

MAGYAR FRONT



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SUMMER 2021

THE HUNGARIAN ARMED FORCES M1940 MAP CASES IN DETAIL



Plus:
**The Restoration of the 2nd (Transylvanian)
Hussars Monument in Budapest**

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Peter Czink, Editor-Designer

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

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

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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

Some people might find eleven pages dedicated to a map case a little excessive, however, I would only feel obligated to apologize if one could find that much information on the Model 1940 map cases elsewhere. Original regulations or related documents are not known to exist, as is the case with many Hungarian military artifacts, despite the efforts of legions of historians, both professional and amateur who have been hard at work preserving our heritage. I was fortunate to acquire the featured examples, and I hope that presenting them here may be of some service to anyone interested in Hungarian military artifacts. IHMHPS member Major Dr. Tamás Baczoni shared his wealth of knowledge (and patience) with me as usual, to make this article possible. Gergő Bacskai was very helpful with information regarding stamps and markings. The photo on our cover is courtesy of Gábor Vidákovich.

The *Magyar Front* always seems to have more than its fair share of good fortune - on page 14 writer László Prohászka, no stranger to our readers, continues to share his passion for Hungarian military monuments.

For further reading about General Jenő Bor (his map case is featured from page 9), his wartime diary is available in English, presented by IHMHPS member Andris Kursietis. Although it's no longer in print, copies can be found online. **P.Cz.**

"*A Lifetime for Hungary* is the memoir of General Jenő Bor. He experienced the history of the 20th Century in the making, having participated as a combatant in both world wars. His autobiography, translated from its original Hungarian, chronicles his experiences in the service of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and later as an officer in the Hungarian Army. The narrative covers his life as a cadet before WWI, his combat experiences during the Great War, and his steady rise through the ranks of the post-WWI Hungarian Armed Forces to become a senior general during Hungary's occupation by Germany and subsequent fall to the Soviets. The final part of the book deals with the General's life as a POW, before his eventual emigration to the USA."



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Hungarian Defence Forces Map Cases

by Peter Czink

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LORRAINE WEIDEMAN

A military map case is as essential as any other piece of kit, however, it can also serve as an army's complex tactical or logistical centre. Two types of the M1940 map case were used by the Hungarian Defence Forces during World War II: a large and a small version. Officers on the front line generally used the smaller and less cumbersome variant, while commanders could choose the large type which would serve them like a remote office – the “laptop” of its day.

Like other pieces of uniform and equipment, officers had to purchase their map case. Several manufacturers were necessary to supply the demand and variations exist, from very fine quality examples to late-war cases made of artificial leather. Today they are quite rare, especially the large version. Very little in the way of regulations or documents exist concerning these map cases - indeed, even photographs of them in use are very scarce, considering they were often worn slung over the shoulder and towards the back of officers in the field.

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Above and at right:
The front and back of the M1940 Small Map Case. A repair is evident on the back, and part of the leather trim is missing from the bottom of the clear celluloid map pocket.

(Actual size: 18cm x 27cm.)

Left:
A portion of the stamp that covers the reverse side of all of the leather used to make this example - HR stands for *Honvéd Ruhatár* (Defence Forces Clothing Depot). This stamp was rolled onto leather that was reserved for military use.





Above left:
Close-up of the maker's
stamp: VITÉZ MÉSZÁROS
BUDAPEST.

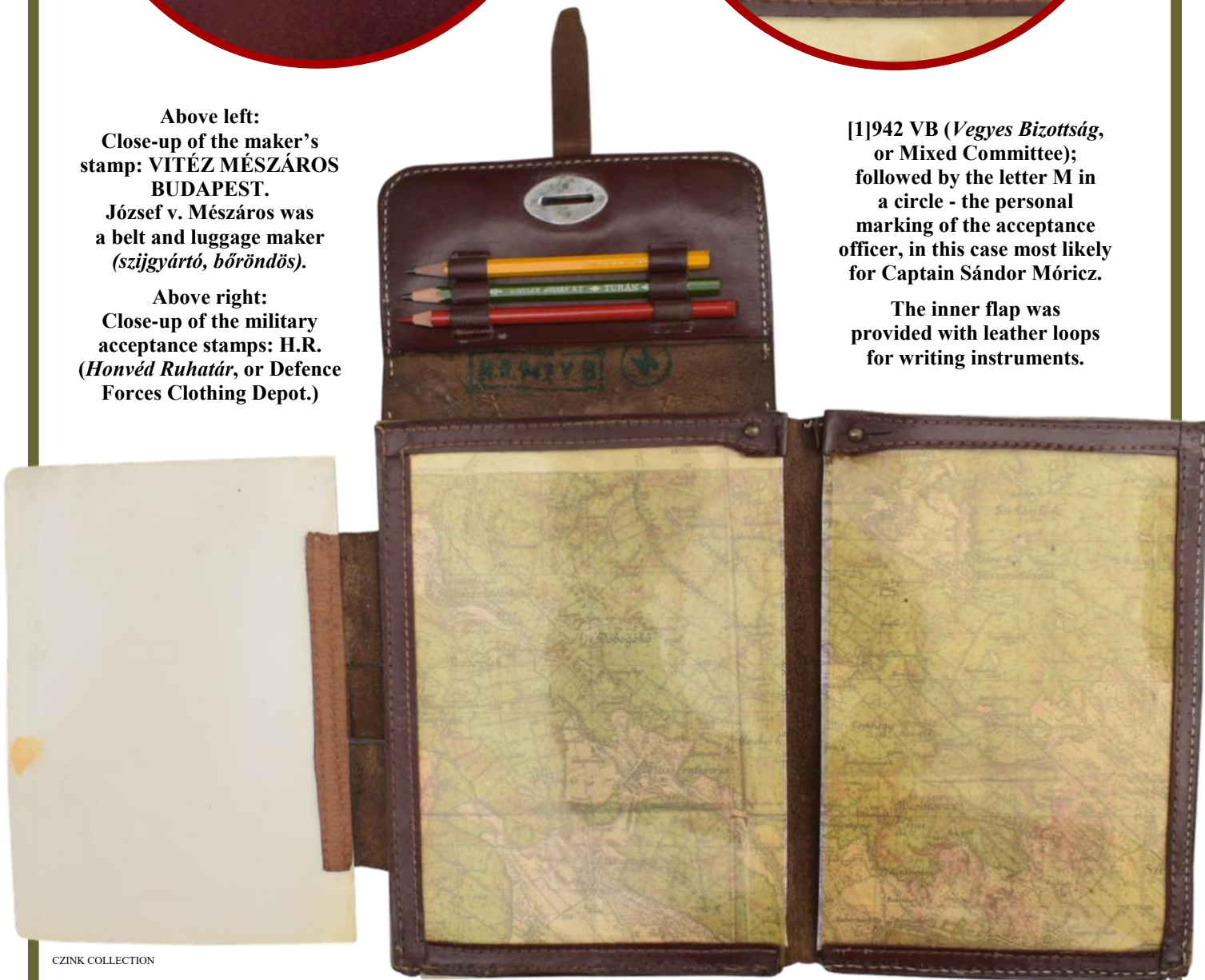
József v. Mészáros was
a belt and luggage maker
(*szíjgyártó, bőröndös*).

