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The de Sgardelli Coincidence

CZINK
COLLECTION

The IHMHPS adds more missing pieces to the historical puzzle.

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

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

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

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

A note from the Editor

As a child I would stumble over the most fascinating things in my own backyard, and as I grew up I was fortunate enough to be able to travel far and wide – and to be exposed to so many possibilities. One constant remained - the treasures I discovered were always directly under my nose! We don't need wealth or privilege to turn our passion into a vocation, or to create a treasured collection from a few acquisitions.

Just like a handful of soil from your backyard contains a universe of its own, our historical objects and family heirlooms are so much more than the sum of the objects themselves – and looking at them more deeply will reveal unimagined abundance.

I am very excited about this issue of the *Magyar Front* – it is yet another example of how virtually anyone, with a little hard work, can contribute significantly to the study and understanding of history. My most sincere thanks go to Ákos Bíró, József Gudenus, Péter v. Laborc, Zsuzsanna Miskolczy, Dr. Gergely Sallay, Magda Sasvári and Lorraine Weideman for their invaluable help.

Regarding our last issue's "note from the editor," I am disappointed to report that I have received no reply whatsoever from former Hungarian President Pál Schmitt or Order of Vitéz leader László v. Hunyadi. A brave and open dialogue would have not only helped heal old wounds; it would have been an exciting opportunity to expose Hungary to favourable international media attention. Although this is another example of indifference toward those of us born outside of Hungary's borders, we can still continue setting examples of progressive and tolerant nurturing of our culture and cause in the hopes that one day we will outgrow and shed the xenophobia that has caused so much suffering in our nation's past.

Please also note two corrections regarding the Summer 2015 issue:

Page 4: The photograph was misidentified – this may be another Vályi family member, as he is wearing the Model 1926 uniform.

Page 12: The "Bronze 'Signum Laudis'… which he received for public service after 1922…" is incorrectly described. This Horthy-era version of the former Austro-Hungarian "Signum Laudis" medal was given to him in lieu of the former version because Valyi wasn't able to receive the original award due to him being taken prisoner in Italy.

I would also like to bring our new translator to your attention – IHMHPS member Zsuzsi Miskolczy. She has recently decided to offer her translating services, and I highly recommend her. Although I have done my best to improve my Hungarian over the years, complex historical texts and documents – especially hand-written ones, still give me a lot of difficulty. Zsuzsi has been an enormous help in enabling me to clearly understand so many things that I have had on my bookshelf and in my collection – something that has significantly boosted my confidence when researching and studying all things Hungarian. I am sure that many of you have technical articles or family papers that you may not be able to read – having them translated is indeed a great joy. Her prices are extremely good, she can be easily reached through email, and she provides the finished translation very quickly.

P.Cz.

Zsuzsanna Miskolczy
Translator

Hungarian-English, English-Hungarian

Specializing in historical texts, genealogical research, civilian and military documents, hand-written material, etc.

$0.08 USD per word. Payments accepted through Paypal.

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Proceeds from items like our 2014-2018 machine embroidered commemorative insignia help cover the costs of printing and distributing the Magyar Front and the maintenance of our website.

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The de Sgardelli Coincidence

by Peter Czink

Among the first Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association items I acquired for my collection was a large gilt-framed portrait of a man called Caesar de Sgardelli. His features are as interesting as his unusual name –silver hair and a kindly and gentle smile seemed reassuring somehow, and when I later learned that he was one of the mid-century's key Hungarian military history journalists, I hung the picture on my office wall for inspiration.

The portrait also carried an inscription: *"Csupaszív, Mancsnak és Paulának a selyemszálak nagymesterének: Hálás köszönettel, Sgardelli. 1941.III.25."* ("With all my heart, To Mancs and Paula, masters of the silken thread: Thank you very much, Sgardelli. March 25th, 1941.")

For well over ten years I have wondered who Mancs and Paula were ("Mancs" was a popular unisex period nickname), and I could only speculate that they might have been involved with some kind of textile related work – perhaps embroidering a Frontline Fighters' Association flag, I wondered. The picture is still on my wall, and it offers daily inspiration along with a faint hint of intrigue.

In 2008 I wrote a thumbnail biography on Caesar de Sgardelli for the summer issue of the *Magyar Front* – a thumbnail was all I could cobble together due to such little information being available on this once famous Hungarian soldier. By that time I had a number of Frontline Fighters' Association publications, mostly put together by him, and there were a few listings about him online, thanks to his prolific publishing career. Many books and periodicals that he was involved with can be found on the internet and for sale in international auction houses, and brief overviews of his work and career are easily accessible, however, the date of his death was universally unknown.

Caesar de Sgardelli was born on June 28th, 1884 (according to his November 21st, 1911 marriage certificate) in Budapest, to Hygin de Sgardelli (a senior Hungarian postal official) and Celesztina Lukesich. After graduating from military school as a cadet in 1903 he was assigned to the 1st Royal Hungarian Infantry Regiment. Later, in 1911, he married Ernesztina Éva Mária Hann von Hannenheim.

