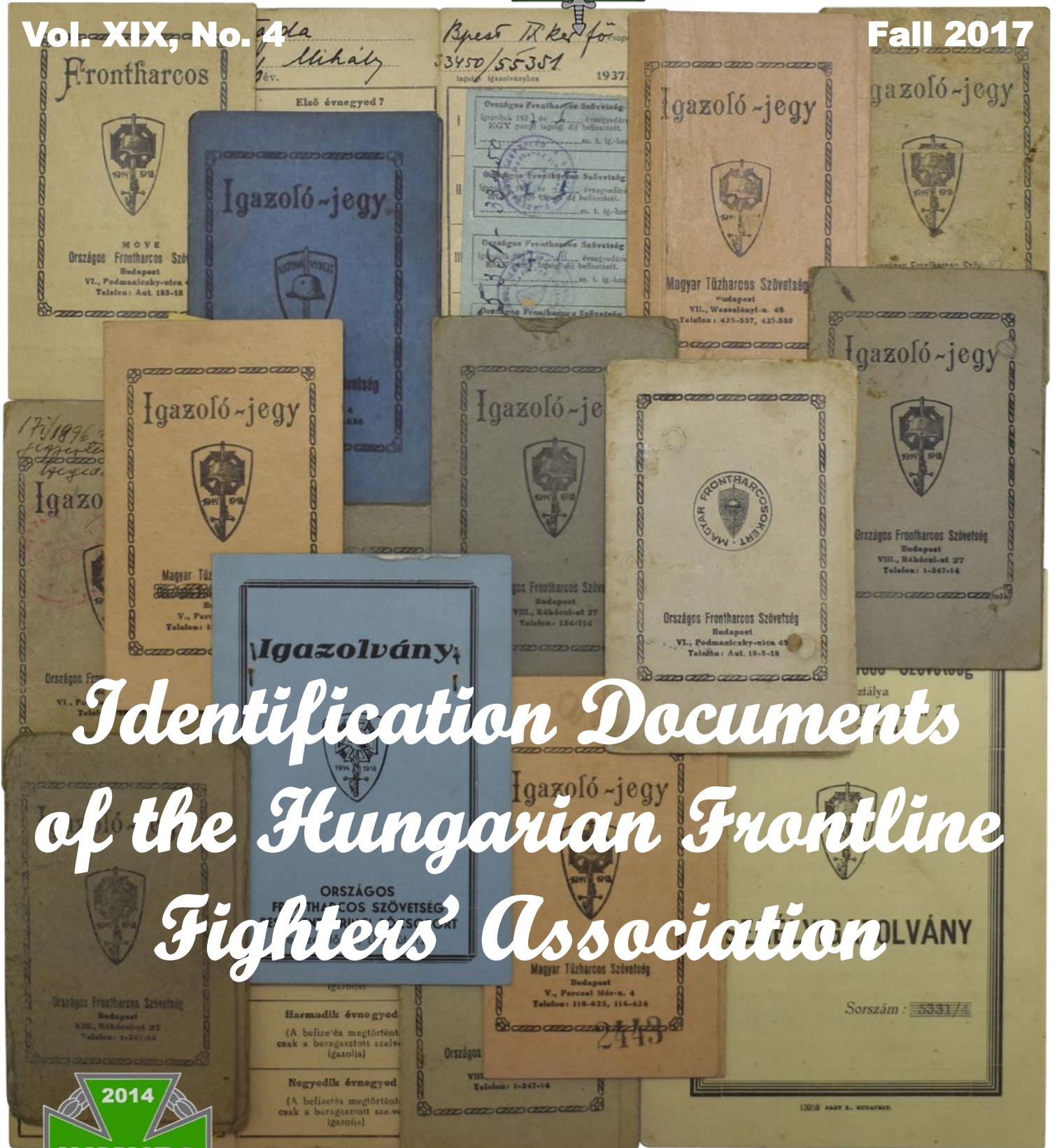


# MAGYAR FRONT



Vol. XIX, No. 4

Fall 2017



## Identification Documents of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association



[www.NewFront.ca](http://www.NewFront.ca)



**MAGYAR FRONT  
VOLUME XIX, ISSUE 4  
FALL 2017**

Published quarterly by  
**Peter Czink, Editor-Designer**

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

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

**Peter Czink**  
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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

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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*

To the military history enthusiast, the minutiae of Frontline Fighters' Association identification documents may not seem as exciting as articles on the elite paratroopers or accounts of glorious battles, however, they have never been comprehensively documented. Opportunities to present such material for the very first time are rare, and my doing so is proof that anyone with enough determination can significantly contribute to the study of military history.

ID cards such as those featured in this issue are called ephemera for a reason, and as time goes by there will be even less of them to examine, and not being on the cutting edge of popularity fuels their neglect. Every collector and hobbyist can become an important part of historical preservation if they endeavour to look more deeply at their interests and share them with others, and academics can be inspired by exemplary amateur enthusiasm.

***"... I think we have made a significant contribution to historical preservation, and I hope that inspires you to re-discover your interests and share them with your fellow enthusiasts, collectors and academics in the years to come."***

Even though I have been collecting Frontline Fighters' Association artifacts for some time now, the process of re-examining these pieces has led me to exciting new discoveries – when we look at what's familiar to us from different perspectives we will always encounter new revelations.

The ID card (which never had a photograph attached to it) pictured on page 4 of this issue was first featured in the Spring 2017 issue of the *Magyar Front*. Since then, a very nice period picture of János v. Regéczy has surfaced, and I have placed it where his photo should have been - I am grateful to Mr. Árpád Kajon for allowing me to use it. All of the ID documents pictured in this issue are roughly actual size, except for the foldout *Segélyosztály* card on page 15 - I reproduced it slightly smaller to fit better in the publication.

As usual, Péter v. Laborc has helped me throughout – deciphering obscure abbreviations and hand-written Hungarian texts. Major Akos Bíró graciously lended a hand too, patiently explaining complicated data to me in English. Ferenc Kovács of Debrecen generously allowed me to use a rare document featured on his excellent website (kituntetes.webnode.hu).



2018 will mark the 10th anniversary of the International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society. Looking back, I think we have made a significant contribution to historical preservation, and I hope that inspires you to re-discover your interests and share them with your fellow enthusiasts, collectors and academics in the years to come. I have designed an IHMHPS 2008-2018 commemorative pin - a 3D illustration is pictured at left, actual size. They will be available at the beginning of the new year - please consider purchasing one, and wear it often to promote our organization.

*P.Cz.*

### **IHMHPS 2014-2018 COMMEMORATIVE BADGE**

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



*Support the International  
Hungarian Military History  
Preservation Society!*

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



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



# Identification Documents of the Frontline Fighters' Association

by Peter Czink

The identification documents featured in this issue of the Magyar Front are primarily from my collection – a few of the many examples I have acquired over the years. I have also been able to view others from private collections, and feel quite confident that I am presenting a comprehensive overview of the types used by the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association. This does not mean that others don't exist, and new types may surface in the future.