Above right:
Close-up of the military
acceptance stamps: H.R.
(*Honvéd Ruhatár, or Defence
Forces Clothing Depot.*)




[1]942 VB (*Vegyes Bizottság,*
or Mixed Committee);
followed by the letter M in
a circle - the personal
marking of the acceptance
officer, in this case most likely
for Captain Sándor Móricz.

The inner flap was
provided with leather loops
for writing instruments.



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Above: Fully opened Small M1940 Map Case displaying the stiff writing surface
that can be folded to the left, and two clear plastic pockets for holding maps.



**The Large M1940 Map Case
(Shown at half its actual size of 24cm x 33cm.)**

**This example is virtually unused,
and is made of fine quality leather.
The adjustable strap is 1.5cm wide.**

**Called the
Bajtárs Táská
(Comrade's Case)
by its manufacturer,
this specimen is
similar to the small
version but without a
map pocket on the
back (detail below).**

**Rather than
functioning as map
case alone, it was
intended to be used
as an attaché case
and a portable field
desktop as well.**

CZINK COLLECTION

Following page:

Details from the "Comrade's" Case Instructions" (a rarely encountered piece of ephemera).

I.2./b./ Elastic bands, now missing from this example, would be used to hold documents onto the fold-out portions.

I.3./ The map case can be worn where comfortable "on foot, horseback, on a bicycle, or in a vehicle."

II. By removing the shoulder strap, it becomes an attaché case for use "in the city or while travelling."

III. "In the office or at home, it becomes a briefcase."

"B A J T Á R S" t á s k a .

/:Használati utasítás:/

I. A terepen mint TÉRKÉPTÁSKA:

1./ A táská nyitása:

A táskát fedelével a testünk felé nyitjuk fel és mint könyvet hajtjuk szét, úgy hogy a fehér írómappa jobbfelé legyen kihajtható.

2./ A táská berendezése:

a./ A két nagy térképablak alá 2 darab térképet helyezünk avagy 1 darab térképet teszünk teljes hosszában a két térképablak alá. /: Ez esetben a táská kétszer akkora térképfelületet mutat egysíkban, mint a csukott táská eredeti mérete:/

b./ A kihajtható /:kivehető:/ fehér írómappa lapjai közé, vagy lapjaira 1,2, vagy mind a 4 oldalon: intézkedések, parancsok, jelentések, vázlatok, valamint az ezek szerkesztésére szükséges űrlapok - sőt még további térkép is helyezhető a gumiszalagok alá. /:Gyors jármódban a papír esetleges kicsuszása ellen egy gumiszalagot hosszában alkalmazhatunk.:/

c./ A nagy táskazsebben segédletek, jelentési tömb, íróeszköz doboz, stb. részére van hely.

d./ A kis táskazsebet és gyűrűit a munkaközben használt íróeszközök, térképmérő, idomlap, stb. számára használjuk.

