

# MAGYAR FRONT



Volume XXVI, No. 3

Summer 2024



**A PRAYER  
FOR SAFEKEEPING  
A HOMETOWN HERO  
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MEDAL  
AND A GRANDFATHER'S OWN WORDS**

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## *A note from the Editor*

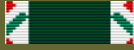
It's an honour and a pleasure for me to present four more personal stories from our IHMHPS members in this issue, as part of our organization's silver jubilee. Once again I feel privileged, working with friends old and new, who continue to renew my passion for Hungarian military history and its preservation. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Tamás Baczoni and Péter v. Laborc for being so generous with their vast historical and technical knowledge - they have been a great help with this edition.

I think it's only natural that just a small percentage of people take an interest in history, and even fewer dedicate themselves to preserving it. I am overwhelmed by the sincerity and effort that my fellow IHMHPS members invest in what can only be classified as a vocation, whether they are hobbyists or professionals. Often, in the business of military history we focus on heroes, however, the few who keep their memories alive can comfortably walk among them, in my opinion.

Andrew Helmecky's pocket shrine (page 4) represents profound faith in an element where so many have lost hope. Ferenc Bálint treasures and protects a deeply personal heirloom from a man he never knew, who likely hoped his name would not be forgotten (page 5). Ferenc Varga collects data and breathes life among soldiers whose sacrifice is barely understood today (page 6).

Joe Gyökeri presents some personal family documents (beginning on page 8). To some it may seem like only a few fragile pieces of paper, however, I decided to include as many of them as space allows because they must have been incredibly significant to Joe's grandfather (he treasured them for fifty-six years), and now Joe lovingly protects them. Included in this collection is a four-page list of names of members of his grandfather's field artillery unit who were to be awarded the Reclamation of Southern Hungary Medal (*Délvidéki Emlékérem*) - certainly Joe's grandfather, as an army clerk, would have used this checklist when the medals were being issued. For more than five decades these names were safeguarded - in times of war and uncertainty, wouldn't being involved with presenting these medals have been such a pleasant duty? I added four pages to this issue to accommodate this list - I hope it may help people with their research in the future.

*Continued on page 19...*



### **MAGYAR FRONT VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE 3 Summer 2024**

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."*

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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.



### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Tell Magyar Front readers about your favourite Hungarian military history related item (or group of items) - something in your collection that has great significance to you, or a meaningful family heirloom. It can be anything from a rare antique to a photograph of a revered ancestor.

Write your story, or just provide notes (and we'll help you with editing), and photograph your pieces. There is no limit on length, and the more images the better.

Be sure to include a photograph of yourself and any bio information you would like to share. Your thoughts on, and experiences with the *Magyar Front* and the IHMHPS are most welcome. (Keep in mind that issues of the *Magyar Front* are also published online and are accessible by the public.)

The Magyar Front will feature these stories throughout 2024 - this is our opportunity to share our personally significant artifacts and our dedication to historical preservation.

**Submissions can be made as Word documents or via email.**

**Digital images should be as high resolution as possible.**

**Text and files should be sent to czink@shaw.ca.**

## *Badge of Honour Recipient Gábor Gáll*



*“Collecting need  
not be self-serving.”*

Modest and reserved, but reputable, committed, and willing to act at the same time - that is how Gábor Gáll, a well-known preserver of Hungarian parachuting traditions can be most accurately described. Born in Budapest in 1973, Gáll became acquainted with parachuting at the age of 17, however, his family didn't support his interest, and his first parachute jump was cancelled. He was conscripted for military service in 1992, but as a result of poisoning he fell ill and had to be discharged, which also put an end to his plans for a military career.

Despite these setbacks, he remained in touch with national defence. Since the 1990s, he has actively participated in strengthening the relationship between the Hungarian Defence Forces and civilian society, and among other things, he has been raising awareness of national defence among young people, organizing lectures, excursions, and camps.

Between 1996 and 2004, he often worked as an instructor in training officer candidates for survival at the János Bolyai Military Technical College, and between 1998 and 2003, he completed several rock-climbing courses.

Gáll has been collecting relics related to Hungarian parachuting since 1990. He is a collector, but his collection is not self-serving. He believes that a collection should not be hidden, but should be made available to those interested, providing people with new knowledge, thus fulfilling its true function - his collection is accessible to everyone, be it elementary school children or the elderly. He has organized numerous exhibitions presenting the material he had collected, thereby promoting parachuting and the Association of Hungarian Veteran Parachutists. He has been a member of the organization since 2005, and in 2008, he was invited to carry out

secretarial duties at the Budapest Branch. In 2010, as a recognition of his activities in the field of preserving Hungarian parachuting traditions, the national presidium of the association elected him to the board, and entrusted him with the duties of President of the Homage Committee. He has published numerous articles on the history of para-

chuting both in print and online, and he also pays special attention to locating the graves and memorial sites of paratroopers who were killed in action.

His exhibition activity is exemplary. In 2012, he played an active role in the makeover of the regimental museum of the Hungarian Defence Forces' 34th László Bercsényi Special Operations Battalion in Szolnok - items from his collection were on display for ten years at the exhibition he organized. In 2018, he participated as a consultant in the making of the Hungarian Military History Museum's exhibition presenting the first one hundred years of Hungarian parachuting. In 2023 and 2024, as part of a complex series of events, he organized a conference and exhibitions to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the birth of Major (posthumous Lieutenant Colonel) Arpád v. Bertalan, the founder of Hungarian military parachuting, in cooperation with the National University of Public Service.

He is a member of the Hungarian Association of Numismatic Collectors and the Hungarian Numismatic Society, and an active participant and lecturer at the latter's Militaria Workgroup.

Gábor Gáll, an amateur military historian in the noblest sense of the word, has gained merit for his decades-long research and military history preservation activities in the

service of society, and for introducing Hungary's military past and military heroes to the public. His selfless work and behaviour embody both patriotism and human kindness.



# Prayer for Safe Keeping

by Lt. Andrew Helmeczy

International Hungarian Military History  
Preservation Society member since 2022



**Above:**  
Currently serving  
10 year veteran  
Royal Canadian  
Navy naval  
warfare officer  
Lieutenant  
Andrew  
Helmeczy, and  
Crumpet.



**Below:**  
Pocket shrine  
closed; open  
featuring the  
miniature of  
Saint Anthony;  
and the reverse  
showing the  
“Germany”  
export stamp.



Although I enjoy the ephemera and miscellanea that make up people's (often quite eclectic) militaria collections, I must confess I am not much of a collector myself. I do have a small collection of some souvenirs from the 1936 Olympics, but when asked if I could provide an article for the *Magyar Front*, I was at quite a loss. Having pored over submissions from members who have very well curated collections of Hungarian militaria, medals, guns, and daggers as well as variants of badges, coins and photographs, I didn't think there'd be much I could provide.