The earliest known ID card was issued to veterans who were members at a time when the Frontline Fighters' Association was a sub-group of the Magyar Országos Véderő Egylet, or the Hungarian National Defence Association. Inside and to the left of this bi-fold cardboard identification document was a place for the member's number, name, and rank; and it was dated and signed by the association's secretary and president. The right side was for the member's photograph and signature. Most IDs have one or more official rubber stamps from either the national headquarters or local chapter.

Printed on the back cover is a message to comrades regarding the obligations of veterans who wear the insignia of the organisation: to do one's very best to support and help fellow members; to take the word *bajtárs* (comrade) very seriously; to honour the insignia which is now worn in place of their military uniform; to treat fellow members with mutual respect; and to report any abuses.

When the Frontline Fighters' Association became independent from MOVE in the early 1930s, a new ID document was produced. It was very similar to the old one, however, it no longer mentioned MOVE, and the back cover message was altered and divided into five specific points. Number three specifies that members should salute each other when meeting, and number four mentions not only the wearing of the insignia, but the Frontline Fighters' Association's official uniform as well.

The next development was the addition of an extra "page" – turning it from a bi-fold to a tri-fold ID card. This extra section served two purposes – one side was reserved for listing the orders, decorations and medals of the member, while the other could accommodate the documentation of five years of membership dues payments.

Once those years were filled, it was necessary for the association to produce extra bi-fold cards specifically for registering dues payments – these were made the same size as the ID card so they could be carried together. Each year was divided into quarters, and once dues

payments were made the member would receive either a gummed paper label or rubber stamp (or both) indicating that payment had been made.

Former NCO's and other ranks' cards were printed on a greyish cardboard (variations in colour due to manufacturer and age exist), while officer's IDs were printed on orange cardboard. Anomalies are encountered when old stocks of cards were used up after new ones came into use, and some were even overprinted to update them to new regulations.

Designations for members who were not veterans were distinguished by special insignia and ID cards. For the original *Uj Front* (New Front) sub-group, which later changed to the *Katonaviselt* (Ex-Serviceman) designation (members who served in the military but not on the front-lines), special blue cardboard tri-fold cards were issued. These were very similar to the regular members' cards, however, they featured the *Katonaviselt* insignia on the cover and text inside to reflect the designation. There was also a space on the orders, decorations and medals section for the member's type of military service to be entered.

Over the years, the term *Frontharcos* was replaced with *Tűzharcos*, and the address and telephone numbers of the National Headquarters changed.

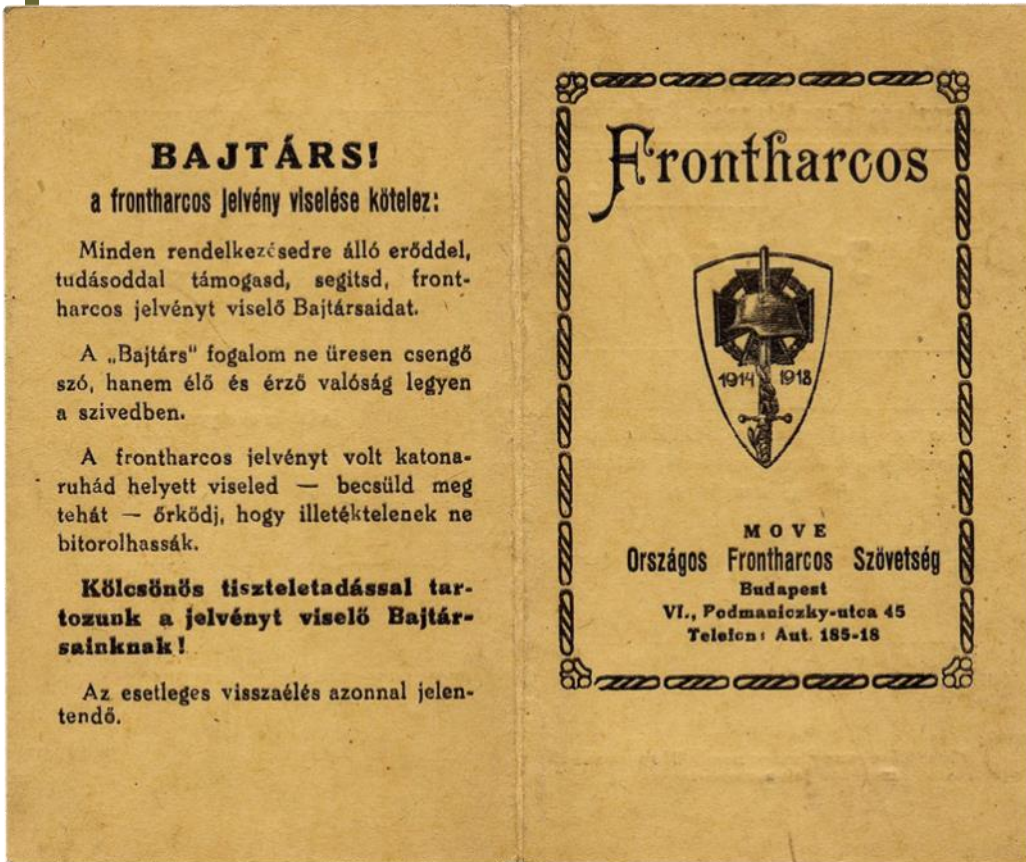
Another non-veteran member's designation was that of the *Pártoló*, or patron of the association. Their ID cards were somewhat simpler, bi-fold and made from off-white coloured cardboard. An illustration of their lapel insignia appears on the cover, while space for things like military service and decorations were not included.

Still other Frontline Fighters' Association ID cards exist which were made by local chapters for themselves, and special sub-groups. They can be similar to the regulation documents, and the number of types and variations is not known. One example of this type of ID card is that of the Pestszentlőrinc *Kisaszszonytábor* (the association's young ladies' sub-group) featured in the Winter 2016 issue of the *Magyar Front* (pictured at left).