3./ A táská használata:

A táskát úgy menetközben /:gyalog, lovon, kerékpáron és járművön:/ mint pedig megállásnál /:bármely testhelyzetben:/ a sokféle igénynek megfelelően használhatjuk:

a./ Nyitva, $\frac{1}{2}$ térképablakkal és behajtott írómappával.

b./ Nyitva, $\frac{2}{2}$ térképablakkal és kihajtott írómappával,

c./ Nyitva, $\frac{2}{2}$ térképablakkal és kihajtott lapozható írómappával.

d./ Csukva, - de kívül hagyott /:a táskafedélre hajtott:/ írómappával. Ez esetben a mappát az egyik gumiszalaggal a táskához szorítjuk. /:Így használjuk a táskát gyors jármódban, félkézzel, gyors feljegyzésekre, avagy ha a mappa átlátszó lapja alá térképet helyezünk - térkép olvasásra. Ez esetben a mappa egy külső térképablak szerepét tölti be:/

e./ Külön a táskát és külön az írómappát tetszés szerint. /:Ehhez a rézrudacskát gyűrűiből kihuzzuk s a mappát kiemelve a rudacskát ismét helyére tölva visszagomboljuk.:/

II. Városban és utazásnál mint IRATTÁSKA:

A hordszijat legomboljuk, s hordszij nélkül mint aktatáska tisztához illő tetszetős darab. Iratok a térképablakok alatt és az írómappában. Irattcsomó és egyéb apróságok tetszés szerint a nagy táskazsebben.

III. Irodában vagy otthon mint IROMAPPA és IRATTÁRCA:

Úgy teljesen csukva, - mint csukva, de kívül hagyott írómappával vagy külön a táská mint irattárca és külön az írómappa az íróasztal hasznos darabjai. Személyi okmányok, levelezés, iratok - esetleg fénykép a térképablakok alatt, tömblevélpapír és íróeszköz a táskazsebekben. Az írómappában papír és itatós a gumiszalagok alatt. Berendezés különben egyéni ízlés és rendszeret szerint.



Above and left:
Enlarged details of the removable brass rod.
To separate the writing surface from the map case, the leather tab is unbuttoned and the rod can be removed.

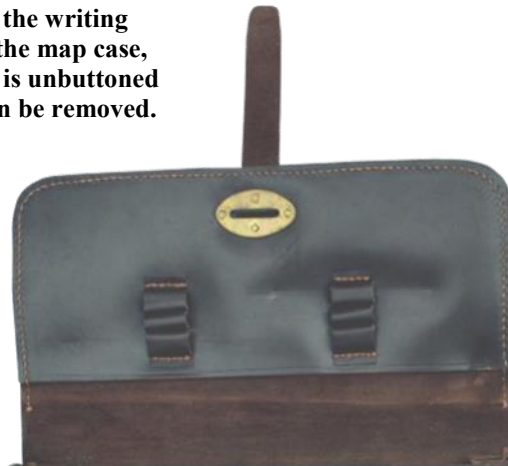


Front and back of the removable celluloid and canvas pouch for small maps or other items that may be needed at hand.

(Actual size: 17cm x 20cm.)



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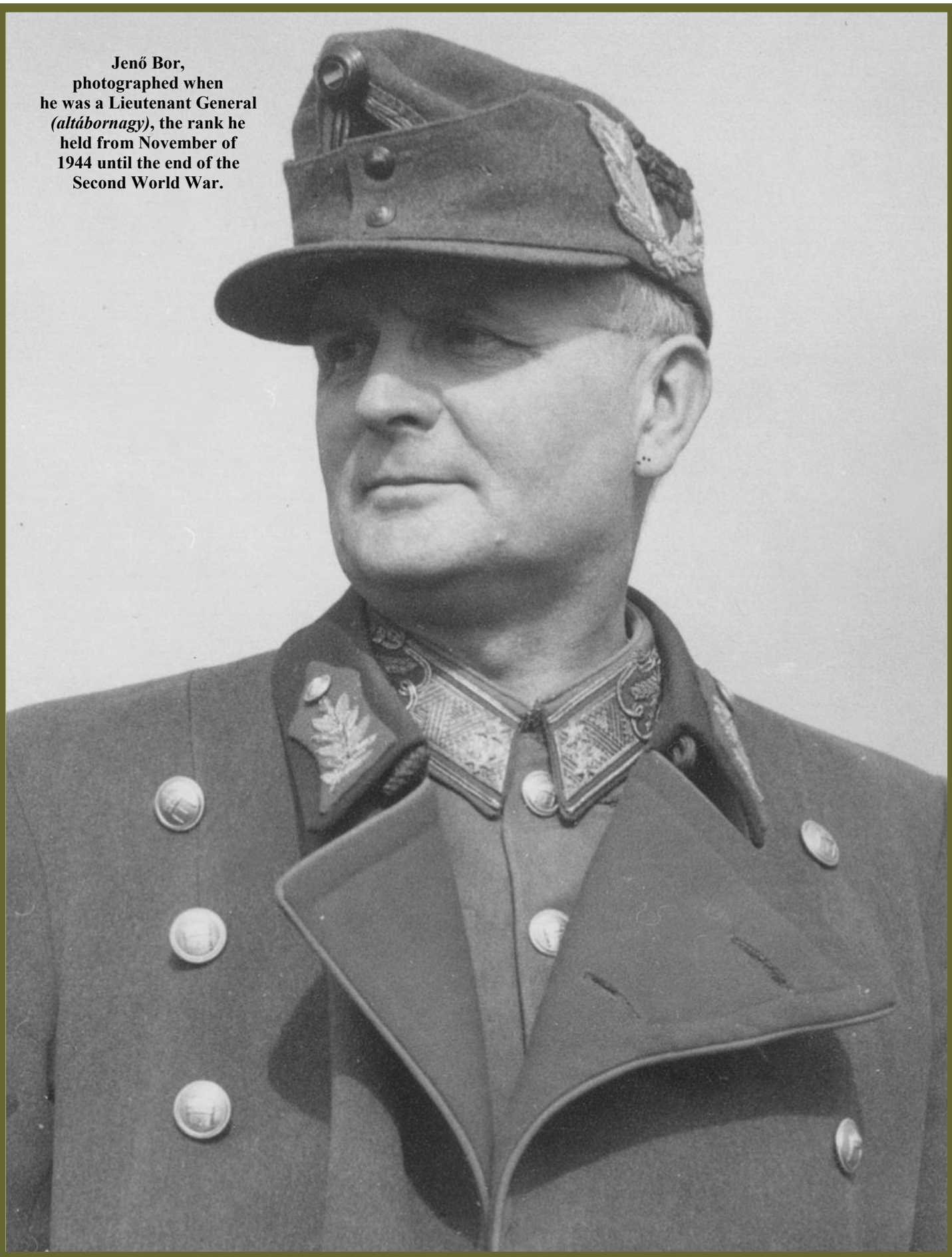