However, as the first generation Canadian in my family who traces their lineage back through Hungary for several generations, naturally most of my male ancestors (my paternal grandfather was one of five brothers) have served in the Hungarian Armed Forces in some fashion or another, through the wars and the 1956 uprising. After WWII, my surviving relatives abandoned their uniforms and gear for fear of retaliation from the Soviets, and left almost everything in Europe in their bid to make haste to a Hungarian enclave in Canada - so whatever militaria they had is perhaps still buried deep beneath the soil of Ostrogozhsk, next to the remains of their Turán. As an armed forces service member myself, collecting others' medals and accoutrements never held much appeal to me, however, it is the history behind the artifact that I am more interested in.

I do have one item that has been passed down to me from my father, and his father, who got it from his brother shortly after WWI - something that I now carry while deployed. It's a small soldier's pocket shrine featuring a likeness of Saint Anthony of Padua, shown larger than actual size (1.1cm x 3.4cm) at left.

Small tokens, icons, shrines, rosaries, reliquaries and other paraphernalia are carried daily by many Roman Catholics - Hungary's most prominent faith. Our family has been Roman Catholic as far back as anyone can tell, and take the religion and its practices seriously - so a pocket shrine is a very important item.

It's about the size of an AA battery - silver-plated brass, manufactured in Germany some time in the late 1920s to early 1930s for export. The shrine opens up, and inside is a cast miniature of Saint Anthony, a Portuguese saint whose patronage is all things lost wanting to be found. He is usually depicted holding the infant Jesus. It was part of daily prayer or meditation - simply tumbling it through your fingers as you pray keeps you focused (hence the wear on the figure). From the outbreak of the war, my grandfather József carried this with him as a soldier in the Hungarian 2nd Army from Budapest through Ukraine, and, unlike his brothers who would never return home, survived to bring it with him, landing on the shores of the St Lawrence, to Toronto - to pass on to my dad, and then to me.

I carry it now - not usually on me, but within easy reach, when deployed overseas so that I can continue to carry the flame of tradition and the spirit of my family, when I pray for safe keeping, as my grandfather would have done. One day I will pass it down to my son, who I hope will never need to carry it through a war.

While it isn't much, especially compared to some of the more fascinating collections members have showcased, it is truly my only real surviving link to my family's military history, and I too hope to carry it and pass it down that it does not become one of the forgotten and buried links to our past - more than a militaria collectable, but a reminder, a tangible connection, an heirloom. ✈

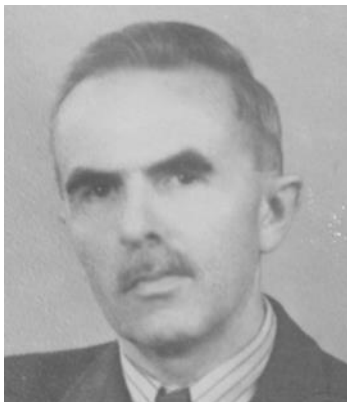
# A Hero From My Hometown

by Ferenc Bálint

International Hungarian  
Military History Preservation  
Society member since 2014



Ferenc Bálint



Sándor Keszegh



Sándor Keszegh



BÁLINT COLLECTION

Many years ago, while I was reading the 1943 volumes of my hometown's newspaper, *Komáromi Lapok*, I found a three-part article about the reminiscences of a local veteran of World War I. He was a young soldier, who went to war straight from high school, and was severely wounded during his first battle. His name was Sándor Keszegh and he became a war invalid at the age of twenty. His story touched me, so I decided to delve more deeply into his life story.

I found his files in the Military Archives, which revealed some of his personal information. Sándor Keszegh's childhood was difficult. He was born in Komárom, in 1896 - his father, who was the vice-captain of the city police, died when Sándor was only four years-old. His mother raised him and his younger brother Zoltán, by herself.

Sándor graduated from a trade high-school in Győr, and was immediately called up for military service. He became a one-year volunteer corporal (*egyéves önkéntes szakaszvezető*) in his local unit, the Imperial and Royal 12th Infantry Regiment, and went to the Russian Front in February of 1916, however, the regiment was held in reserve until the summer of that year.

In the first days of July, they were sent to the frontline, near Worobiowka, Galizia (now Vorobijivka, Ukraine). During an infantry attack, corporal Keszegh was wounded three times by machine-gun fire - the bullets hitting his left leg, left arm, and his lungs. He laid for hours in no man's land until medics found him that night, and dragged him on a shelter-half into the Austro-Hungarian trenches. He spent the rest of the war in various hospitals. In 1917 he was promoted to Second Lieutenant (reserve). His left arm was paralyzed, and for this reason he was declared 75% crippled. During his service he earned the Second Class Silver and Bronze Bravery Medals, the Emperor's Troops' Cross, and the Medal for the Wounded.

After the war he joined the diplomatic service and worked in Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands. He learned nine languages (German, Russian, Czech, Slovak, Polish, French, English, Italian, and Dutch), and after World War II he served in Switzerland until 1949, when he retired. After that he lived in Budapest and worked as a translator. Sándor Keszegh died in 1977. He was also an amateur poet, and a book of his poetry, *Magyar Hitvallás* (Hungarian Creed) was published in 1936. The book was dedicated to his comrades of the 12th Infantry Regiment.

Years after I started this study, some of Sándor Keszegh's documents began to appear in various auctions. I tried to collect as many as I could - and I also managed to acquire his military identification locket ("dog tag"), and a photograph showing him in full marching order, just before his departure to the front in 1916, shown above.

I managed to acquire a copy of his book of poetry from a small American antique bookshop in Connecticut. I am very proud to preserve the heritage of a veteran of the Great War, who was born in my hometown. 🇭🇺

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FERENC BÁLINT

BÁLINT COLLECTION

# The Most Beautiful Medal

by Ferenc Varga

International Hungarian Military History  
Preservation Society member since 2024



I was recently asked to come up with my most treasured Hungarian military-related keepsake, to share with *Magyar Front* readers during our silver jubilee. I chose the Hungarian Ministry of Defence Silver War Graves Preservation Cross, which I was awarded for my work with the preservation of Hungarian war graves records.

It was presented to me by the Hungarian Minister of Defence at the Stefánia Palace and Honvéd Cultural Centre in Budapest, on May 21st, 2017. It was a very significant day for me – my wife couldn't come to the ceremony, however, my mother was able attend. The surroundings were spectacular, and I was awed and honoured to be among such worthy Hungarians.

The War Graves Preservation Cross has three grades – Gold, Silver, and Bronze, and is awarded annually in recognition of the care and maintenance of Hungarian war graves and memorials, as well as the support of these activities. Each year no more than two people are awarded the Gold grade; no more than three the Silver; and no more than four people the Bronze grade. Each grade may be awarded to a recipient a maximum of two times.



Left: The Hungarian Ministry of Defence Silver War Graves Preservation Cross - a poignant design with elements inspired by the WWII *Tűzkereszt* ("Fire Cross"). Above: Award document signed by Defence Minister Dr. István Simicskó.

The decoration is to be presented by the Hungarian Minister of National Defence or the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces.

It was truly a great honour for me to receive my first Hungarian award, however, my work has just begun!

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF FERENC VARGA



Left: Ferenc with his mother, Ildikó Takács. Centre: Secretary of State for Defence Tamás Vargha presenting the award. Right: Ferenc with his newly presented Silver War Graves Preservation Cross.

