are to understand the value of harmony and tolerance. Our Hungarian people have had a thousand years of experience with warfare, and there is no reason why we cannot set an enlightened example to the world – in our past lays the key to wisdom that we can share with all peoples. Young people today will not understand the attitudes and political biases of their grandparents, however, I am certain that they will be attracted to exemplary displays of tolerance and enlightenment, and will appreciate our attempts to create a better world from our experiences.

My dear Lt. Gen. Dr. Holló – would it be possible for you and your institute to somehow take part in this project? Perhaps to somehow officially endorse it or in some way become a partner in it? I have done my best to donate small pieces to your museum when I can, and I'm sure we could think of many ways that I could help promote and support it even more. I am very grateful for your valuable time, and I would like to assure you that I will always remain in your service.

Sincerely,  
Peter Czink VRNT

#### **LOOKING FORWARD TOWARD A BRIGHTER TOMORROW**

The Vancouver Chapter is the most dynamic, progressive and exciting chapter in the MHBK – and it's because we have worked hard and unselfishly to promote ideals and traditions, not just for our own pleasure, but also for the education and enlightenment of others. As amateur historians we have made significant contributions. As collectors, we have taken our interest beyond a hobby and have made our knowledge and acquisitions useful and accessible. And we have proved that you don't have to be born in Hungary to substantially serve the Hungarian cause.

I am very proud to be among you as a member of the Vancouver Chapter of the MHBK – our organization's first and true “international chapter.”

A HM Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum hivatalos honlapja - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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## Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum



1956

Az Osztrák-Magyar Monarchia és a Balkán vetélkedő

**Általános információk**

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Szervezeti felépítés (elérhetőségek)

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Kiállítások

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Kiadványok

Adatbázisok

Rendezvények

Közlemények

Múzeumi bolt

Kereső

Letöltés

Ajánló

Támogatóink

### Kedves Látogató!

Az oldal, amelyet meglátogatt, a Honvédelmi Minisztérium Hadtörténeti Intézetének és Múzeumának hivatalos honlapja, amely jelenlegi, megújult formájában 2006. áprilisától kezdte meg működését, s céljával tűzte ki, hogy minden kedves érdeklődőt hasznos, átfogó és naprakész információkkal lásson el az Intézmény működését, rendezvényeit és közleményeit illetően, valamint tájékoztatást adjon az itt folyó tudományos munkáról.



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Internet

The Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum is a place that's venerated by militaria enthusiasts, and a good way to get acquainted with this fine institution is to explore their official website. Although it is only in Hungarian, English speakers will find it quite easy to navigate, and after a taste of what is on display there, I am sure you will save it as one of your "favourites." Exploring the website is a great way to brush up on your Hungarian, or just click on *Galéria* for images of the museum's displays. Highly recommended! [www.hm-him.hu](http://www.hm-him.hu)



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