The Large Map Case open.
The writing surface on the left has a spiral bound, clear celluloid cover and is removable.
The centre section also has a pocket behind it and the right section still has the instructions it came with (facing page).



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Jenő Bor,
photographed when
he was a Lieutenant General
(*altábornagy*), the rank he
held from November of
1944 until the end of the
Second World War.



JENŐ BOR'S MAP CASE

Lt. General (*altábornagy* in Hungarian - literally sub- or vice- Field Marshall) Jenő Bor's map case was a standard Large M1940 Map Case with some personal modifications. Two leather straps on the back, which attach to buckles on the front of the case were probably meant to hold items that wouldn't fit inside.

(Actual size, closed: 23.5cm x 33cm.)

A brief outline of his career:

1939 - May 1940

Chief of Section 17, MoD

May 1940 - May 1942

Deputy Head of Supply Bureau, MoD

May 1942 - June 1943

Chief of Group IX, MoD



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June 1943 - August 1943

Commander 4th Light Div.

August 1943 - December 1943

Commander 12th Light Div. (Eastern Front)

December 1943 - January 1944

Commander VIII Corps (Eastern Front)

January 1944 - April 1944

Commander 12th Reserve Div. (Eastern Front)

April 1944 - July 1944

Commander II Reserve Corps (Eastern Front)

July 1944 - October 1944

Commander VIII Corps (Eastern Front)