His photo and brief biographical data, shown on this page, appear in the 1936 regimental history he produced, entitled *Huszonkilences Honvédek Hadtörténete.* Upon mobilization he was sent to the Serbian frontline as the commander of the 2nd Company, 33rd Battalion, of the 29th Royal Hungarian

Continued on page 5...

de Sgardelli Caesar alezredes, a Magy. Kat. Irók Körének főtitk., az „Őrszem" katonai lap főszerkesztője, Budapest. *1885, Budapest. A pécsi hadapródiskola elvégzése után 1903-ban lett a m. kir. 1. h. gy. e.-hez felavatva. A mozgósításkor a m. kir. 29. h. gy. e. 33. menetzlj. 2. szd. parnokaként indult a szerb harctérre. Résztvett a boszniai, drinai, losnicai és Kuliste melletti Cerny-Vrh-i ütközetekben. Majd súlyosan sérülve vesevérzéssel a tuzlai, majd budapesti hadikórházba került. Felgyógyulása után mint menetzljparnok 1915 febr.-ban a 29. h. gy. e.-hez az orosz harctérre vonult. A 7. táb. szd. parságát vette át. Résztvett a Magura körüli, turkai, drohobici, zoblatowcei ütközetekben. 1915 jún. 9-én zljval orosz hadifogságba esett. Sok viszontagság után Jekaterinburgból mint csererokkant tért vissza hazájába. Kitüntetései: III. o. kat. érd. ker. a hadm. és kard., S. L. a piros-fehér szalagon, S. L. piros szalagon, S. L. zöld szalagon, K. cs. k., Seb. é. egy sávval, II. o. Vöröskeresztes hdm. díszjelv., H. E. É., a 20 és 30 éves tiszti szolg. ker., Jub. e. ker., 1912—12 eml. ker., az olasz kir. Koronarend tiszti lovagkeresztje, pápai ezüst Lateráni ker., Marianner ker., osztrák H. E. É., porosz és bajor H. e. ker. a kard. Neje: hannenheimi Hann Erna.

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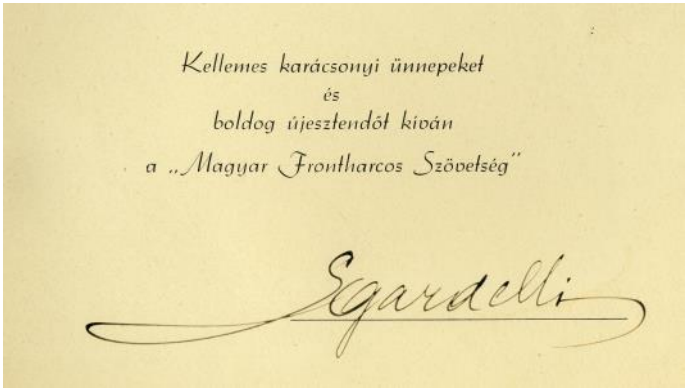
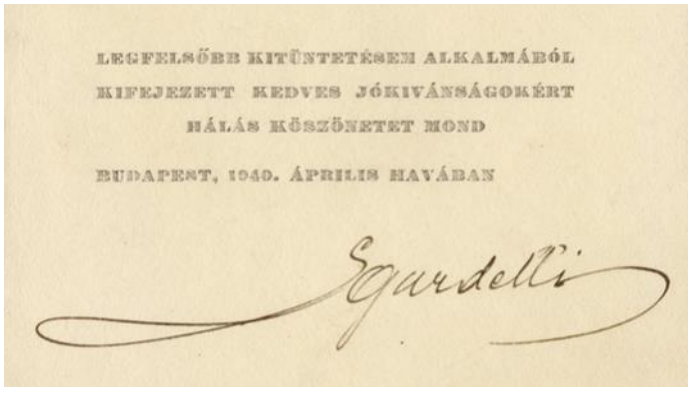


Above: Detail from the interior of the Frontline Fighters' Association Christmas/New Year's card.

Below: Detail from the empty "thank you" folder.



...continued from page 3

Infantry Regiment, and took part in the battles of Bosnia, Drina, Loznica, and at Cerny Vrh, next to Kuliste. He was seriously wounded, and with a bleeding kidney he was taken to a military hospital in Tuzla, and then sent for medical treatment in Budapest.

He recovered by February of 1915 and took command of the 7th Company of the 29th Royal Hungarian Infantry Regiment on the Russian frontline. He took part in the battles around Magura - Turka, Drohobych and Zoblatow, however, on June 9th, 1915 he and his battalion were taken prisoner by the Russians. He was later returned to Hungary via Yekaterinburg through a war-wounded exchange program.

De Sgardelli retired from the armed forces as a lieutenant colonel, and took over leadership of Budapest's VII District Erzsébetvárosi National Frontline Fighters' Association Headquarters Chapter. He served as the Chief Secretary of the Hungarian Catholic Writers' Association and the Hungarian Military Writers' Circle, editor-in-chief of the *Őrszem (The Sentinel)* military periodical, and was involved in practically every publication, yearbook and calendar produced by the veteran's movement. De Sgardelli was also the head of the Frontline Fighters' Association's foreign affairs department.