Ferenc's awards from France (right).  
I asked him why his Hungarian  
decoration is so precious to him...

- The Combatant's Cross
- Overseas Medal  
(with Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Clasp)
- Gold National Defence Medal  
(with External Assistance Missions Clasp)
- Silver National Defence Medal  
(with Mountain Troops Clasp)
- Bronze National Defence Medal  
(with Foreign Legion Clasp)
- Medal of Recognition of the Nation  
(with External Operations Clasp)
- French Commemorative Medal  
(with Afghanistan Clasp)
- Afghanistan Service Medal  
(with ISAF Clasp)
- Afghanistan Service Medal  
(with ISAF Clasp)



He replied:  
*"Magyar Hadisírgondozásért Kitüntető  
 Cím – az a legszébb."* ("The Hungarian  
 Ministry of Defence Silver War Graves  
 Preservation Cross is the most beautiful.")  
 P.Cz.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF FERENC VARGA

# My Grandfather's Own Words

by Joseph Gyökeri

International Hungarian Military History  
Preservation Society member since 2014



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH GYÖKERI



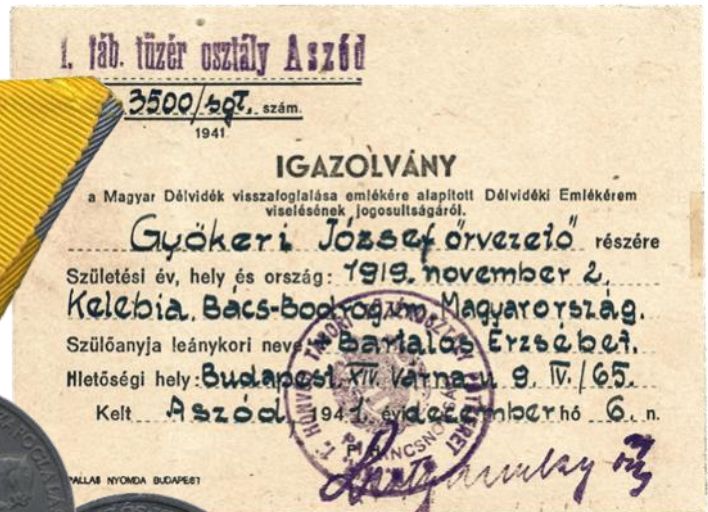
GYÖKERI COLLECTION

Left: the author, Joseph Gyökeri, at work.

Above: his grandparents Margit and József, in the early 1940s.

Of all the pieces in my Hungarian collection, the war-related personal items my grandparents and father brought with them to America in 1959 are my most treasured. My grandparents lived only a few minutes away from my childhood home, and I spent every day as a toddler with them, immersed in Hungarian culture, language, food, and games. I can still smell the wonderful aroma of sautéed onions in my grandmother's kitchen as she prepared the base of a delicious *pörkölt* or *gulyás*. I enjoyed all the traditional foods, and so, in a sense, I grew up in a small piece of Hungary located in my grandparents' home in Manchester, Connecticut.

I have always been intrigued by the black and white photographs of my grandfather in uniform. As a kid, I heard wartime tales and war-stories from my grandparents. Szakaszvezető Gyökeri József, whom I was named after, had a crater halfway up one of his thumbs as a result of his wartime service. I remember him telling me it was the result of getting shot by a sniper in a church bell tower when he was



GYÖKERI COLLECTION

Above:  
József Gyökeri's award document for the Reclamation of Southern Hungary Medal (*Délvidéki Emlékérem*), shown at left (obverse and reverse).



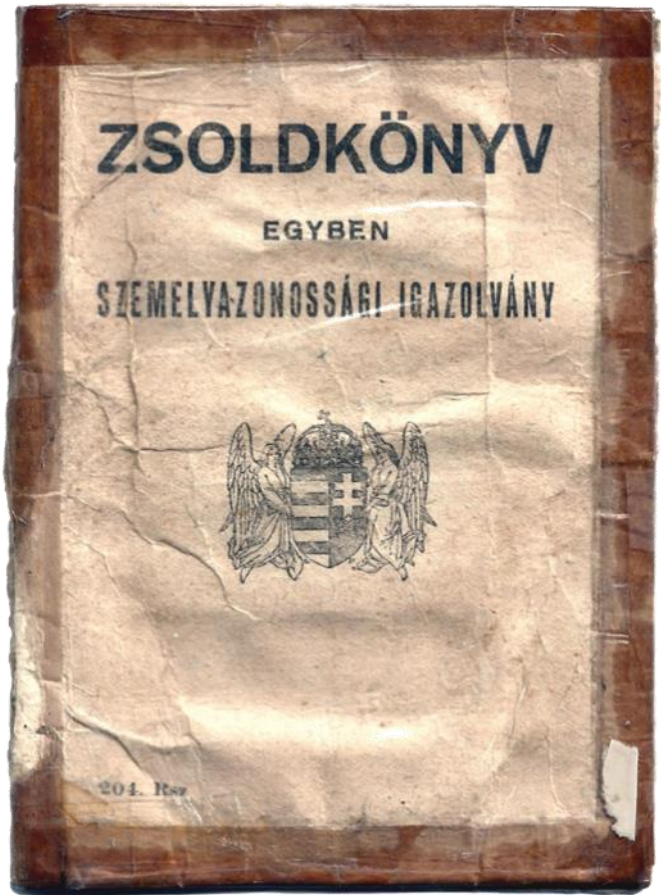
fighting the Yugoslavians in 1941.

A difficult year came in 1994 when my grandparents decided to move back to their beloved homeland following the collapse of communism. My grandfather was a fervent Hungarian patriot who wanted nothing to do with communists, and his dream was to live and die in a free Hungary. He got his wish and passed away when I was only twelve years old in 1997 after only three years of living back in his homeland. My grandmother Margit would continue to visit us in the States periodically over the years and she would continue to tell the dramatic wartime tales. Especially intriguing were the stories of my family's retreat from the advancing Soviets in 1944-45, and their capture in Austria by the Soviets. In the early 2000s, my grandmother told me that my grandfather had kept a journal of his wartime service, complete with a large hand-drawn map of every place he had been during the war, along with descriptions and dates. I was overcome with joy when she gave me the journal when she visited in 2005, and I soon had it translated into English. Reading the stories in my grandfather's own words was an indescribable feeling - many of the stories I had heard while growing up were there, in my hands, in wonderful detail as they were experienced through my grandfather's eyes.

Along with my grandfather's journal, my grandmother gave me all that remained of my grandfather's uniform:

*Continued on page 11...*

**Right: József Gyökeri's military personal identity and pay book. Below: its first pages.**



GYÖKERI COLLECTION



Csapatnév	I. táb. tü. o.	Bevonulás előtti utolsó lakóhelye (közs. megye)	Bpest. XIV. Várna u 9.
Anyakönyvi lapszám	57.	év, hó, nap	1919. XI. 2.
Azonosság szám	0111-19-0254.	hely	Kelebia.
Rendfokozat	szkv. 1943. R. I. tizedes.	járás	bácsalmási
Foglalkozás	mérleg k.	megye (ország)	Bács-Bodrog
Családi- és utónév	Gyökeri J.	Vallás	gör. kath.
Atya neve	Gy. Miklós.	hímő	1941. III. 12.
Szülőanyja leánykori neve	Bartalos Erzsébet.	typhus	1941. III. 12.
Házastársa leánykori neve		chelera	1942. III. 26.