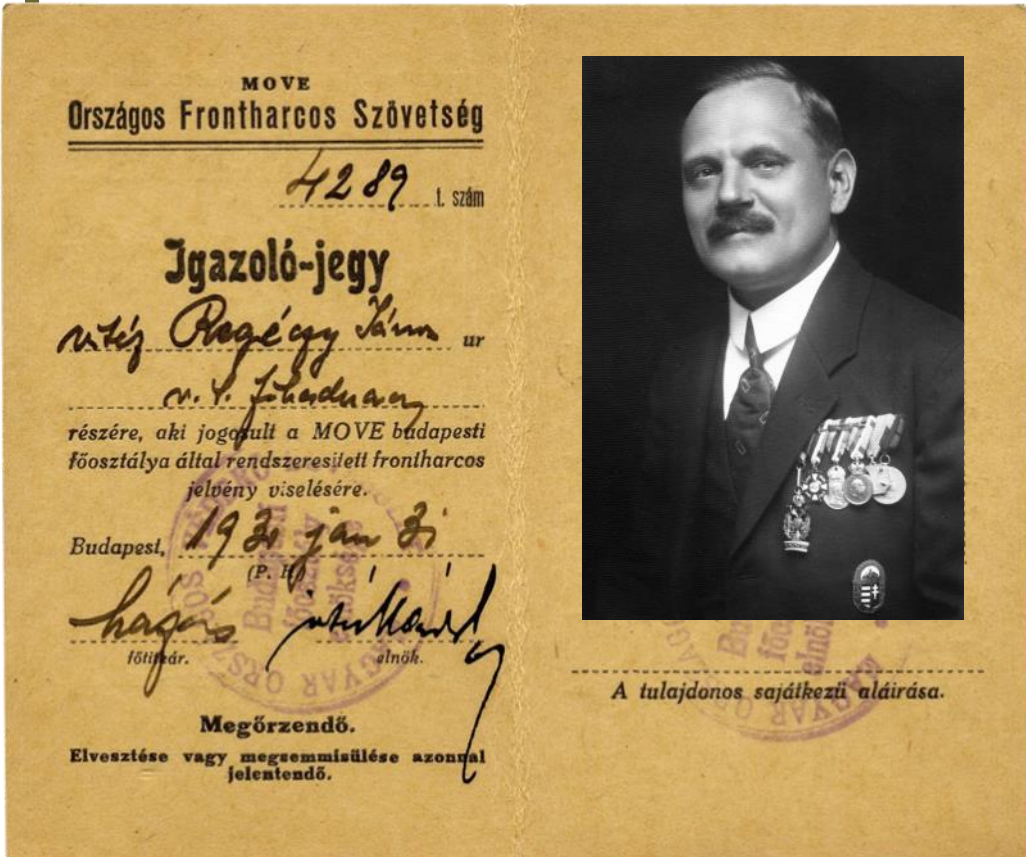
Another related document – the ID card for the *Segélyosztály* (Assistance Department) was issued to those members and their relatives who took part in this military funeral insurance plan. Although also used as an identification document, it is more likely that these would have been kept in

a safe place with the member's personal papers, as it was proof of their participation in the insurance program. To record their payments, members would paste receipt stamps into small booklets which they carried with their ID cards.





PORTRAIT OF JÁNOS v. REGÉCZY COURTESY OF ÁRPÁD KAJON



**MOVE Frontharcos ID Card**

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

This example, first pictured in the Spring 2017 issue of the *Magyar Front* clearly shows the association's status as a sub-group of the MOVE (Magyar Országos Véderő Egylet, or the Hungarian National Defence Association) organization.

"MOVE Országos Frontharcos Szövetség (MOVE National Frontline Fighters' Association)" appears on the cover.

Their headquarters was at number 45 Podmaniczky Street in the VI District of Budapest.

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

The rubber stamp is from the MOVE Budapest headquarters. He never attached his photo to this ID card, and neglected to sign it as well.

(A period photo of him is superimposed onto the ID card to illustrate what it should have looked like.)

The signature on the inside lower left is that of Secretary General Emil Lázár. His career with the veteran's movement was extensive, and he served as the MOVE organization's secretary from 1920 until his promotion in 1929.

MOVE president Sándor v. Mándoky's signature is on the right.



**Frontharcos bi-fold ID Card**

The second type of ID was also a bi-fold card - this one was issued to *Szakaszevezető* (Corporal) Mátyás Holtzer, who joined the now independent Országos Frontharcos Szövetség (National Frontline Fighters' Association) on September 11th, 1933.

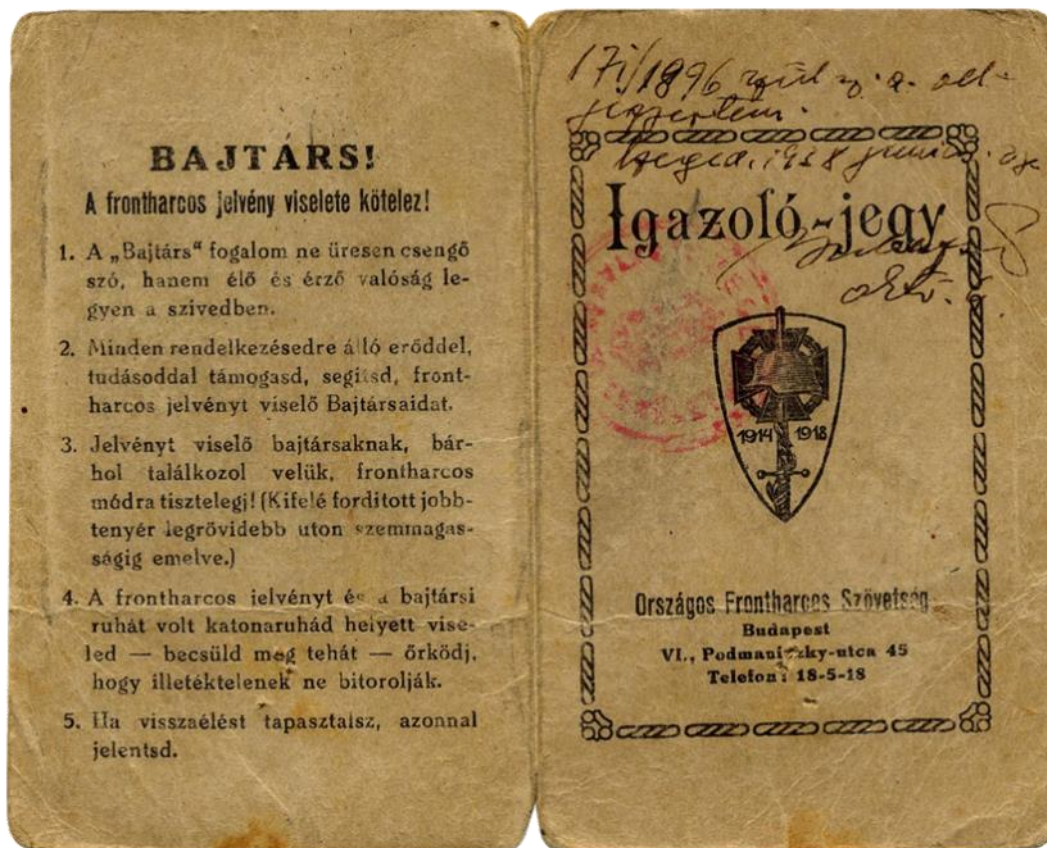
The MOVE organization is no longer mentioned on the veteran's ID cards, however, the headquarters remained on Podmaniczky Street.

The hand written notations on the cover verify the year of Holtzer's birth as being 1896.