October 1944 - November 1944

Head of Main Supply Bureau, MoD

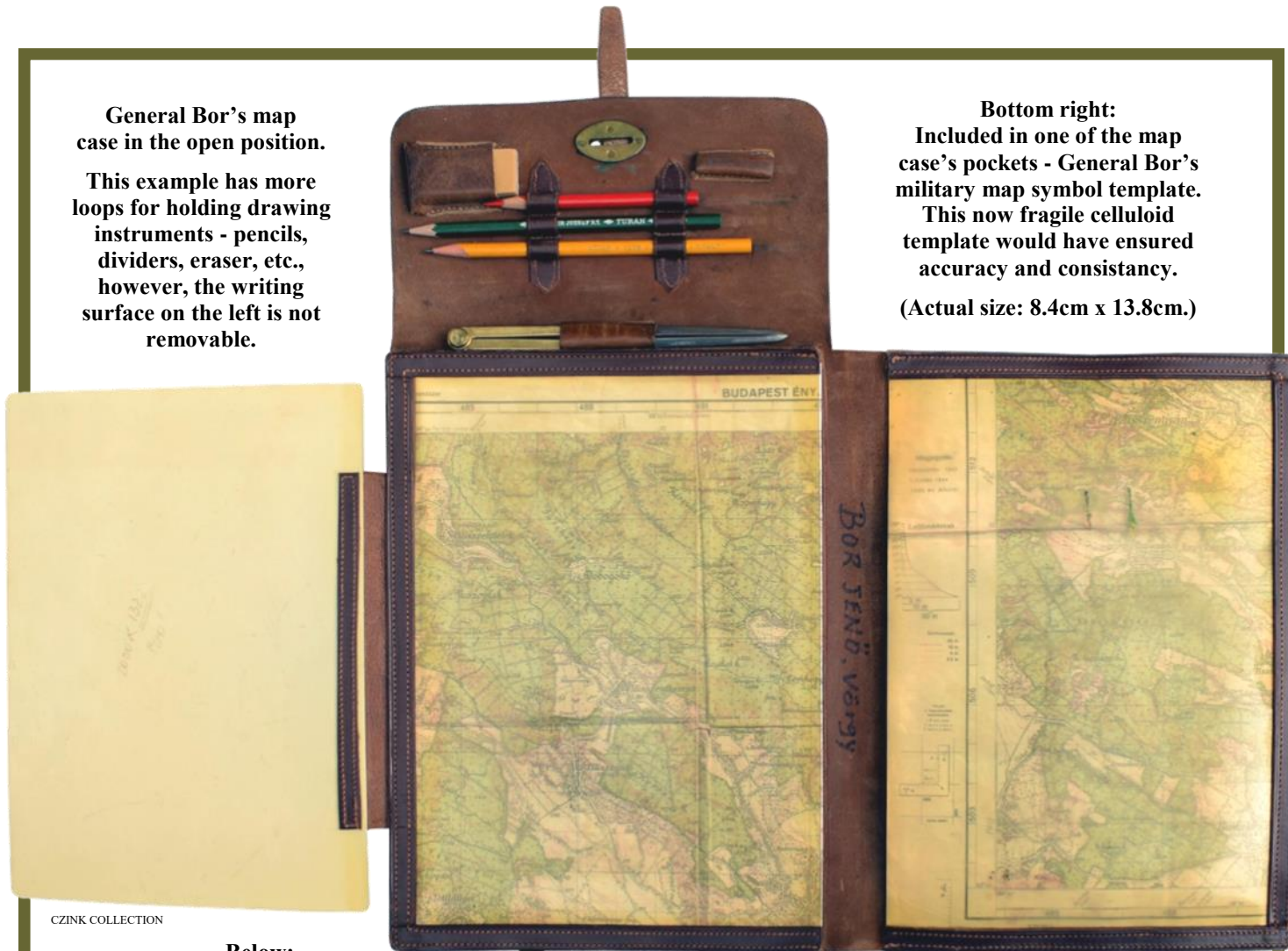
November 1944 - May 1945

Inspector of Hungarian Forces
in Northern Germany

General Bor's map case in the open position.

This example has more loops for holding drawing instruments - pencils, dividers, eraser, etc., however, the writing surface on the left is not removable.

Bottom right:
Included in one of the map case's pockets - General Bor's military map symbol template.
This now fragile celluloid template would have ensured accuracy and consistency.
(Actual size: 8.4cm x 13.8cm.)



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Below:
Detail of Jenő Bor's name and rank (*vezérőrnagy*) hand-printed inside the map case.

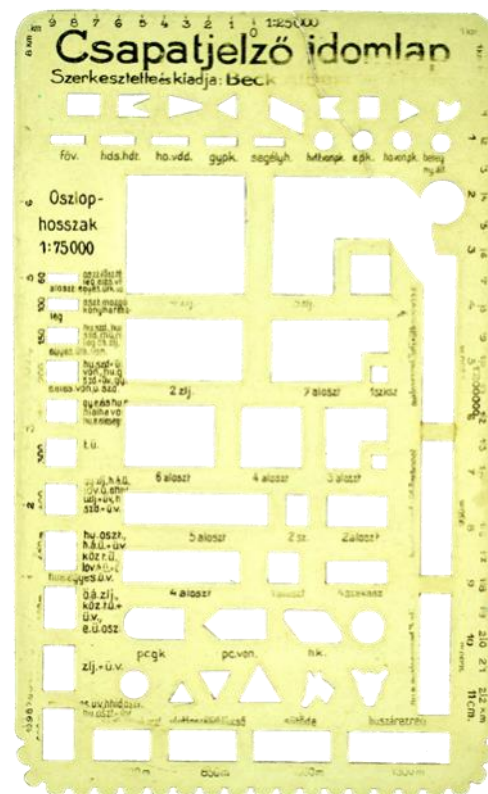


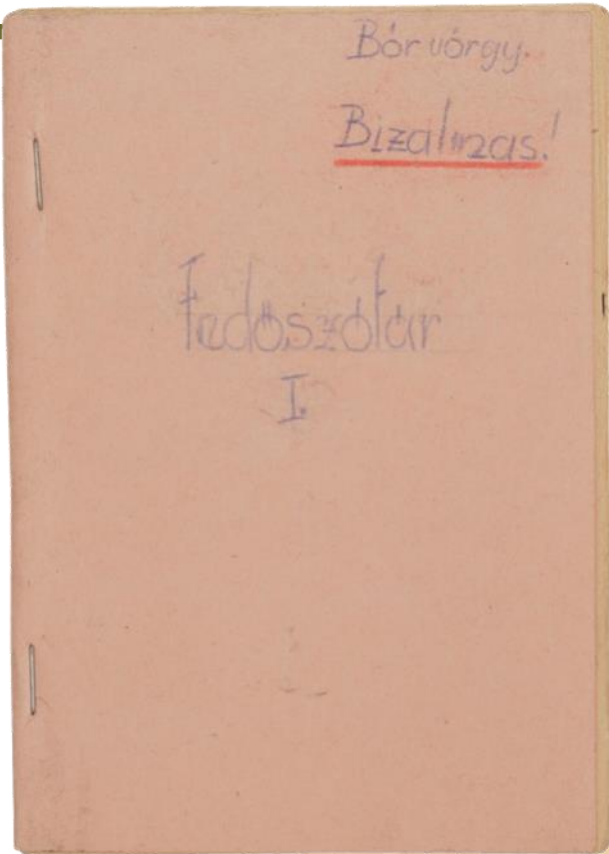
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Below: Detail of one of the maps used in the cases pictured in this issue - a Royal Hungarian Defence Forces Cartographic Institute map of Budapest from 1943.