Az elhalálozásról értesítendő pontos címe	Mikor halt meg (év, hó, nap s ha megállapítható óra is)
Az elhalálozásról a megjelölt hozzátartozó mikor értesítettet	Hol halt meg
Az elhalálozást igazoló tanuló aláírása	A halál oka
A halottazonosságát bizonyító egyéb bejegyzések	Mikor
	Hol
	Ki
	Mikor
	Hol
	Ki

Above and below: Both sides of the two standard paper documents carried in the military ID locket.

Allománytest: U. kir. l. honv. táb. tü. o. Aszód.

Név: Gyökeri József

Rendfokozat: tizedes szkv. 1943. R. I.

Azonosság száma: 0111-19-0254.

Sebesüléséről értesítendő: Gyökeri Miklós

Budapest. XIV. Várna u 9. IV. em. 65.

Könnyű ) sebesüléssel  
Súlyos ) betegen hátra

szállított.

19

P. H.

zlj. orvos.

Turcsány nyomda kft. Budapest. — 9542.

Eredeti Csapatnév: J. honv. tábori  
Tűzvértály Aszód (honv. tábor).  
Leszerelejkori csapatnév: 68. honv. tábor  
határőrzés csapat név: Székelyudvarhely  
Áthelyezés: 1943. R. I. J. honv. táb. tü. o. sz.  
től a 68. határ. Székelyudvarhely.  
Frontszolg.: 1943. márc. 1. - 13. nap. Délvidék  
Vízpart. 1943. szept. 4. - 7. nap. Nyugat  
határvidék: Sopron-Szombathely  
Burganjand, Bécs, St. Pölten (fegyver).  
Leszerelejkori katonai tart. Székelyudvarhely  
Kat. kiképzés: irnok.  
Irnok iskolajogdíj: 1000 Ft. (Székelyudvarhely).  
Kat. boosztás: nyilvántartó (B.M. sz.)

Anyakönyvi lapszám: 57

Azonosság szám: 0111-19-0254

Név: Gyökeri József  
Szül. év, hó, nap: 1919. november 2.  
Szül. hely: Kelebia (fennyei várm.)  
Járás: Bácsalmási  
Megye: Bács-Bodrog  
Vallás: görög katolikus  
Jelenlegi lakóhely: Padrag  
Jókai u. 1. Veszprém vm.  
Egyéb cím: Gyökeri Miklós (apja):  
Budapest XIV. Várna u. 9. IV. em. 65.  
Nős: Horváth Margit (Rom. kat.)  
Szül. év, hó, nap, hely: 1920. Jan. 1.  
Iztimér Fejér vm.  
Gyermek: Gyökeri Miklós Ferenc  
1943. nov. 3. Iztimér Fejér vm.  
Anyja neve: Gyökeri Erzsébet  
+ Bartalos Erzsébet  
Apja neve: Gyökeri Miklós 1896. X. 15.  
Sátoraljaújhely g. katol.

1943. J. 30-ig Csekut-on (Veszprém vm.)  
Kiváltott Katonai Igazolmányom adatai:  
Gyökeri József: 1919. nov. 2. Kelebia  
Kiváltó párt: Kézvárosi honvédelmi párt.  
Igazolmány száma: L. 12. 889.  
Anyja neve: Bartalos Erzsébet  
Fegyvernem: Hadtűz és Igazolmányi Osztály  
Nyilvánt. szám: 150/J.  
Rendfokozat: Iskolavezető.  
Katonai nyilvántartás: 114

Csapatnyilvántartás alkalmatlan  
Csak a kiképzés.  
Beosztási képessége: irnok  
Tartoztatás: pórtankönyvtári  
Iskolai végzettség: 8 elemi  
Polgári iskolai: méltóságos  
foglalkozás: hányó-lakatos Padrag.  
Első tényleg. kat. névbevonult:  
1940. X. 2. J. honv. táb. tü. o. Aszód.

Székelyudvarhelyi lakása: 1940. X. 2. - 1943.  
10. 23. nap. táb. tü. o. Aszód nyilvántartó  
1943. 10. 23. - 1945. 10. 23. 68. honv. tábor.  
Vadói csapat név: Székelyudvarhely  
1945. 10. 26. - 1945. 10. 30. Fegyver (Ország)  
1942. R. I. 1. sz. elöljárók Székelyudvarhely  
Székelyudvarhelyi Igazolmányok száma:  
Nemzetellenes körök elleni fellépés  
Katonai (1. tábor) fegyver

Személyi igazolvány: U.N.T. 146.666.  
B.M. Veszprém m. Frontszolg. Padrag  
1943. okt. 30.

The hand-written addendum (above, front and back)

was added by József Gyökeri to his ID locket in the 1950s, and includes these details:

Name: József Gyökeri. Date of birth: November 2nd, 1919. Place of birth: Kelebia. Religion: Greek Catholic.

Current residence: Padrag [today Padragkút], Jókai utca 1, Veszprém County.

Alternate address: Miklós Gyökeri (father) Budapest XIV district, Várna utca 9, IV floor, door 65.

Married to Margit Horváth, who is a Roman Catholic, born January 1st, 1920, Iztimér, Fejér County.

Children: Miklós Ferenc Gyökeri, born November 3rd, 1943, Iztimér, Fejér County.

Mother's name: [née] Erzsébet Bartalos Father's name: Miklós Gyökeri, born December 15th, 1896, Sátoraljaújhely.

Original Unit: 1st Field Artillery Division, Aszód. Unit at Demobilization: 68th Border Troops, Székelyudvarhely.

Transfer: October 1st, 1943 from the Honvéd Field Artillery to the 68th Border Troops, Székelyudvarhely.

Frontline service: From March 1st to March 17th, 1941 (Reclamation of Southern Hungary). From February 4th

to April 15th, 1945, Western border region, Sopron, Szombathely, Győr, Szekesfehervar, Vienna, St. Pölten

On January 30th, 1951: Certificate number: L 12.889. Party membership: non-partisan March 26th, 1945 -

August 30th, 1945 - Prisoner of War Result medical examination: Neurasthenia [today, chronic fatigue syndrome] with a moderate degree of improvement. October 30th, 1954.

Right:  
 József Gyökeri's  
 aluminum  
 identification  
 locket, number  
 0111-19-0254.  
 It held all of the  
 papers pictured  
 on page 10.



GYÖKERI COLLECTION



GYÖKERI COLLECTION

Below right:  
 his calling card.



Above: baby Miklós Ferenc with Margit and József, who wears the “Fire Cross” (Tűzkereszt) for operational service, and the Reclamation of Southern Hungary Medal. The triangular badge on his arm indicates that he is a re-enlisted serviceman.