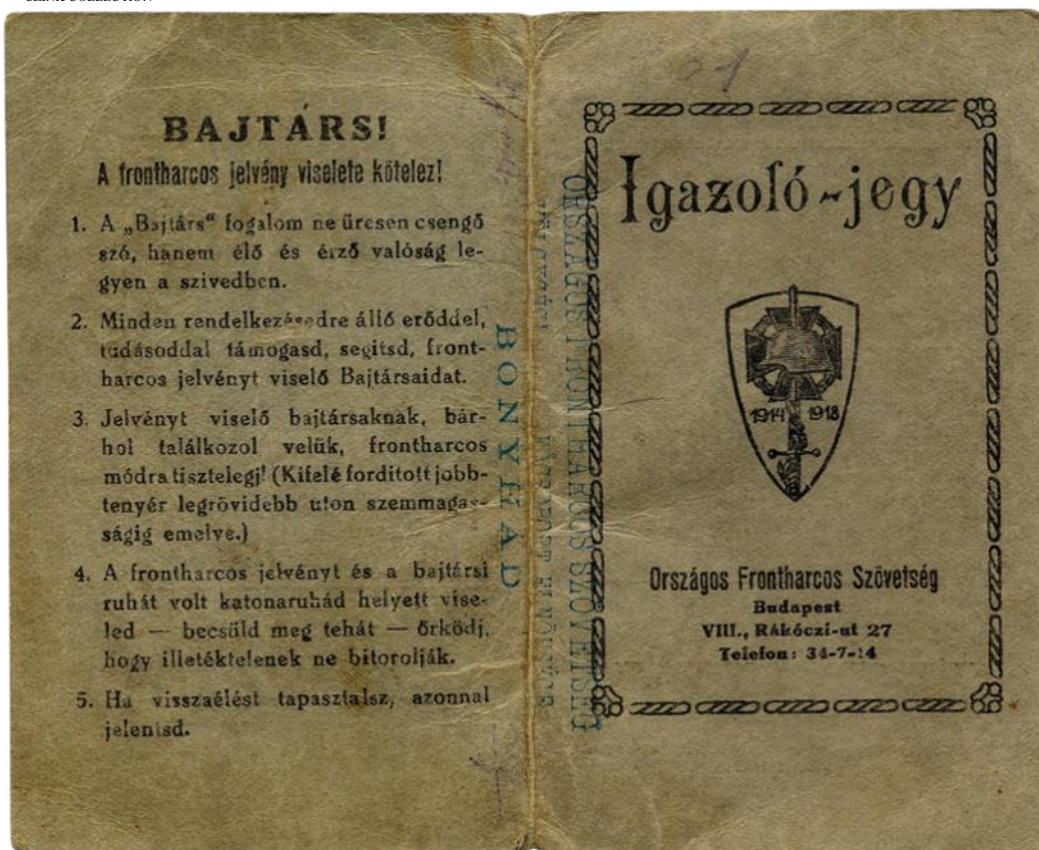
The guidelines for behaviour for those who wear the badge of the National Frontline Fighters' Association are now presented as five specific points. Also, the association's uniform, not just the membership badge, is mentioned in point number four.

Secretary General Emil Lázár signed this ID card by hand, however, President Count József v. Takách Tolvay's signature is a rubber stamp facsimile.

ID cards for regular members who were not officers were printed on greyish coloured cardboard.







**Frontharcos bi-fold (variation)**

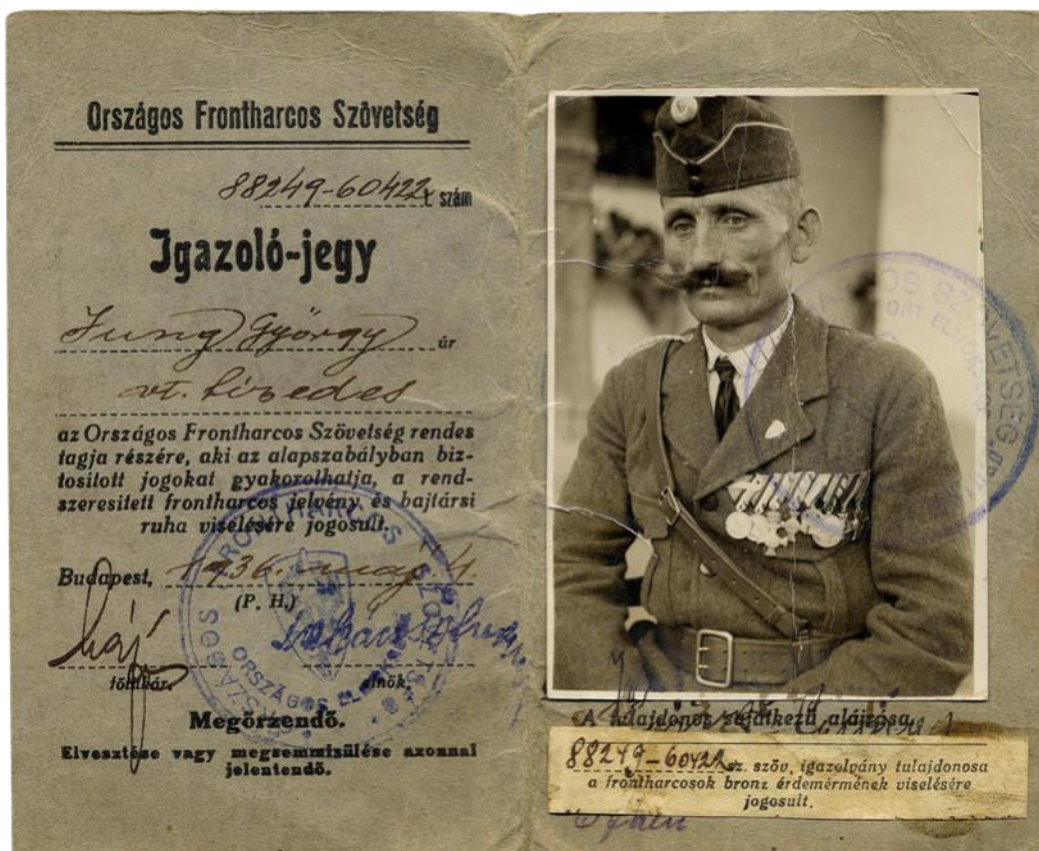
A variation of the type 2 ID remained bi-fold, but the national headquarters had moved to Number 27 Rákóczi Street in the VIII District of Budapest.

Reserve Corporal (*vt. tizedes*) György Jung joined the Headquarters Chapter of the South-western Hungarian town of Bonyhád on May 4th, 1936.

This document, among others, was featured in the Spring 2008 issue of the *Magyar Front*. The most exciting aspect of this particular ID card is the small printed piece of paper pasted on the lower right-hand side - an official notation stating that he was entitled to wear what was originally called the *Frontharcos Bronz Érdemérem* (Frontline Fighter's Bronze Merit Medal). This badge later became known as the *Kivonulási Jelvény*, or Parade Badge.

Somewhere between 1933 and 1936 new ID cards were printed on larger cards folded in three. Old stocks of the bi-fold version would have been used up, so earlier tri-fold and later bi-fold versions are encountered.

Secretary General Emil Lázár continued to sign ID cards by hand, and the president's signature is the usual rubber stamp facsimile.