The trail gets cold near the end of World War II and nothing about Caesar de Sgardelli's life from the later-war period or following the conflict could be found – until this year. A few items related to de Sgardelli appeared at a Hungarian auction house, and I asked IHMHPS Hungarian VP Péter v. Laborc to once again be my representative and make sure I win the lot, which consisted of six items:

1. A Frontline Fighters' Association Christmas/New Year's card personally signed by de Sgardelli (facing page, top).

2. A tableau of the 1941-1944 leadership of the Budapest VII District Headquarters Chapter (pages 8 and 9).

3. A curious (but empty folder) engraved with: "Thank you very much for the warm wishes expressed on the occasion of my highest award. Budapest, April 1940. Sgardelli." Curious, because the highest award he had earned, according to all known photographic evidence, was given to him long before 1940. This little mystery was soon solved when I consulted my 1941 Frontline Fighters' Association yearbook which mentions that he, among other veteran's leaders received the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit in April of 1940.

4. A postcard of de Sgardelli (also on the facing page)

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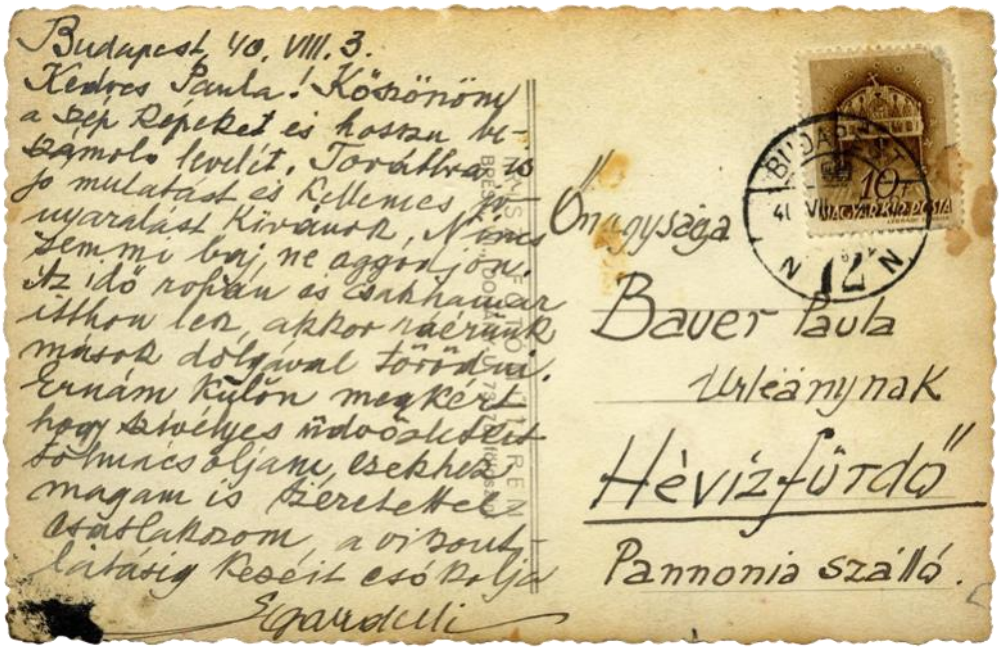

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Right:
"Budapest 40.VIII.3.
Dear Paula - Thank you for the lovely pictures and your long letter. I wish that you continue to have a good time and a pleasant vacation. There is no trouble, please do not worry. Time flies and you will be at home soon, and we will have time to care about others' business. My dear Erna asked me to give you my best regards, to which I hereby join with much love. I will see you soon. Goodbye.
I kiss your hand.
Sgardelli."

Right:
Obverse and reverse of the Badge of Honour *(Díszjelvény)* marked "BÉRAN N. BPEST DÖBRENTEI U 2"

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Below:
The bottom of the case and its label, which reads "BÉRAN NÁNDOR IPARMŰVÉSZ (industrial artist/designer) BUDAPEST DÖBRENTEI U. 2"

Below:
The lid of the presentation case.

High quality cases such as this were expensive and would have been ordered for special presentations only.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY LORRAINE WEIDEMAN

wearing his traditional Hungarian *díszmagyar* gala outfit with the inscription: "To Paula, my faithful and good colleague, as a memento with much love, Sgardelli."

5. Another postcard – a miniature version of the portrait on my wall, of de Sgardelli – written to Miss Paula Bauer who was staying at the Hotel Pannonia in Hévízfürdő at the time (previous page). On the reverse of the card he wrote: "August 3rd, 1940, Budapest. Dear Paula - Thank you for the lovely pictures and your long letter. I wish that you continue to have a good time and a pleasant vacation. There is no trouble, please do not worry. Time flies and you will be at home soon, and we will have time to care about others' business. My dear Erna asked me to give you my best regards, to which I hereby join with much love. I will see you soon. Goodbye. I kiss your hand. Sgardelli." Clearly, Paula Bauer was someone important to de Sgardelli and it has to be the same person he mentions on the portrait in my office.

6. The *pièce de résistance* – a cased Frontline Fighters' Association Badge of Honour (no cased Frontline Fighters' Association badges or medals of any kind are known in any collection private or public). So far, we can't be sure if these items all came from Caesar de Sgardelli – the ephemera was certainly from him, but the cased badge, although it was probably his, could have been presented to someone else. I am currently doing more research into who put this lot up for

Continued on page 11...

Budapest, 1938. november hó. KÉZIRAT GYANÁNT 10. szám.