...continued from page 9

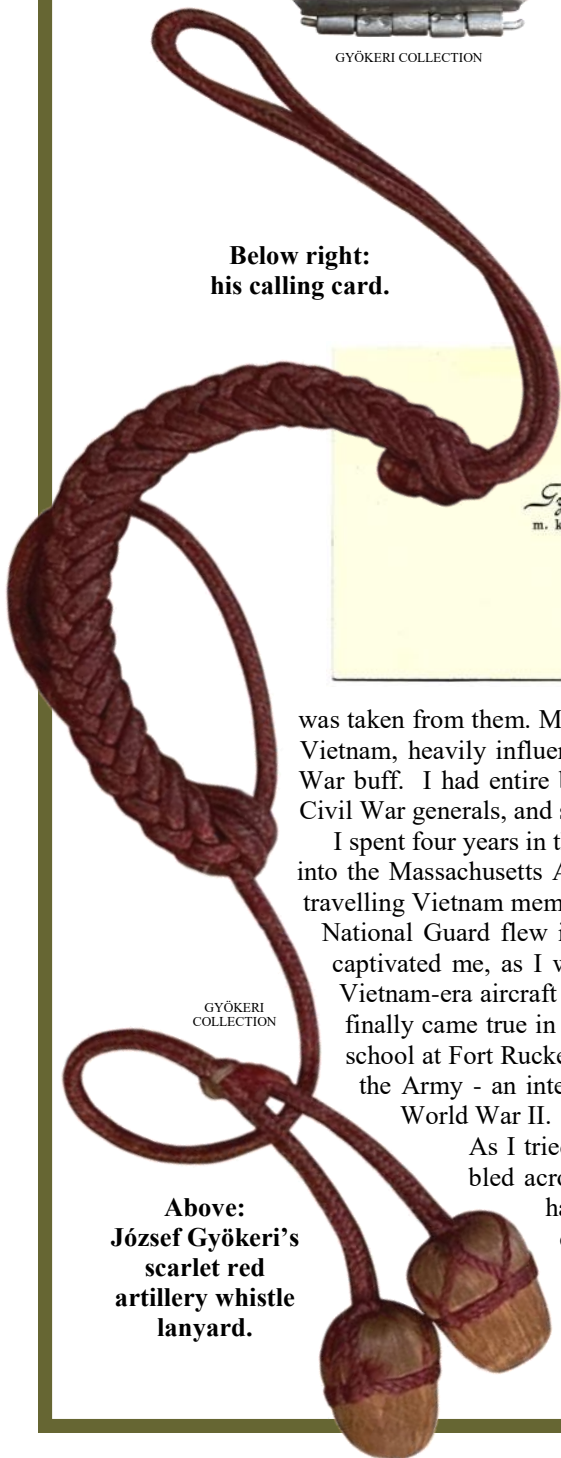
his metal identification tag with papers inside, and his scarlet whistle lanyard. I am grateful to have all of these remaining items knowing that my family lived during times when so much

was taken from them. My grandfather's military service, as well as my father's service in the US Army in Vietnam, heavily influenced my lifelong interest in military history. As a kid, I was an American Civil War buff. I had entire book shelves lined with volumes on the subject. My heroes were all the famous Civil War generals, and so joining the Army as an officer became a childhood dream.

I spent four years in the Corps of Cadets at Norwich University in Vermont before being commissioned into the Massachusetts Army National Guard as a quartermaster officer. When I was in high school, the travelling Vietnam memorial wall came to my school, and to celebrate the opening, the Connecticut Army National Guard flew in two UH-1 Huey helicopters. The site and sounds of those wonderful aircraft captivated me, as I watched them land and take off only a short distance away. Seeing these iconic Vietnam-era aircraft up close immediately inspired me to become an Army helicopter pilot. My dream finally came true in 2009 when I received my silver wings after completing the Army Aviation flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Fifteen years and three combat tours in Iraq later, I'm still flying for the Army - an interest that started with my grandfather's service to the Royal Hungarian Army in World War II.

As I tried to research my grandfather's service on the internet in the early 2000s, I stumbled across Peter Czink and the MHBK Chapter in Vancouver. For twenty years now, I have emailed him countless times with research questions and inquiries of general curiosity. Everything I know about Hungarian military history is thanks to Peter and his Magyar Front articles and the connections I have made with other IH-MHPS members. Rarely does one encounter such a dedicated and genuine person such as Peter - I consider him my Hungarian brother. I wish to close by taking the opportunity to publicly thank him for all the years of personal friendship, and for his loyalty to the cause of peace and historical preservation. 🇮🇪

Above:  
 József Gyökeri's  
 scarlet red  
 artillery whistle  
 lanyard.



GYÖKERI COLLECTION

(Csapattest, stb.)

## Szabadságolási igazolvány.

Érvényes 1943 évi április hó 20-án 8 L. ig.

Czárni Fővez. tá. szakaszvezető.

0111-10-0254. azonossági száma Gyúdapest - Kelenföld p. n. Iztimérségre  
központi járás Post. megye M. városba  
kerület orsz. áll.

ideiglenes szabadságot engedélyeztem.

A szabadság 1943. IV. hó 17-én 12 L. kezdődik és 1943. IV. hó 23-án 8 L. végződik.

A szállítási költségeket a szabadságolt viseli.

A szabadságolt a katonadijszabás szerinti menetdíjakat a következő vasutállomások között való egyszeri utazás alkalmával köteles fizetni.

Honnan	Hová	A jegykiadó vasúti állomáshely és kelti bélyegzőjének lenyomata
Hajmáskér	Gyúdapest	
Gyúdapest	Iztimér	
Iztimér	Hajmáskér	

Az utazás polgári ruhában történik, (lásd Tudnivalók 4. pontját.)

## SZEMÉLYLEÍRÁS.

Kora 23 Szája ruudas  
 Testalkata kövérkes Orra ruudas  
 Arca húsos Beszél M.  
 Haja g. barna. Különös ismertetőjelek nincs.  
 Szeme kék

Kelt Hajmáskér, 1943. április hó 19-én

L. K. S. J. F. H. G. J.  
parancsnok.

E szabadságolási igazolvány tulajdonosánál a következő kincstári ruházat van:

Sapka Bakancs (csizma)  
 Köpeny (mente) ruud Nyakcszegő-celluloidból  
 Zubbony Kényelmetisztyu  
 Nadrag Oldalfegyver, szjazzattal  
 Fehérnemű Köppeny-csúf

Nevezett minden illetménnyel bezárólag 1943. április hó 31-ig van ellátva.

Kelt Hajmáskér, 1943. április hó 21-én

Orvosilag megvizsgáltam és egészségesnek találtam:

ORVOS.

C. S. J. F. H. G. J.  
alosztály-parancsnok.

98. r.sz. — 1. sz. melléklet a 404.297/10. sz. körrendelethez.

Stádium Rt., Budapest.

## LEAVE CERTIFICATE

Issued at Hajmáskér (a village in Veszprém county located fourteen kilometres from the northeastern corner of Lake Balaton, roughly halfway between Várpalota and Veszprém) for József Gyökeri to travel by railway to Iztimér.