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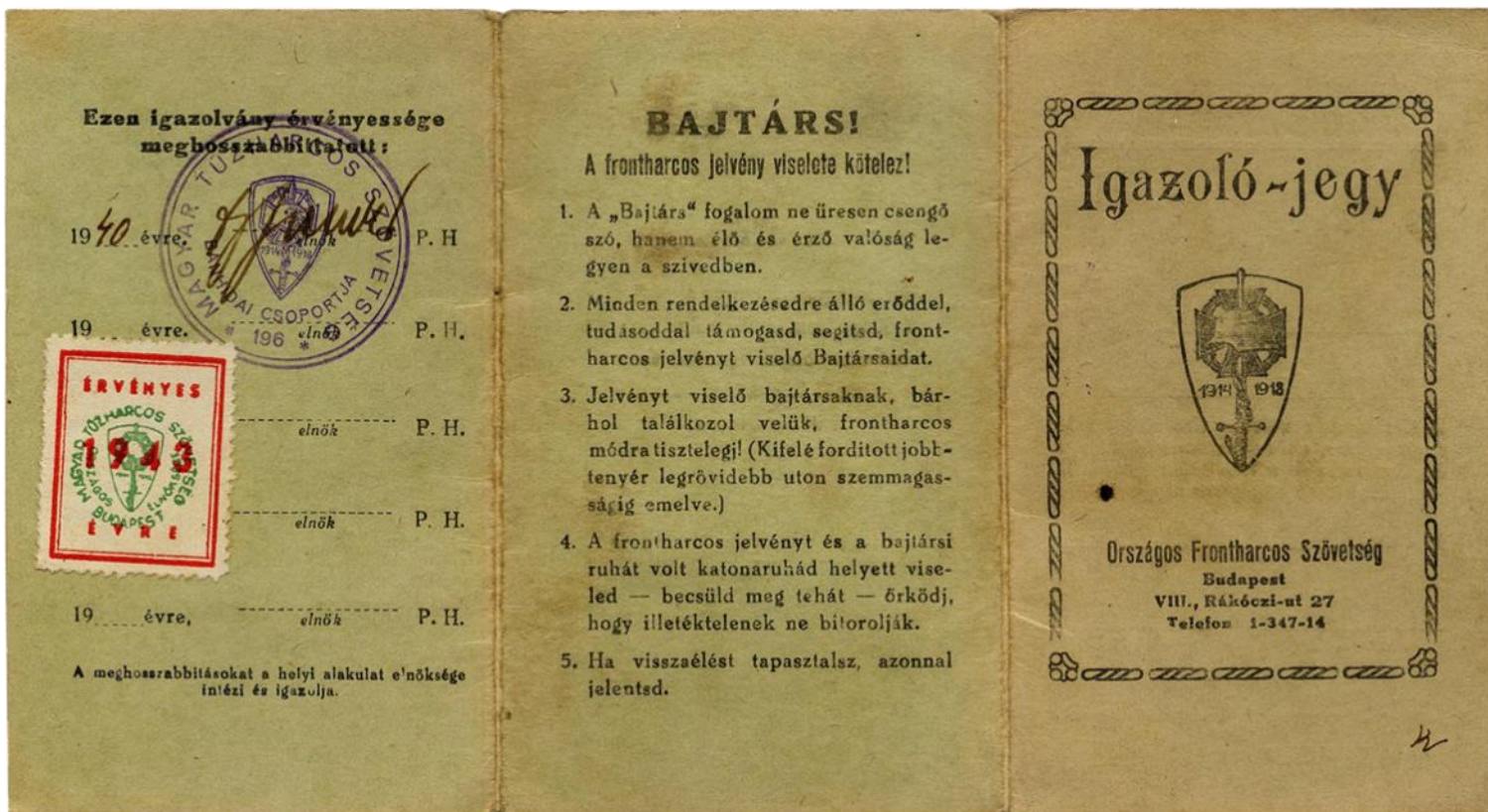
**Frontharcos tri-fold ID Card**

Corporal (*szakaszvezető*) Gyula Bíró's new tri-fold ID card's extra section provided space to list his medals and decorations, as well as dues payments. A member since May 19th, 1933, this ID tells us that the issue of Bíró's Emperor Charles' Troops' Cross was pending, and that he is also a recipient of the Medal for the Wounded and the Hungarian WWI Commemorative Medal. A rectangular green stamp declares that he is also entitled to wear the "green membership badge" - changed from white in 1939 when *Frontharcos* was replaced by *Tűzharcos* as part of the official name of the association. Interestingly, there are rubber stamps using both terms on this document.

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### Frontharcos tri-fold ID with Membership Dues Cards

ID card and accompanying dues cards belonging to Private Ferenc Kemenczés, who was a member of the Bánhida Chapter from September 8th, 1937. He earned the Emperor Charles' Troops' Cross and received the Medal for the Wounded - the rectangular rubber stamp for the green membership badge is also on his medals and decorations page. The Secretary General's and President's signatures are on the first inside page. These tri-fold ID cards only had one section for five years of dues payments, so new bi-fold cards were produced for members to collect their dues stamps. Kemenczés's dues cards are pictured on the facing page, unfolded. They cover 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942. His last stamp, for 1943 is on his original tri-fold ID card pictured on this page.

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*Memories* *Bánhida*

---

*Ferenc* főcsoportja

---

1936. év. 100927-71325

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tagági igazolványhoz 1937. év

### Országos Frontharcos Szövetség

#### BEFIZETÉSI LAP

<p>1938. év.</p> <p>I Országos Frontharcos Szövetség Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. <b>I. negyed</b> sz. t. ig.-hoz</p> <p>II Országos Frontharcos Szövetség. Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. sz. t. ig.-hoz</p> <p>III Országos Frontharcos Szövetség. Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. <b>III. negyed</b> sz. t. ig.-hoz</p> <p>IV Országos Frontharcos Szövetség Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. sz. t. ig.-hoz</p>	<p>1939. év</p> <p>I Országos Frontharcos Szövetség Igazoljuk 1939. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. sz. t. ig.-hoz</p> <p>II Országos Frontharcos Szövetség Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. sz. t. ig.-hoz</p> <p>III Országos Frontharcos Szövetség Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. sz. t. ig.-hoz</p> <p>IV Országos Frontharcos Szövetség Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését. sz. t. ig.-hoz</p>
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Országos Frontharcos Szövetség.  
Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára  
EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését.  
sz. t. ig.-hoz

Országos Frontharcos Szövetség  
Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára  
EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését.  
sz. t. ig.-hoz

Országos Frontharcos Szövetség.  
Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára  
EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését.  
sz. t. ig.-hoz

Országos Frontharcos Szövetség.  
Igazoljuk 1938. év ..... évfolyamára  
EGY pengő tagsági díj befizetését.  
**IV. negyed** sz. t. ig.-hoz

*Memories* *Bánhida*

---

*Ferenc* csoportja

---

1939. év. 100927-71325

---

tagági igazolványhoz 1940. év

### Magyar Tűzharcos Szövetség

#### BEFIZETÉSI LAP

<p>1941. év.</p> <p>I <b>Első évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p> <p>II <b>Első évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p> <p>III <b>Első évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p> <p>IV <b>Első évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p>	<p>1942. év.</p> <p>I <b>Első évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p> <p>II <b>Első évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p> <p>III <b>Első évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p> <p>IV <b>Negyedik évfolyam ?</b> (A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)</p>
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**Első évfolyam ?**  
(A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)

**Második évfolyam ?**  
(A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)

**Harmadik évfolyam ?**  
(A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)

**Negyedik évfolyam ?**  
(A befizetés megtörténtét csak a beragasztott szelvény igazolja)



9119

Ezen igazolvány érvényessége meghosszabbított:

1939. évre. *János János* elnök P. H.  
 1940. évre. *János János* elnök P. H.  
 19... évre. ----- elnök P. H.  
 19... évre. ----- elnök P. H.  
 19... évre. ----- elnök P. H.