Mélt. Nagyr. Szentdelaky Géza Erzsébet krt 6.

BUDAPESTI KERESKEDELMI ÉS IPARKAMARA

ERZSÉBETVÁROSI

FRONTHARCOSOK ÉRTESITŐJE

AZ ORSZÁGOS FRONTHARCOS SZÖVETSÉG BUDAPEST, VII. KERÜLETI FÖCSOPORTJÁNAK HIVATALOS KÖZLEMÉNYEI
KIZÁRÓLAG A FÖCSOPORT TAGJAI RÉSZERE

Körzetösszejövetel

A nagy frontharcos bajtársi életnek meghitt családi köre, a havonként egyszer megtartott körzetösszejövetel.

Többezer főcsoporti taglétszámunk szinte lehetetlenné teszi, hogy legalább időnként összes tagjainkat bajtársi összejövetelre hívjuk egybe. Ennek egyetlenegy akadálya, hogy az egész erzsébetvárosi kerületben nincsen olyan nagy terem, ahol el tudnánk férni. Ezért osztottuk fel hét körzetre kerületünket, hogy ebben a kisebb családi körben ápolhassuk a nekünk oly szent bajtársiasságot és ébren tartsuk a legnemesebben értelmezett lövészárok szellemet. Ezekre a körzetösszejövetelekre minden bajtársunkat külön értesítővel hívjuk meg és mindenkor hozzáfűzzük, hogy bajtársaink hozzátartozóit és vendégeit is szívesen látjuk. A körzetvezető bajtárs mindig beszámol a frontharcos eseményekről, kihirdeti a fontosabb bajtársi parancsokat és meghallgatjuk kiváló íróknak katonai vonatkozású, időszerű kérdésekről tartott előadásait. Itt ismerjük meg a háznagy, a könyvtáros, az egyes bizottságok elnökeinek terveit és célkitűzéseit. Az ujonnan belépett bajtársaink ünnepélyes fogadalomtétele teszik magasztossá ezeket a családi estéket.

Mi mindnyájan nagyon jól tudjuk, hogy a mai nehéz gazdasági viszonyok között bajtársainktól nem kívánhatunk anyag iáldozatokat. Nem is tesszük. A körzetösszejövetelen mindenki egy fillér költség nélkül részt vehet. Saját otthonunkban semmiféle fogyasztás nem kötelező, belépő díj nincs és tervszerűen úgy fejezzük be üléseinket, hogy mindenki még kapuzárás előtt érheti el otthonát. Egyetlenegy fillér költség nélkül leróhatja kötelességét a bajtársiasság oltárán és családjával együtt egy kellemesen szórakoztató estét tölthet frontharcos otthonában.

Senkitől sem kívánunk lehetetlenséget. Senkit sem akarunk költekezésre csábítani. A családi otthonból sem ragadjuk ki, hiszen családjával együtt hívjuk. Örömmel állapítom meg, hogy volt olyan körzetösszejövetelünk, mikor összesen két liter bort mért ki az étkező vezetésével megbízott bajtársunk. Nincs itt eszem-iszom, komoly, méltóságteljes bajtársi összejöveteleket tartunk, ahol felidézzük a dicső multat, a reményteljes jelent és a szebb magyar jövendőt.

Mindezek előrebocsájtása után egészen érthető, hogy elnökségünk minden bajtársunktól a leghatározottabban megkívánja a havi körzetösszejövetelek pontos látogatását. A körzetösszejövetel az a kapocs, mely minket a bajtársiasság jegyében összeforraszt. Ezentúl pontosan nyilván fogjuk tartani távolmaradó bajtársainkat és talán lesz idő, mikor ezeket az elmaradásokat az elszámolások serpenyőjébe vethetjük.

Ismételten és komolyan hangoztatjuk: a körzetösszejövetelek pontos látogatása bajtársi kötelesség!

De Sgardelli Caesar
az erzsébetvárosi frontharcosok
főcsoportelnöke

Karácsony 1938

Bajtársak! Bajtársnők!

A karácsonyi bajtársi segélyakciót intéző bizottság megkezdte tevékenységét. Kérő szívvel fordulunk Bajtársainkhoz, elsősorban azok kedves Hölgyeihez

adakozzatok!

Avassuk az idei karácsonyt szegény, szűkölködő bajtársaink és azok családtagjai részére valóban a szeretet ünnepévé; adjon mindenki, amennyit és amit adhat igazán jó szívvel, bajtársi szeretettel.

Férfi-, női- és gyermek ruhaneműket, cipőt, élelmiszereket, használati tárgyakat, könyveket, játékszereket a gyermekeknek stb., stb. hálával fogadunk el szegényeink részére és a legcsekélyebb adományért is köszönettel érte küldünk.

Bajtársi szeretettel
a bizottság.

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Front page of a rare example of the November 1938 issue of *Frontharcosok Éretesitője (Frontline Fighter's Bulletin)* - Caesar de Sgardelli's Headquarters Chapter newsletter.