The leave began on April 17th, 1943 at 12:00 pm and ended on April 23rd, 1943 at 8:00 am.

His journey was to be in civilian clothes, the document details his physical description, and notes the government issue items he took with him: his cap, greatcoat, tunic, trousers, underwear, boots, and sidearm.

С П Р А В К А

Данна настoвшaя гр.: Дюрен Южeф 1919 в том,  
 что он следует в г. Будaпeшт пoстoяннoe мeстo житeльствa.  
 зaдeржaниe нe пoдлeжит.

Сeгeд днe 30 мeс 8 1945. г.

---

**MAGYAR HONVÉDELMI MINISZTERIUM.**  
 19386 szám.

Elbocsajto igazolvany az Orosz fogsagbol, Constanca-bol (Roman kikoto-varos a Fekete Tenger partjan) Szeged-en bocsajtottak el 1945. Augusztus 30-an.


*Gyökerei javislat* **Igazolvány.**

neve: Дюрен Южeф жeсeл дeк. 1919 évi szül. anyja  
Бeртaлoн Бeрeшт Будaпeшт -i lakos a  
Констанца fogolytáborból elbocsátva átkezeztetett

Nevezettnél levő kincstári ruházat és felszerelés és pedig egy sapka és egy pár bakancs  
 átadására a ... sz. Bev. Központhoz utasított. —  
 lakóhelyéhez legközelebbi Budapest sz. Bev. Központ

Ugyanott nyilvántartásba vétel végett jelentkezni tartozik.

1945. aug. hó 30 n.  
 Szeged, 1945. ...  
 fog. div. biz. oszt.



Eredeti orosz-magyar nyelvű Hadifogoly elbocsajtó igazolvány. (Másolat is van !)

Nyilvántartásba vétel végett jelentkezett  
 Kincstári ruházatát leadta.  
 Kelt ... 1945. ... hó 21 n.

### REPATRIATION OF HUNGARIAN PRISONER OF WAR DOCUMENT

The top portion was filled in by Russian, and the rest by Hungarian authorities upon the return of a prisoner of war. Interestingly, the line: *Nevezettnél levő kincstári ruházat és felszerelés és pedig...* (military clothing and equipment in possession of the person named) is followed by: *...egy sapka és egy pár bakancs* (one cap and a pair of boots).

His original uniform could have worn out and was replaced with Russian issue work clothes, however, he still retained his Hungarian cap and boots. According to regulations, these “government issue” items were to be turned in to the Hungarian military clothing and equipment depot.

**MÓR 215. HONVÉD BEVONULÁSI KÖZPONT**  
**PARANCSNOKSÁG**  
 Leszerelési jegy  
 nyilvántartásának f.szama

**LESZERELÉSI JEGY.**  
 Gyökéri József tart. r. sz. részére  
 aki a nemtenyleges viszonyba helyeztetett vissza.

Lakóhelye. *Iztimér* község  
*lió* járás  
*Fejérvári* vármegye  
*Magyar* ország

Kelt, ... 19... evi ... hó ... -n  
*1918* év *11* hó *21*-n

*Mecseny*  
 parancsnok/főnök/...

Személyleírás.  
 Szája *sz. sz.*  
 Szalkata *közepes* Orra *újo*  
 Arca *keskeny* Beszél *magyar*  
 Taja *kegyes* Különös ismertető jelek.  
 Szemei *szürkés*  
 Szeméjezt *500 pengő* minden illetményrel *350 pengő* bezárólag van ellátva.

Kelt. *1918. 11. 21.*  
*J. P. P. P. P.*  
 gh.főnök. *K.*

**MÓR 215. HONVÉD BEVONULÁSI KÖZPONT**  
**PARANCSNOKSÁG**

*V 21*  
*III 30*

**DEMOBILIZATION CERTIFICATE**

Every soldier received this document when he arrived home, at the last station, in the district where he lived. The stamp is from the town of Mór, 215 Enlistment Centre, and is made out to Reserve Platoon Leader József Gyökéri. He lived in the village of Iztimér, a village on the north-western edge of Fejér county, Hungary.

His personal description is recorded:

Age - 26, body type - medium, face - round, hair - brown, eyes - gray, etc.

It mentions that 500 pengő is paid to prisoners of war, and 350 pengő is provided as a demobilization allowance.

## Délvidéki Halálkéremre jogosultak névsora.

		/ osztálytörzs /		
1.	Billnitzer Ernő	ezredes	III. éves legénység:	
2.	Lestyánszky János	őrnagy	<del>Kiss / Simon/József</del>	honyv.
3.	Barna Elek	százados		
4.	Dr. Fodor Lajos	"	II. éves legénység:	
5.	Rakolcai Imre	főhadnagy	<del>Gábor Sándor</del>	örv.
6.	W. Lévai Gábor	"	<del>Gyenes Pál</del>	"
7.	Erdősi István	"	<del>Gyökeri József</del>	"
8.	Ifju. Horváth István VI.	hadnagy	<del>Irtó István</del>	"
9.	Balog István III	"	<del>Knap Lajos</del>	"
10.	Wachtler László	örv. zászlós	<del>Baukó János</del>	"
			<del>Lakner Lőrinc</del>	"
			<del>Takács János</del>	"
			<del>Almási Mihály</del>	honyv.
			<del>Gáspár Pál</del>	tü.c.örv.
			<del>Horváth Kálmán</del>	honyv.
			<del>Hilgl Rezső</del>	tü.c.örv.
			<del>Kollátor Henrik</del>	honyv.
			<del>Kovács József</del>	"
			<del>Kelemen János</del>	"
			<del>Mázás József</del>	tü.c.örv.
			<del>Németh Balázs</del>	honyv.
			<del>Nagy Károly</del>	"
			<del>Szabó Béla</del>	"
			<del>Szabó Sándor</del>	tü.c.örv.
			<del>Both József</del>	honyv.
			<del>Tarcsányi Lajos</del>	tü.c.örv.
			<del>Both Pál</del>	honyv.
			<del>Ürbán József</del>	"
			<del>Varga István</del>	"
			<del>Varju János</del>	"
			<del>Virág Gábor</del>	"

## Tiszthelyettesek:

1.	Morvai Antal	törm.		
2.	Pintér Mihály	"		
3.	Ács Gyula	örm.		
4.	Karácson János	"	✓	
5.	Légrády Zoltán	"		
6.	Végh Alajos	"	✓	
7.	Szepesvári Gyula	"		
8.	Medve Ferenc	c."		
9.	Szijjártó Ernő	"		
10.	Lakatos István	c.örm.		
11.	Régi György	c.örm.		