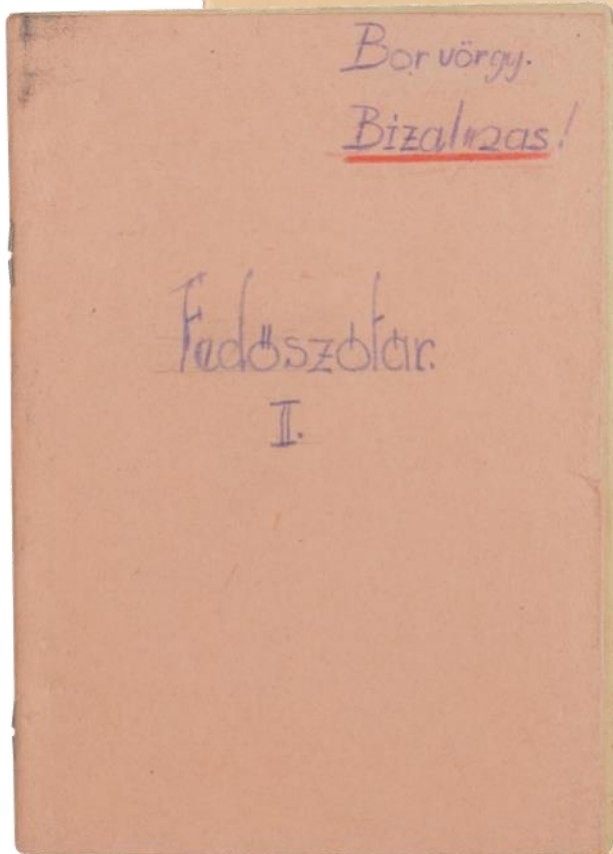
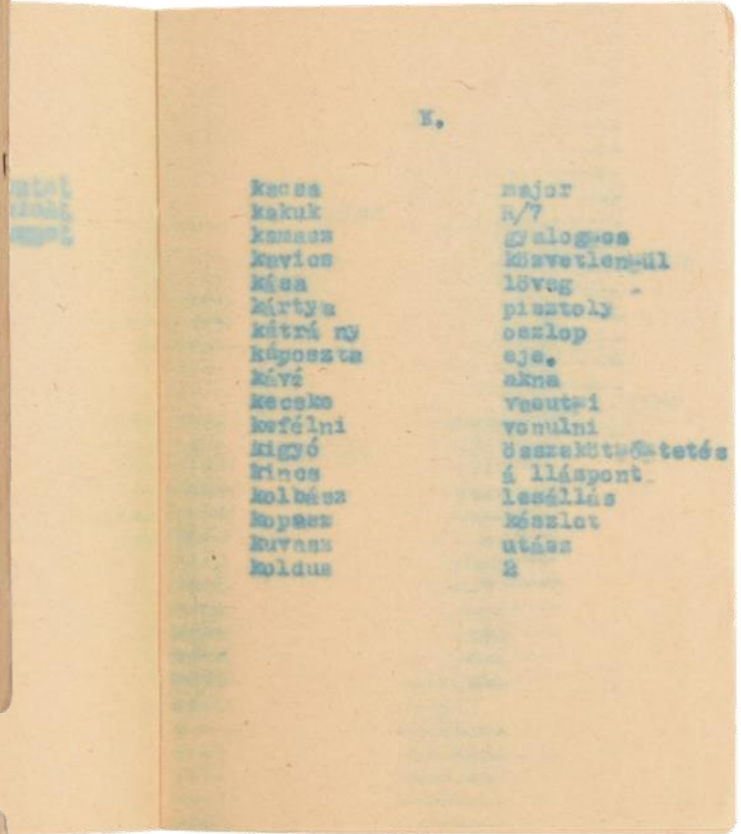
CZINK COLLECTION





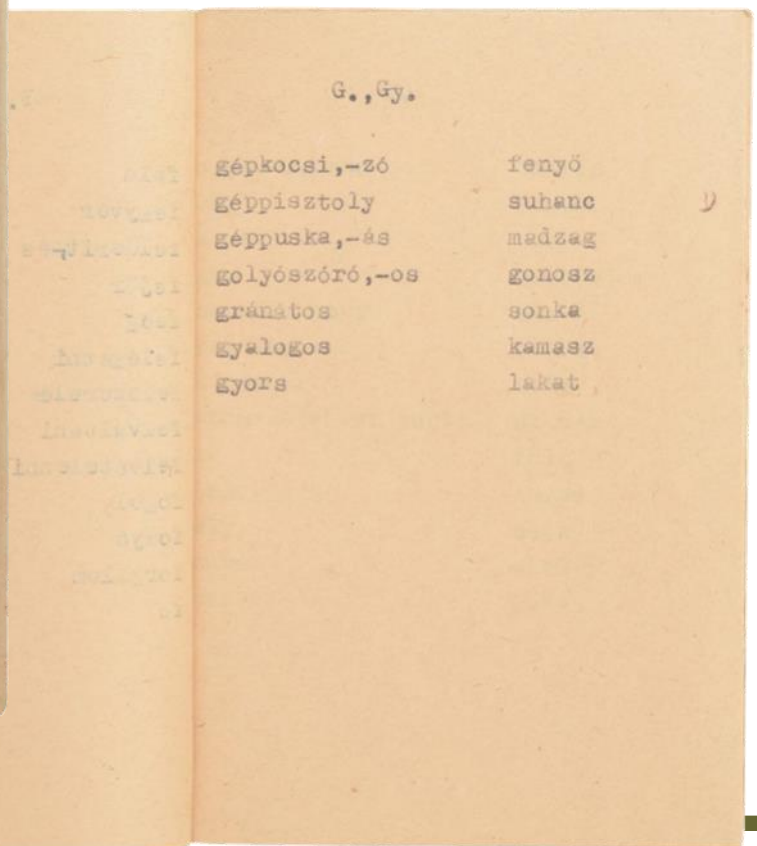
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Two secret code books found in General Bor's map case.
 (Actual size closed: 10.5cm x 15cm.)