MAGYAR TÚZHARCOS SZÖVETSÉG
1941
KISS ISTVÁN
TISZTI TITKÁR
SCHALK FERENC
VÁL. T.
MÉSZÁROS FERENC
SZÁMV. BIZ. T.
GÁLFY JÓZSEF
VÁL P.T.
DOBOS ISTVÁN
VÁL P.T.
FERENTZI FERENC
SZÁMV. BIZ. ELNÖK
DOMONKOS MIKSA
TOBORZÓ BIZ. ELNÖK
FREUND BÉLA
KEGYELETI BIZ. ELNÖK
SOMLYÓ JÓZSEF
VÁL. T.
DEMMER ISTVÁN
VÁL. T.
RIBÉNY KAMILLÓ
ALELNÖK
barabásszegi
BIHAR ELEMÉR
KULTURÁLIS BIZ. ELNÖK
SZILÁGYI JENŐ
SAJTÓ BIZ. ELNÖK
BALÁZS KÁLMÁN
VÁL. T.
SINNREICH ZOLTÁN
VÁL. T.
SÜDY SÁNDOR
TÖRZSVEZETŐ
MIKA ISTVÁN
KÜLD. KÖZGY. T.
LÜBECK ARNOLD
PROPAGANDA BIZ. ELNÖK
LUDVIG GÉZA
KIVONULÁSI OSZT. VEZETŐ
NÁNÁSSY GYULA
SZÁMV. P. T.
1914

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An Interesting Diversion...

The tableau of the 1941-1944 leadership of the Budapest VII District Headquarters Chapter of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association has been reproduced on centre pages 8 and 9.

The man in the second row, fourth from the right is Vilmos Gábor (1884-1962), who served as the chapter's Social Welfare Committee President *(Sociális Bizottság Elnők)*. He was one of the few members of the Frontline Fighters' Association to achieve international fame, and the official 1954 United Press photo of him (taken in the 1940s) is shown at right.

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Gábor was among the leadership of one of the most dynamic of the association's chapters, and served under Caesar de Sgardelli. He became famous, however, for being the father of celebrities Magda (1915-1997), Zsa Zsa (1917-), and Eva Gabor (1919-1995). He was married to their mother Jolie (1896-1997) from 1914 to 1939.

The press release, shown below, had been pasted to the back of the photo - it features some interesting information, although it seems rather unlikely that he travelled to the USA in 1944!

His medal group is certainly impressive and includes a Silver and Bronze Bravery Medal, the Emperor's Troops' Cross, the Medal for the Wounded, Hungarian, Austrian and German World War I Commemorative Medals (as well as the Frontline Fighters' Association Badge of Honour). Most biographical sources regarding the Gabor sisters claim their father was a major or a colonel, however, this group of decorations could not have been awarded to an officer - only to an NCO or a member of the other ranks.

PLA 1062145.....NEW YORK BUREAU

PAPA GABOR

BUDAKESZI, HUNGARY: FAR FROM THE LIMELIGHT IN WHICH HIS THREE GLAMOROUS DAUGHTERS THRIVE, VILMOS GABOR, 74, RESIDES IN A SMALL SUBURB OF BUDAPEST, PROUD OF HIS WORLD WAR I MEDALS AND HIS MEMORIES. DAUGHTERS EVA AND ZSA ZSA LEFT HUNGARY FOR THE U.S. IN 1938; AND PAPA HIMSELF CAME OVER WITH HIS FORMER WIFE JOLIE AND DAUGHTER MAGDA IN 1944. HE STAYED IN AMERICA ONLY THREE YEARS THEN RETURNED TO BUDAPEST TO SET UP IN BUSINESS. HIS SHOP AND HIS HOUSES HAVE SINCE BEEN NATIONALIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS. HE SAYS HE RECEIVES FREQUENT PHONE CALLS FROM HIS GLOBE-TROTTING DAUGHTERS.

(FOR USE WITH STORY BY UNITED PRESS STAFF CORRESPONDENT ILONA NYILAS)

CREDIT (UNITED PRESS PHOTO) 7/12/54 (BAK)

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...continued from page 6

auction – someone connected with Paula Bauer, perhaps. Did de Sgardelli give her his badge or perhaps it belonged to her relative – or was it issued to her? These are all questions that I hope will lead to solving another little mystery in the future.

These pieces are extremely significant to me, and during a long telephone conversation with Péter v. Laborc following my receipt of the items; and as we debated over their origins, I found myself saddened by the fact no one knew the fate of Caesar de Sgardelli. "I will find out what happened to him if it's the last thing I do!" I exclaimed with somewhat uncertain bravado to my friend. I moped about thinking, then spent the evening online searching in vain for any mention of his life after the war – every website, Wikipedia included, referred to him as:

"Caesar de Sgardelli (1884 - ?)"

His wife, Ernesztina Éva Mária Hann von Hannenheim, was clearly from a Hungarian noble family, so I thought I might have some luck turning to IHMHPS member Zsuzsanna Miskolczy for help. She has done extensive genealogical research into her own illustrious blood-line, and I hoped that she might be able to shed some light on my problem through de Sgardelli's wife's family. She immediately took on the challenge and contacted her friend János József Gudenus. This gentleman has been doing genealogical research since he was a teenager and has been a member of the Hungarian Heraldic and Genealogical Company since 1983. An organizer of events and tireless supporter of genealogical organizations, he is an author, editor of the Association of the Hungarian Historic Families almanac, and has worked at the National Széchenyi Library and the Petőfi Literary Museum.