## tsz. tisztetek:

1.	Bocskai Imre	szkv.	✓	
2.	Juhász Aladár	"		
3.	Képes Lajos	"		
4.	Zetenyi István	"	✓	
5.	Sirkó Pál	"		
6.	Schiszler Imre	"	✓	
7.	Szécsi Mihály	"		
8.	Gráf Károly	"	✓	
9.	Pátsér János	"		
10.	Both Lajos	"	✓	

## hadapródok:

1.	Bartha József	karp.tiz.c.örm.	✓	
2.	Dávid Gyula	hadapr. tiz.c.örm.	✓	
3.	Németh István	" " "	✓	
4.	Lesznik Iván	" " "	✓	

## karpaszományosok:

1.	Buch János	karp.tüzér. c. tizedes	✓	
2.	Gönczi László	karp. honvéd.	✓	

*Dean István 202 orv.  
pnnet, ig. nem.*

1941. Aszód, (osztálytörzs)

M.kir.1 honv.tábori tüzér osztály

\* *innét nem adta le  
csak igazolványt.*

List of those entitled to the Reclamation of Southern Hungary Commemorative Medal  
1941 Aszód [Hungary], Royal Hungarian *Honvéd* Field Artillery Division Staff

## Délvidéki Emlékéremre jogosultak névsora / 1. üteg. /

v. harasztosi Török Pál	szds.
Patanyi László	fhdgy.
Homonnai Perczel László	hdgy.
Botond Pál	hdp.örm.
Zentai József	karp.tüz..

## tiszthelyettesek:

Uzeglédi Béla	örm.
Bende István	"

## tsz. tisztetek:

Szorád István	szkv.
Izsó Kálmán	"
Bazán Márton	"
Nédli István	"
Hamar Illés	"
Dregg István	"

## hadapródok:

Mikó Tibor	had.tiz.c.örm.
v. Kalocsai Árpád	" " " "
v. Dr. Szögyéni Zoltán	" " " "
v. Hámori Ferenc	" " " "

## 2.éves karpaszományosok:

v. Bartalis Ödön	karp.honv.c.tiz.
v. Abonyi György	Karp.honv.

## 3.éves honvédek:

Völgyi Imre	honv.
v. Sipőc Miklós	"
v. Szántó István	"
Márton Ödön	"

## 2.éves honvédek:

v. Házi Károly	örv.	v. Kovács István	c.örv.
Bedő Mihály	örv.	Kollár Lajos	honv.
Herváth Gyula	örv.	Kámán Ferenc	"
Menyhárt Károly	örv.	Laczkó Ferenc	c.örv.
Németh Károly II.	örv.	Miskoff Pál	c.örv.
Lendvai Kálmán	örv.	Molnár Mihály	honv.
Héring Lajos	örv.	Murár József	"
Nagy Károly	örv.	Nagy István	"
Brecsok János	c.örv.	Roll József	c.örv.
Bárany Sándor	honv.	Réger József	c.örv.
Bálint Balázs	"	Rác Sándor	honv.
Balázs Ferenc	"	Szabó Pál	"
Segezi István	"	Tárgyik Jenő	"
v. Csóri László	"	Toth István	c.örv.
Deme István	"	Tamási Mihály	honv.
Darnyik Sándor	"	Varró István	c.örv.
Dudás Sándor	"	v. Zakár Jenő	honv.
Faltus Károly	"	Zombori János	"
v. Garay Miklós	"	Zombai Károly	"
Gargely Sándor	"	Kovács Ferenc	honv. hídvezető
Havetta Mihály	"	Zombai János	" " " " <u>hídvezető</u>
Jávorszky László	"		
Kancsár József	"		
Gyökeri József	"		

v. visszahoptam.

63. *sz. honvédek listája*  
karp. honv.

List of those entitled to the Reclamation of Southern Hungary Commemorative Medal  
1st Battery, Royal Hungarian Honvéd Field Artillery



## Délvidéki Emlékéremre jogosultak névsora / 2.üteg./

Popay László	szds.
Zempléni Győző	fhdy.
Várbudai János	hdgy.
Rolnay János	zszl.
Tiszthelyettesek:	
Sárvári Ferenc	c.törm.
Szenki Sándor	c.örm.
Botován János	c.örm.
Kulcsár Lajos	c.örm.
tsz.tisztesek:	
Szakó László	szkv.
Jenőváry József	"
Juhász Béla	"
Kamasz István	"
Margittai János	"
Szabó József	"
Varga Zoltán	"
hadapródok:	
Palágyi Károly	had.tiz.c.örm.
Falusi Gyula	" " " "
Dr.Füsti-Molnár Andor	" " " "
Kelecsényi Sándor	" " " "
Kiss Dezső	" " " "
Kovács József	" " " "
Óvári Győző	" " " "
Toth László	" " " "

## 2.éves legénység:

Bagi András	örv.	<del>Zsuzsanna János</del>	
Braun József	örv.	Lázár János	honv.
Iván Gyula	"	Malk Imre	c.örv.
Muszka Károly	"	Magyarosi János	honv.
Kormos Ferenc	"	G.Nagy András	"
Szabó István	"	Nagy István J.	"
Toth János	"	Nagy János	"
Zoltai Miklós	"	Nagy Sándor	"
Botka László	c.örv.	Piller István	c.örv.
Seri János	c.örv.	Posztránszki Mihály	honv.
Cseri Ferenc	c.örv.	Somogyi József	"
Bacsur László	honv.	Szováki László	"
Dudás János	"	Szikszay Lajos	"
Fülöp János	"	Székelly László	"
Gergely Elek	c.örv.	Terkovics Ferenc	"
Gödöny András	honv.	Timbusz Kálmán	"
Ivanics Lajos	"	Tomozin Jenő	"
Kőrei Sándor	"	Toth István	"
Kocsi József	"	Vass Gyula	"
Pokai János	"		
Kövesdi József	"		
Kurucz János	"		
Kustár József	"		
Kaiser József	"		
Lantos József	c.örv.		
Luka Ferenc	c.örv.		
Lukács Béla	honv.		

*Koos Emőke, korp.c.tiz*  
*Klicsák István*  
*Sz. Helyi. örv.*  
*honv. alev. ex. kiadás.*  
*1948. IV. 6.*

List of those entitled to the Reclamation of Southern Hungary Commemorative Medal  
2nd Battery, Royal Hungarian Honvéd Field Artillery

## Délvidéki Emlékérmére jogosultak névsora / 3.üteg./

Bertalan Béla szds.  
 Horváth József fhgy.  
 br. Feyérvári Zsolt hdgy.  
 Posta Béla zszl.

## tiszthelyettesek:

Szilágyi Mihály tőrm.  
 Jonás István c.tőrm.  
 Béda János őrm.  
 Végvári Ernő "

## tsz. tisztesek:

V Bali Máté szkv.  
 Bori Sándor "  
 Józsa Lajos "  
 V Kunhegyi Lajos "  
 G. Kovács István "  
 Turcsány János "  
 Toth Imre "  
 V Toth József "

## hadapródok:

V Lamp Sándor hdp. tiz. c. őrm.  
 Bereczky Tibor " " " "  
 V Csipkay Károly " " " "  
 Falubiró Vilmos " " " "  
 V Borányi Antal " " " "  
 Jász Zoltán " " " "  
 Kottaun Dénes " " " "  
 Nagy Imre " " " "  
 V Petroczy László " " " "  
 V Szerafin János karp. tiz. c. őrm.