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Ephemeral code books such as these would have been changed and re-typed (or mimiographed) regularly.

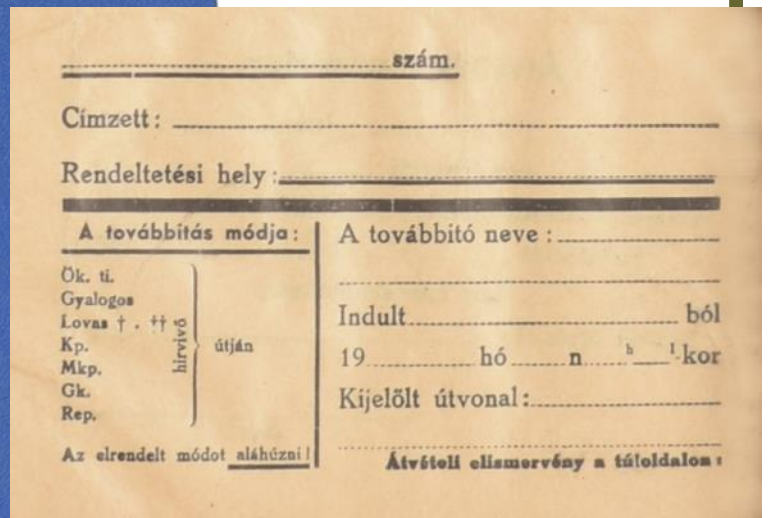




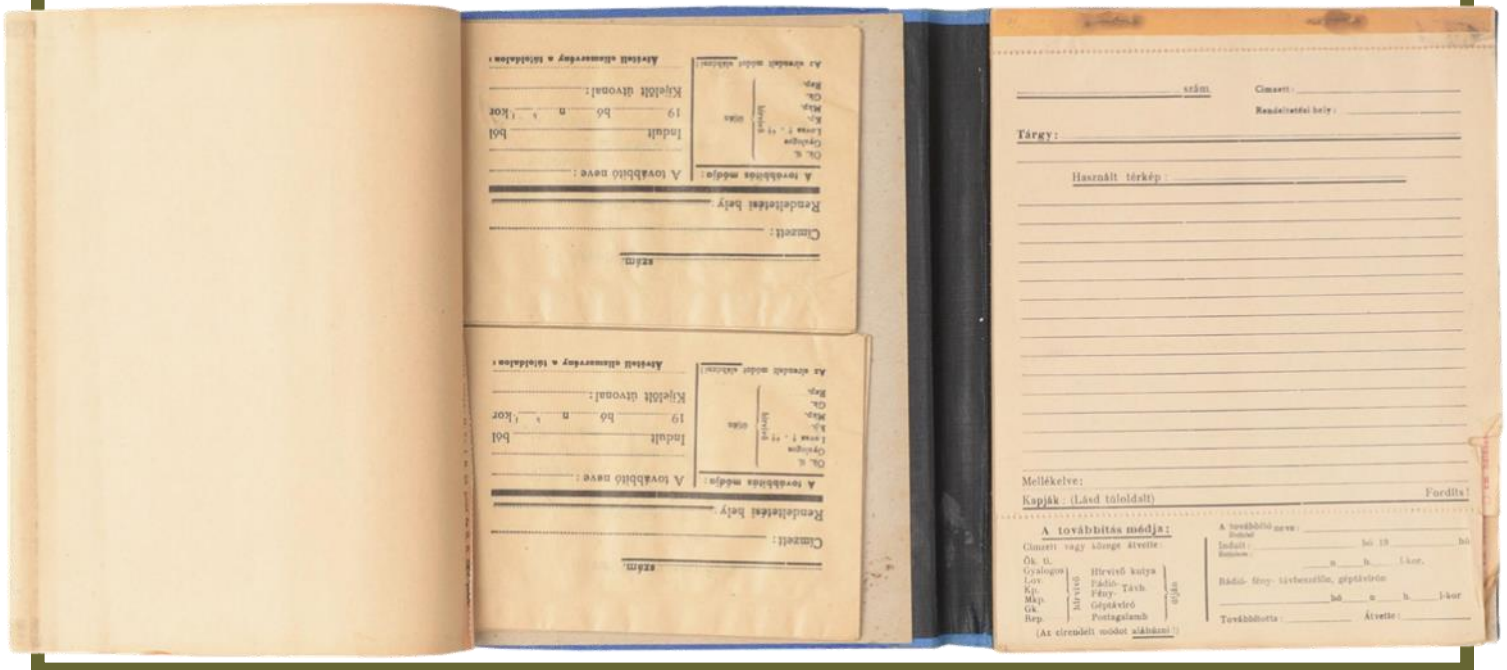
Also found in General Bor's map case - a *Military Tactical Writing and Drawing Book* (at left), compiled and published by Major Albert Sáray. (Actual size, closed: 17.4cm x 20.3cm)

It contains various paper items necessary for the distribution of orders and information regarding troop movements and other tactical matters.