I didn't have to wait long for a reply from János Gudenus – a reply that utterly shocked me. Gudenus later wrote:

"Before you contacted me I had never come across de Sgardelli's name - it was your request that made me start to search the sources that are available to me. The MACSE (Hungarian Family History Research Association) has a birth certificate database, in which I found the notation of his marriage. From this I learnt the names of his parents, and the additional information about the date and place of his death (Tiszabő). I then found the Tiszabő civil death registry, which confirmed the data, and it was there where I found the name Magdolna Wintermantel, who was the person who notified the authorities of de Sgardelli's death."

When I received this information, I found myself staring at the name "Magdolna Wintermantel" – shaking with emotion. Magdolna Wintermantel is the maiden name of Magda Sasvári – a matriarch of the Vancouver Hungarian community, and my beloved friend of more than a decade and a half. It turns out that as a young girl – on January 30th, 1953, at Tiszabő in Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County, she took it upon herself to make sure the body of Caesar de Sgardelli was given a proper burial. Snatching up the phone I dialed her familiar number and blurted out my disbelief that she could actually be the person who held the secret of my frustrating conundrum, and she replied: "It sure has been a long time since I heard that name!" We sat down together shortly after to discuss the matter in my home.

We often spoke about those dark post-war days when so many Hungarians – mostly from well-to-do families, were forcibly "relocated" under the Stalinist regime. These forced

Continued on page14...

PHOTO COURTESY ZSUZSANNA MISKOLCZY

Zsuzsanna Miskolczy

PHOTO COURTESY JÓZSEF GUDENUS

József Gudenus

PHOTO COURTESY MAGDA SASVÁRI

Magda Sasvári

FRONTHARCOS ESZME SZOLGÁLATÁBAN
FRONTHARCOS ZSEBNAPTÁR
1938.
SZERKESZTETTE:
DE SGARDELLI CAESAR
az Országos Frontharcos Szövetség sajtófőnöke
HONVÉDELMI KÖTELEZETTSÉGEINK
MÁSODIK KÖTET
BECSÜLETÜGYI SZABÁLYZAT
LOVAGIAS ÜGYEK INTÉZÉSE
A REHABILITÁCIÓ
DE SGARDELLI CAESAR
ÁRA 3 PENGŐ
ÉVKÖNYV
1941
KERTÉSZ ELEMÉR
DE SGARDELLI CAESAR
VI. ÉVFOLYAM
COLONEL CÉSAR
ILLEDRAGSED
Gázriadó
FANTASZTIKUS~ RIPORT REGÉNY
A JÖVŐ HÁBORUJÁRÓL
ÁRA 1P
KIRÁLY-KIADÁS
Szerkesztette:
De Sgardelli Caesar
HUSZONKILENCES HONVÉDEK HADTÖRTÉNETE
FRONTHARCOS ÉVKÖNYV
1942
KERTÉSZ ELEMÉR
DE SGARDELLI CAESAR
VII. ÉVFOLYAM

Some of de Sgardelli's Publications

Army Ski Troops
(A ski a hadseregben), Budapest, de Sgardelli, 1904

Civilian Target Shooting
(Polgári céllövészet), Budapest, de Sgardelli, 1905

Cross and Sword, or The Religious Soldier
(Kereszt és kard, vagy A vallásos katona), Budapest, St. Stephan Association, 1907

Is It a Sin to Take up Arms?
(Bűn-e a fegyver fogás?) Budapest, Garai, 1912

Advice for Returned Prisoners of War
(Visszatért hadifoglyok katonai tanácsadója), Budapest, Atheneaum, 1918

The Russian PoW: Journal of the Association of Family Members of PoWs Imprisoned in Russia and Siberia
(Az orosz hadifogoly: az Oroszországi és Szibériai Magyar Hadifoglyok Hozzátartozói Egyesületének hivatalos lapja), Budapest, Association of the Family Members of Hungarian PoWs Imprisoned in Russia and Siberia, 1919

Major Caesar De Sgardelli's Pocket Duelling Codex: Dealing with Military Affairs of Honour
(De Sgardelli Caesar őrnagy Párbaj zsebkodexe, különös tekintettel a lovagias ügyek elintézésénél figyelembe jövő katonai szabályokra), 2nd edition, Hajnal, Budapest, 1922

Dueling Codex: Based on the New Code of Honour
(Párbajkódex: az új becsületügyi szabályzat alapján), Budapest, Hajnal, 1922

Caesar de Sgardelli's Winter Training
(Caesar De Sgardelli téli oktatásai), Budapest, Korvin, 1922

Caesar de Sgardelli's Great War Military Picture Book for Children
(De Sgardelli Caesar képes katonai mesekönve a nagy háborúról), co-written by Károly Mühlbeck, Budapest, Hajnal, 1931

The World War Handbook: 1914-1918
(A világháború kézikönyve: 1914-1918), Budapest, Lloyd, 1933

The Hungarian Military Writers' Circle Almanac
(A Magyar Katonai Írók Köre évkönyve), Budapest; Győr, Győri Hírlap, 1934

The Royal Hungarian 29th Infantry Regimental History
(Huszonkilences Honvédek Hadtörténete), Merkantil, 1936