A meghosszabbításokat a helyi alakulat elnöksége intézi és igazolja.

### BAJTÁRS!

A frontharcos jelvény viselete kötelez

1. A „Bajtárs“ fogalom ne üresen csengő szó, hanem élő és érző valóság legyen a szivedben.
2. Minden rendelkezésre álló erőddel, tudásoddal támogasd, segítsd, frontharcos jelvényt viselő Bajtársaidat.
3. Jelvényt viselő bajtársaknak, bárhol találkozol velük, frontharcos módra tisztelegj! (Kifelé fordított jobbtényér legróvidebb uton szemmagasságig emelve.)
4. A frontharcos jelvényt és a bajtársi ruhát volt katonaruhád helyett viseled — becsüld meg tehát — örködj, hogy illetéktelenek ne bitorolják.
5. Ha visszaélést tapasztalsz, azonnal jelentsd.

## Igazoló-jegy



Országos Frontharcos Szövetség  
 Budapest  
 VIII., Rákóczi-ut 27  
 Telefon: 134-714

CZINK COLLECTION

### Officer's Frontharcos tri-fold ID Card

The only difference between the previous type of ID card and this one is its colour - this orange hued variation was for officers. Issued on January 12th, 1939, *másodlat* - or "duplicate" is hand-written at the top, meaning this was not reserve regimental physician Dr. János Molnár's first ID document. It clearly states that he earned the "Signum Laudis" with Swords on the Bravery Medal Ribbon, and the ID was issued by the Szarvas Headquarters Chapter. Interestingly, this Frontline Fighters' Association member is wearing the NYUKOSz (Nyugdíjas Katonatisztek Országos Szövetsége, or the National Association for Retired Military Officers) insignia on the lapel of his civilian suit.

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*Másodlat.*

Országos Frontharcos Szövetség

71362/45277 I. szám

## Igazoló-jegy

*Dr. Molnár János* úr

*vt. Erredovos*

az Országos Frontharcos Szövetség rendes tagja részére, aki a frontharcos jelvény, a bajtársi ruha és a tuloldalán igazolt kitüntetések viselésére jogosult.

Budapest, 1939. Január 12.  
(P. H.)



A vezetőtisz által igazolt „Személyi lap” alapján az alábbi kitüntetések viselésére jogosult:

*Signum Laudis a kardokkal a vitézségi érdemrend szallagján*



*János János*  
 orsz. költővár, orsz. elnök.  
 Megőrzendő.  
 Elvesztése vagy megsemmisülése azonnal jelentendő.

*J. Molnár János*  
 A tulajdonos sajátkezű aláírása.





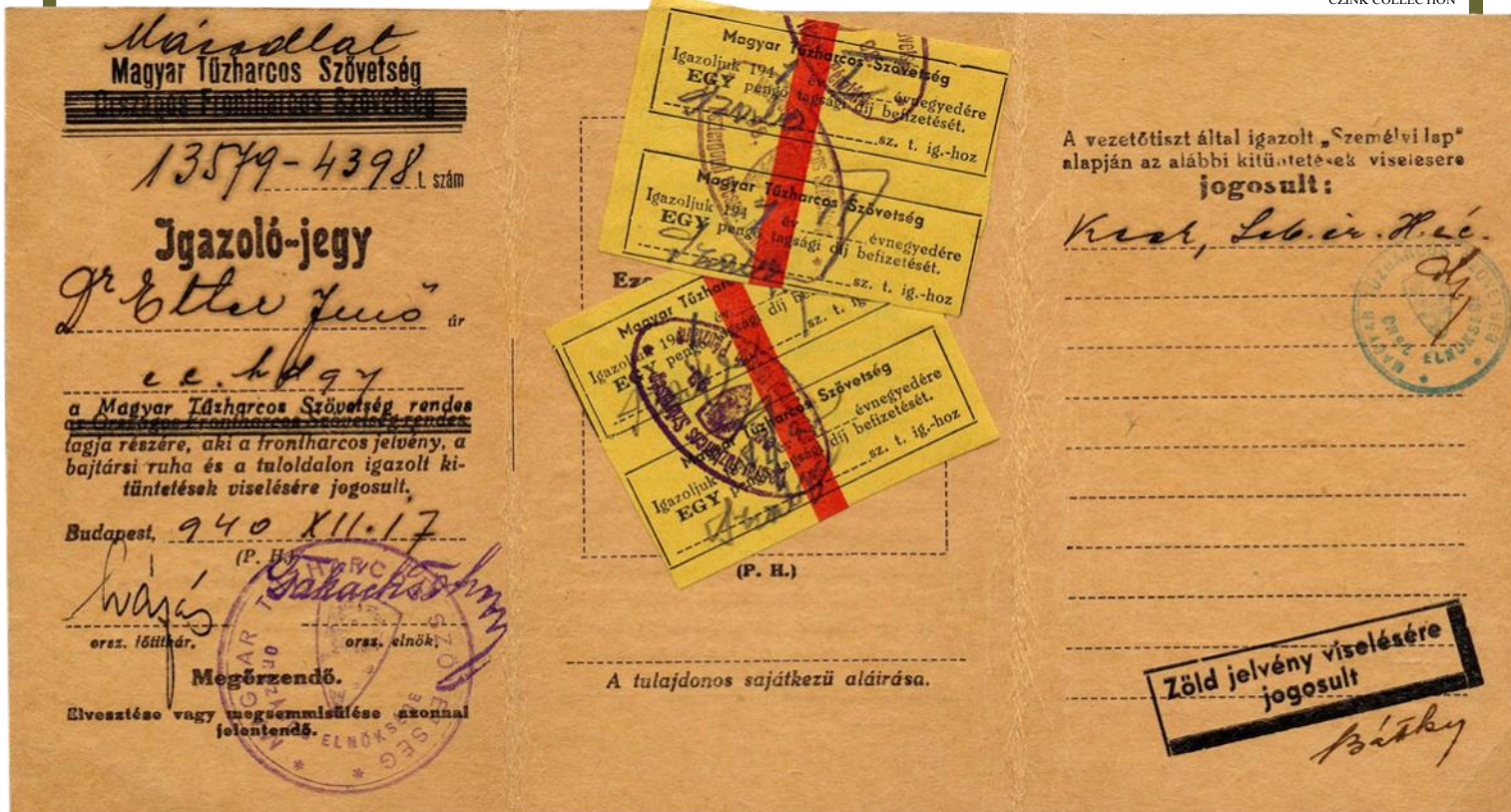
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**Transitional Frontharcos/Tűzharcos ID Card**