At the bottom of the page it is shown open, displaying a pad for orders and instructions on the left side; official envelopes in the middle; and another pad for comments and map sketches on the right.



Above: Detail of one of the envelopes. (Actual size: 9.6cm x 13cm)



A továbbítás módja:

Címzett vagy közege átvette:

Ök. ti.	} Hírvivő	Hírvivő kutya	} úján
Gyalogos		Rádió- Távb.	
Lov.		Fény-	
Kp.		Géptávíró	
Mkp.		Postagalamb	
Gk.			
Rep.			

(Az elrendelt módot aláhúzni!)

A továbbító neve: _____

Rejtjelés Indult: _____ hó 19 _____ hó

Rejtjelte: _____ n _____ h. _____ l-kor.

Rádió- fény- távbeszélőn, géptávírón

_____ hó _____ n _____ h. _____ l-kor

Továbbította: _____ Átvette: _____

Details of two of the forms provided in the *Military Tactical Writing and Drawing Book*. Above: Instructions regarding the mode of transmission of information, which included “mounted or dismounted personnel, bicycle, automobile, airplane, motorcycle, radio, light signal, telephone, carrier dog, or carrier pigeon.”

Below: Sheets were also made available for sketching maps and other details.

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_____ szám. Címzett: _____

_____ Rendeltetési hely: _____

Tárgy: _____

Vázlat a _____ **térkép után. 1:** _____

km. hálóza cm. hálózat.

Aránymérték: 1 cm. = _____ méter (vagy lépés) Magyarázat a túloldalon.

Restoration of the Monument of the 2nd (Transylvanian) Hussars in Budapest

by László Prohászka

Equestrian statues are the aristocrats of monuments erected in public spaces. Given the huge expense, the consignor normally hires the best artists of the period. In Budapest the monument of the Imperial and Royal 2nd (Transylvanian) Hussar Regiment by Lajos Petri (1884–1963) was erected on June 23rd, 1934 in Count István Bethlen Promenade (now Árpád Tóth Promenade), at the edge of the Castle of Buda. The basic idea of the composition is a naked male figure riding a rearing horse with man and horse turning their heads in opposite directions; a feature emphasising the dynamism of the piece. It is no coincidence, that this description would be equally applicable to a treasured possession of the Budapest Museum of Fine Arts – Leonardo da Vinci's bronze statuette featuring a horse and its rider. A notable difference though (albeit one which does not alter the composition to any significant degree), is that the figure in the Castle wears

a First World War helmet in place of the winged headgear of its archetype, and holds a hussar trumpet rather than a sword and shield.

The basic idea of the two, however, is identical. The small statue by Leonardo is full of Renaissance vigour, whereas the monument of the 2nd (Transylvanian) Hussars was conceived in the classicising of modernity in an age whose monuments are dominated by historicism in Hungary.

The erection of the monument was initiated by the former officers of the regiment and financed from the proceeds of a public fund-raising campaign. The pedestal, designed by Károly Weichinger (1893–1982), deserves special mention. This excellent architect, who was later to publish a study devoted to the architectural and spatial problems of positioning the statue, did a very fine job. In conformity with the reddish hue of the castle walls, the pedestal is built of Dutch clinker. Rather than placing it in the middle of the bastion, Weichinger pushed the monument to the edge of the rampart. By doing so he achieved a smooth fit between pediment and wall and a silhouette which is clearly visible from both the promenade and Lovas Street below.

The base of this exceptionally dynamic and powerfully suggestive piece was originally decorated with two bronze reliefs. One showed the regiment marching in formal military greeting before its founder, Queen Maria Theresa of Hungary, while the other presented the hussars as they took leave of a Transylvanian village during World War I. After 1945, one of the reliefs was preserved at the Museum of Military History - the other's fate is unknown.

In 2020, the Budapest Gallery started arranging for the replacement of the missing parts. The relief preserved at the Museum of Military History was sampled and the other one was reproduced by artists. In the autumn of the same year, the equestrian statue was removed and taken away for restoration. It returned to its original place in January, 2021. At the same time the accurate copies of the two bronze reliefs were also placed on the right and left side of the pedestal.

A copy of the original bronze plaque presenting the title of the monument was also reinstated at the front of the pedestal. This bronze relief reads:

IMPERIAL AND ROYAL

2nd

TRANSYLVANIAN HUSSAR REGIMENT

1742-1919

Under these lines there is a portrayal of the Imperial and Royal 2nd Hussar Regiment's cap badge from the Great War period. With the restored reliefs, the monument once again shows its original beauty. On June 26th, 2021, with the participation of hussar re-enactors, a wreath laying ceremony took place at the restored monument.

The monument before restoration.





The monument today.



FROM THE PIAVE TO THE DON, FROM THE DON TO THE DANUBE

The Military History of Hungary 1918–1945

Permanent exhibition
of the MoD Military History Institute and Museum

Open from 26 June 2021

NFI NEMZETI
FILMINTÉZET
MAGYARORSZÁG
FILMARCHIVUM

1914
ELSŐ VILÁGHÁBORÚS
CENTRÁLIS
EMLEKBIZOTTSÁG
1920

 HADTÖRTÉNETI
INTÉZET ÉS
MŰZEUM