Gas Alarm: A Fantastic Documentary Novel About the War of the Future
(Gázriadó: fantasztikus riportregény a jövő háborújáról), written as Colonel César Illedragsed, Budapest, Király, 1938

The Frontline Fighter's Pocket Calendar
(Frontharcos Zsebnaptár), Budapest, 1938

True Stories From the Great War
(Igaz történetek a világháborúból), Budapest, Singer-Wolfner, 1939

The Military History of Upper Hungary and Subcarpathia 1914-1918
(A Felvidék és Kárpátalja hadtörténete 1914-1918), Budapest, Athenaeum; Haas, 1941

Our Military Duties, Volume 2, Published by the Ministry of Defence…
(Honvédelmi kötelezettségeink. 2. köt., A M. Kir. Honvédelmi Minisztérium kiadásában megjelent A-46 jelzésű, a M. Kir. Csendőrség számára rendszeresített becsületügyi szabályzat: lovagias ügyek intézése különös figyelemmel katonai vonatkozásaikra: a rehabilitáció: tanácskérés becsületügyekben, Centrum, 1941

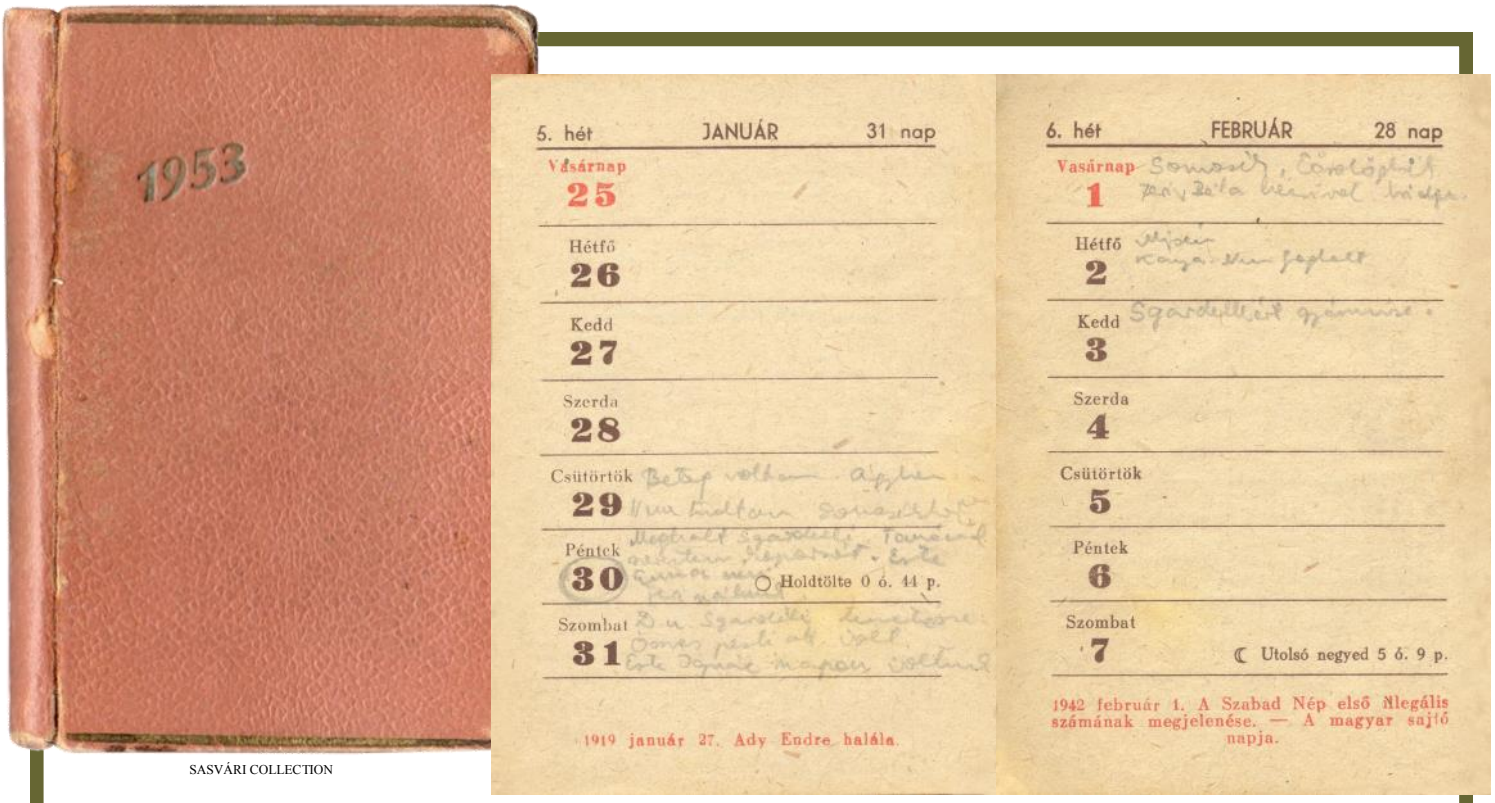
The Frontline Fighter's Almanac
(Frontharcos évkönyv), with Elemér Kertész, Budapest, 1941

In the Service of the Spirit of the Frontline Fighters
(A frontharcos eszme szolgálatában), co-written by Elemér Kertész, Budapest, 1942

The Frontline Fighter's Almanac
(Frontharcos évkönyv), with Elemér Kertész, Budapest, 1942

The Military History of Southern Hungary
(A Délvidék hadtörténete: 1914-1918), Budapest, Globus, 1942

In the Service of Our Homeland
(A haza szolgálatában), edited by de Sgardelli, Budapest, 1943



SASVÁRI COLLECTION

Above: Magda's original pocket calendar, with her poignant notations about Caesar de Sgardelli.