This document was “overprinted” in order to use up old stock. Originally called the Országos Frontharcos Szövetség, the association’s name changed to the Magyar Tűzharcos Szövetség in 1939. The old name has been crossed out and the new one was added above. The *Zöld jelvény viselésére jogosult* (Entitled to wear the green membership badge) “stamp” now appears in printed form on the lower right of the inside of the document. This ID was issued on December 17th, 1940 by the Esztergom headquarters Chapter to Lieutenant Dr. Jenő Elther, who received the Emperor’s Troops’ Cross, the Medal for the Wounded and the Hungarian World War I Commemorative Medal for Combattants.

Note the new address for the National Headquarters - Number 4, v. Perczel Mór Street, Budapest.

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**Katona Viselt (Ex-Serviceman) ID Card**

COURTESY OF FERENC KOVÁCS

This type of membership was for people who had served in the military, but not as veterans of the First World War. Although Senior Corporal Sándor Szücs joined the Frontline Fighters' Association under this designation, he later became a veteran of the Second World War in the 21st Border Troops Battalion, and was one of only thirty-nine other ranks who earned the Gold Bravery Medal (noted below, along with his Reclamation of Transylvania Commemorative Medal). Although President Count József v. Takách Tolvay's rubber stamp signature appears on this document, the signature for the National Secretary is illegible. The *Katona Viselt* (or Ex-Serviceman) membership status replaced what was known as the *Uj Front* (see the Fall 2014 issue of the *Magyar Front*) in 1941, so it is likely that *Uj Front* membership ID cards also exist.

COURTESY OF FERENC KOVÁCS





Ezen igazolvány érvényessége  
meghosszabbított:

194...év. ----- elnök ----- P. H.

194...év. ----- elnök ----- P. H.

194...év. ----- elnök ----- P. H.

194...év. ----- elnök ----- P. H.

194...év. ----- elnök ----- P. H.

A meghosszabbításokat a helyi alakulat elnöksége  
intézi és igazolja.

## BAJTÁRS!

A szövetségi jelvény viselése kötelező!

1. A „Bajtárs” fogalom ne üresen csengő szó, hanem élő és érző valóság legyen a szívedben.
2. Minden rendelkezésedre álló erőddel, tudásoddal támogasd, segítsd, a jelvényt viselő Bajtársaidat.
3. Jelvényt viselő bajtársaknak, — bárhol találkozol velük, — frontharcos módra tisztelegj! (Kifelé fordított jobbtenyér legrövidebb uton szemmagasságig emelve.)
4. A jelvényt és a bajtársi ruhát becsüld meg — örködj, hogy illetéktelenek ne bitorolják.
5. Ha visszaélést tapasztalsz, azonnal jelentsd.

## Igazoló-jegy



Magyar Tűzharcos Szövetség

Budapest

VII., Wesselényi-u. 49

Telefon: 425-557, 425-558

CZINK COLLECTION

### Officer's Tűzharcos ID Card

Orange officer's ID card issued to Major General Béla v. Tarnay on April 5th, 1944. Hand signed by National Secretary General Emil Lázár and President Count József v. Takách Tolvay (stamped facsimile), this document lists some of the orders, decorations and medals earned by General Tarnay, including the Officer's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit with and without Swords, Medal for the Wounded, and Turkish and Italian awards. The National Headquarters had moved again, and the new address, Number 49 Wesselényi Street in the VII District of Budapest, appears on the cover of this ID.

CZINK COLLECTION

Magyar Tűzharcos Szövetség

192529-180685 I. Szám

## Igazoló-jegy

Major Tarnay Béla a

ny. perséremagy

a Magyar Tűzharcos Szövetség rendes tagja részére, aki a tűzharcos jelvény, a bajtársi ruha és a tulajdonon igazolt kiüntetések viselésére jogosult.

Budapest, 1944. április 5.

(P. H.)

orsz. főtitkár.

orsz. elnök.

Megőrzendő.

Elvesztése vagy megsemmisülése azonnal jelentendő.



A tulajdonos sajátkezű aláírása.

A vezetőtest által igazolt „Személyi lap” alapján az alábbi kiüntetések viselésére jogosult:

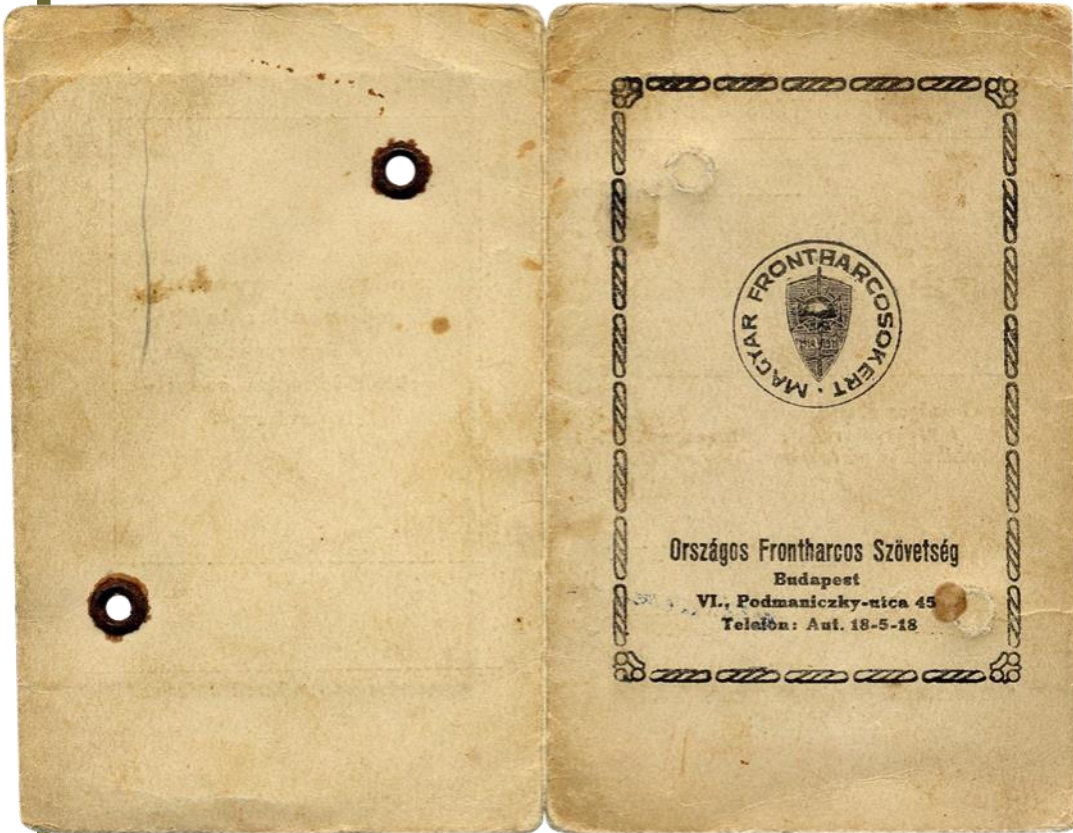
Mag. T. H. Sz. H. III. oszt.  
Mag. T. H. Sz. H. I. oszt. (Kard)  
Mag. T. H. Sz. H. I. oszt. (Kard)  
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Mag. T. H. Sz. H. I. oszt. (Kard)