## 2. éves karpaszományosok:

V Szécsenyi Miklós karp. honv. c. őrv.

## 3. éves honvéd

V Turi Sándor honv.

## 2. éves legénység.

V Andrásy Gyula őrv.  
 V Bozoki Sándor őrv.  
 Birner Lajos "  
 Józsa István "  
 Mader János "  
 V Settmann Károly "  
 Szakács Mihály "  
 V Sziluka Pál "  
 Veres Mihály "  
 Szeglédy Károly honv.  
 Csik István "  
 Faludi Miklós c. őrv.  
 Gömör János honv.  
 Gungl László "  
 Horváth Géza "  
 Herdevics László "  
 Juhos János "  
 Karácson József c. őrv.  
 Konczek Sándor honv.  
 Kloczka Pál c. őrv.  
 Kovács András s. őrv.  
 S. Kovács János honv.

V Kovács Ferenc honv.  
 Kovács Sándor honv.  
 Lőrinc László "  
 Nagy Mihály c. őrv.  
 V Mészáros Sándor honv.  
 Muravek József c. őrv.  
 Polár Sándor honv.  
 Panda Simon "  
 V Rigó Károly "  
 Schnur Gyula c. őrv.  
 Stefko János c. őrv.  
 Susik László honv.  
 Szappanos János c. őrv.  
 Szücs Lajos c. őrv.  
 Szijjártó Mihály honv.  
 Toth József I. c. őrv.  
 Toth József II. c. őrv.  
 Tóper István honv.  
 Ujj Béla "  
 Venderi István "  
 Zsujza István "  
 Molnár János

List of those entitled to the Reclamation of Southern Hungary Commemorative Medal  
3rd Battery, Royal Hungarian Honvéd Field Artillery

...continued from page 2

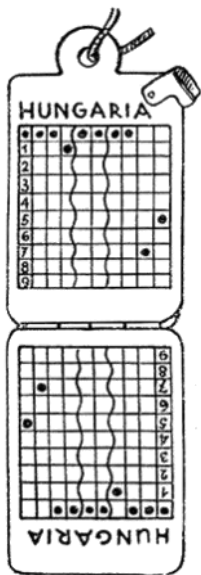
Has anyone ever thought at one time or another: “Will I be remembered?” Joe’s grandfather kept hold of a few bits of paper for his entire life – and believe me, that old paper, folded and unfolded over and over is by definition ephemeral. These aren’t objects of art or valuables, so why did he save them? I think of these sorts of things as breadcrumbs – the kind in the old stories that people leave behind so others can follow. But breadcrumbs by nature are also ephemeral - and so few would take the time and make the effort to follow them.

I have countless stories about my experience with artifacts and heirlooms that have been lost, forgotten, left to deteriorate, and thrown out – some of which are so tragic that I would rather not even remember them, however, there are others about which I cannot remain silent. Not long ago I was browsing through a well-known internet marketplace and came across, of all things, a lot of IHMHPs medals and insignia. I couldn’t quite believe my eyes, and I was sure my mind was playing tricks on me, but there they were - listed as “unusual European military items.”

Among them were some old MHBK insignia as well, so I knew the original owner must have been involved from the beginning. I asked the seller about them, who knew very little, and told me that he picked them up from an online estate auction (in the meantime I looked over my records and figured out to whom they originally belonged – a life-long pillar of the local Hungarian-Canadian community and a dear friend, who passed away a year earlier). I found the archive of the auction and sadly discovered that a great many of her most precious possessions were among the lots – some of them historically significant Hungarian treasures. I contacted the descendants of this old comrade of mine and was told that they were sorry, but didn’t really know what the items were.


The *Magyar Front* is a monumental project to me, however, in the grand scheme of things it’s just a little publication. But how big do those breadcrumbs need to be for someone truly enthusiastic and dedicated to follow them?

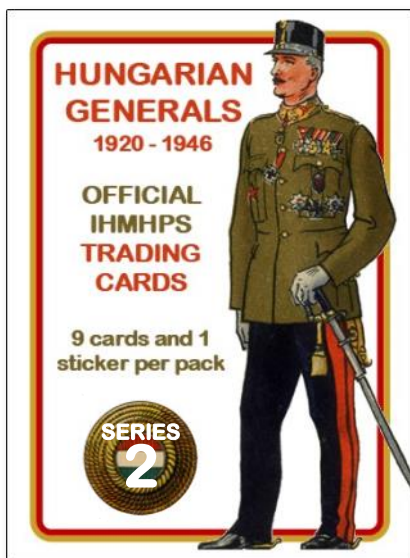
P.Cz.



## *A Little Bit About the Hungarian ID Locket*

On August 24th, 1878, the Hungarian Minister of Defence ordered the nation’s military to carry paper identification cards, listing their name, rank, date of birth, place or residence and the year of their enlistment. It was to be placed in a brass case and carried in the right trouser pocket, attached to the trouser button with a strong woolen cord. Later, the soldier’s vaccinations were included, and in 1909 the individual’s religion was added as well. During the First World War it was common for the basic information to be punched into the brass locket in case the paper inside it was lost or destroyed. By the 1930s, the recording of the essential data on the locket became standardized using a simple punch-code system. This Model 1936 (1936M) identity locket was similar in size to the old types but made from aluminum and was attached to a 100cm long cord made of wool-wrapped copper wire.

The universally understood “HUNGARIA” was stamped on both sides, above a 10 x 10 grid, divided into three parts by vertical wavy lines. From left to right, the first four numbers indicate where the soldier was registered; the next two numbers are the last two digits of the soldier’s date of birth; and the remaining four numbers match the last four digits of the soldier’s birth certificate number. While other nations used solely stamped “dog tags,” Hungary continued the practice of including information on paper carried in the locket. The two halves of the ID locket came apart – one half was buried with the fallen soldier, while the other was kept for casualty records. 



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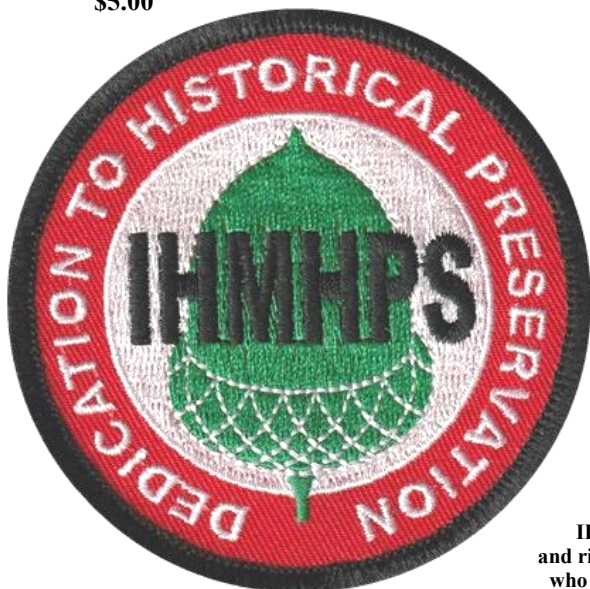
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