January 30th: Sgardelli died. I obtained coffin from the Council. ***(Meghalt Sgardelli. Tanácsnál szereztem koporsót.)***

January 31st: Sgardelli's funeral in afternoon. All from Pest attended. ***(D.u. Sgardelli temetése. Összes pesti ott volt.)***

February 3rd: Memorial service for Sgardelli. ***(Sgardelliért gyászmise.)***

relocations or internal deportations were called *kitelepítések* in Hungarian, and were essentially a punishment and humiliation of the wealthy as well as supporters of the former regime. Much like the internment of the Japanese-Canadian citizens during World War II, deported Hungarians were stripped of their homes and property overnight, and sent to live with families in rural areas. Wealthy peasants, or kulaks also suffered – thousands of houses, barns and other buildings were confiscated.

City dwellers considered "enemies of the state" were internally deported from May of 1951 – 5,182 families in total which included princes, counts, barons, former government ministers, policemen and gendarmes, factory owners, bankers, wholesalers, and other landowners. Years of hardship and cruelty followed, however, an amnesty was declared in July of 1953. Hundreds of thousands of Hungarians were affected by these harsh practices.

On June 5th, 1951 Magda, her sister and parents were given twenty-four hours to leave their home in Budapest, along with thirty-seven other families from their district. The order came at 4:00am and a truck was sent the following morning to take them and the belongings they were allowed (one bed for each family member, a table, four chairs and personal items). They were transported to the railway station where they were put onto a railway car equipped with one can of water for the occupants, and there the journey to Tiszabő in the Hungarian countryside began.

Four of the families, including Magda's were assigned to live in the house of a kulak (who also had no choice in the matter). From that point on their lives revolved around manual labour – working in fields, primarily threshing. Their payment was a share of whatever they harvested, and they took their wheat to the local mill to be made into flour, which provided their daily bread. When it was time to harvest potatoes, they had plenty of those to eat, and once a week they would receive ration coupons for food and tobacco.

As long as I have known Magda, she has always inspired me with her bright and cheerful enthusiasm and concern for those around her. Somehow it didn't surprise me that so many years ago she was already an exceptional young lady. She vividly remembers the other internees – including Caesar de Sgardelli and his wife Erna, who by that time was bedridden – both physically and mentally incapacitated. She recalled how de Sgardelli was quiet and aloof – which was how most of the ex-military men seemed to be.

Although the authorities would only send a couple of men to check-in every few weeks, people there were anxious and unwilling to deal with anything official. "I heard that one of our neighbors had died, and no one did anything about it for two days." Magda recalls. "I was furious." She decided to take it upon herself to go to the government council headquarters to report the death of the man - Caesar de Sgardelli – and demanded a proper coffin too. The authorities came to the one little room where Caesar and Erna lived – and found him still in his bed. Thanks to Magda alone, they buried him with dignity in the village graveyard.

Magda and I worked together for many years, but this incident just never came up. Treasures abound – and I am absolutely certain that we can always find them right under our noses.

Caesar de Sgardelli (1884 - 1953)

More About the Badge of Honour

Our Spring 2015 issue of the *Magyar Front* included a photo of the Frontline Fighters' Association's Motor Corps grill badge on page 6 (it's also pictured below). This large, multi-piece insignia features the organization's emblem in the centre, which is identical to their Badge of Honour. On page 6 of this issue is the first published photos of a cased version of the Badge of Honour, and here we have some interesting variations, including the later type with light-green enamel which would have fallen in line with the new green membership badges.

The firm of Nándor Berán also re-used the dies for this badge for another purpose. Not long ago I acquired what surely must have been an emblem made to go on a flagpole, which is identical in manufacture to the Badge of Honour, except for a lack of enamel. It is curved, with two square nails attached to the reverse.

CZINK COLLECTION

CZINK COLLECTION

Above left: The cased badge from page 6.

Above right: In 1939 the official colour of the Frontline Fighters' Association badges was changed to light green. The inconsistent green enamel is applied carelessly on this example - something the Nándor Berán firm would have never tolerated. It is likely that this badge was originally white, and later re-enameled.

Right: Obverse and reverse of the flagpole emblem made using the dies for the Badge of Honour. The rough finish to ensure better adhesion of the enamel can be seen on the surface of the shield.

CZINK COLLECTION

Left: IHMHPS Badges of Honour inspired by those of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association. The coloured red backing is for the IHMHPS leadership; white is for regular and honorary members; and green is for non-members.

All badges shown actual size.

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A SZICÍLIAI PARTRASZÁLLÁSTÓL MAGYARORSZÁG BOMBÁZÁSÁIG

1943-1945

CÍMŰ IDŐSZAKI KIÁLLÍTÁS A HM HADTÖRTÉNETI INTÉZET ÉS MÚZEUMBAN