elvény viselésére jogosult







**Pártoló ID Card**

Special ID card for patrons of the Frontline Fighters' Association. This membership designation was for civilians who had never served in the military but who wished to work for the veteran's cause.

This patron member's (*Pártoló Tag*) ID was issued to Mr. Sándor Gál on January 30th, 1933 back when the National Headquarters was located at Number 45, Podmaniczky Street in the VI District of Budapest. Someone else has signed for the National Secretary General and the usual facsimile stamp was used for the president.

(facing page, top left)  
**Segélyosztály ID Card**

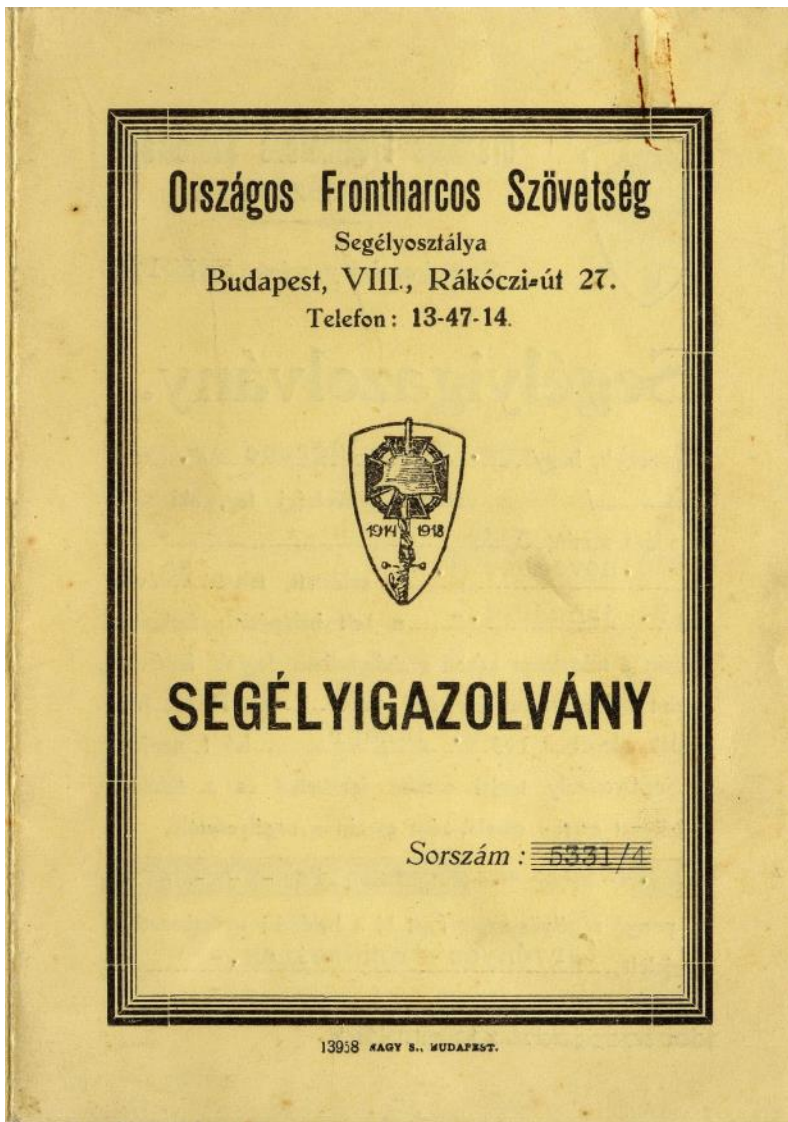


There was a sub-group within the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association known as the *Segélyosztály*, or "Assistance Department."

The purpose of this department was to help veterans save money for an appropriate military funeral, much like an insurance plan. This ID card, issued to 30 year-old Dr. Ferenc Fodor, tells us that he would pay 60 *fillér* per month for as long as he lives, and his heirs would receive a total of 110 gold *pengő*.

(When the *pengő* was introduced in 1926, it was legally fixed so that one "gold *pengő*" would always equal 26g of the precious metal.) His heirs would be entitled to double the amount if he were to die before his 65th birthday (due to an accident), or a maximum of 30 days after an accident.





13958 KAGY S., BUDAPEST.

CZINK COLLECTION

(below)

**Funeral Assistance Payment Book**

Payments made toward the Frontline Fighters' Association's funeral assistance program were documented by appropriate stamps pasted into these small booklets which were made to correspond with the size of the member's ID cards.



CZINK COLLECTION

This is an early example from the time when the National Headquarters were located in the VI District of Budapest - before the funeral assistance department was called the *Segélyosztály*. Although this example is not named, it has been stamped by the owner's local X District Chapter.

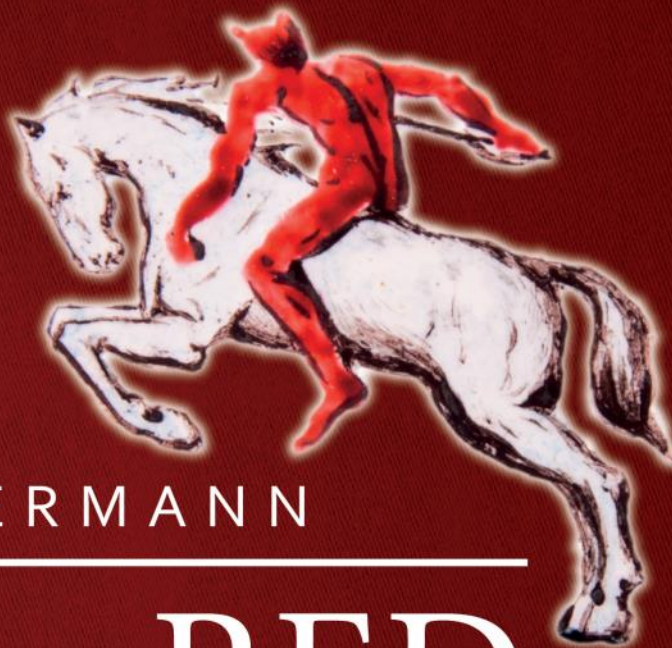




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