

MAGYAR FRONT



Vol. XXI, No. 1

WINTER 2019

MF FAQ

INSIGHTS AND OBJECTIVES AFTER 20 YEARS OF THE MAGYAR FRONT



머저르 전선
한국어판*

(page 3)



Mystery
Badge
Identified
(page 14)

Peter Czink, Editor and Publisher of the Magyar Front

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**MAGYAR FRONT
VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 1
WINTER 2019**

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.

A note from the Editor

This issue of the *Magyar Front* is a retrospective of the past twenty years of publication. It has always been a voluntary hobby project for me, and I cherish every aspect of it - sometimes it can be challenging when my actual job interferes, however, producing it is a joy and a very valuable learning experience.

I have been a little late in finishing our first edition of 2019 because I have been wrapping up another four-year project - my work on a television series called *The Man in the High Castle*. During that time I have had many long days and very few weekends off, so I hope our readers understand this tardiness. Our next issue will follow shortly so we'll be caught-up soon. And for those of you who might be interested in the process of creating fictional orders, decorations and medals for the Hollywood TV industry, I will be putting together an interesting monograph on the subject.

Twenty years is a long time to do anything, yet my interest in the *Magyar Front* is as fresh as it was back in 1999. And of course I have lots of help - Lorraine Weideman assists me with every aspect of my work from photography to proof-reading. Péter v. Laborc has also been here from the beginning - my right-hand man, and my eyes and ears in Hungary. My mentors who have enriched our publication immensely are Tamás Baczoni, Gergely Sallay, Magda Sasvári, and Lovice Ullein-Reviczky. Writers and historians - Ákos Bíró, Joe Gyökeri, George Hennessy, Jack Keir, Zoltán v. Körössy, Andris Kursietis, James Marin, and Steven Törincki have provided wonderful internationally inspired content. All of our members who have so kindly and generously supported the *Magyar Front* and the IHMHPS are an invaluable part of all of this.

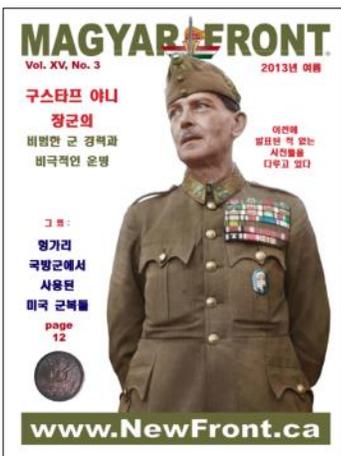
The Korean writing on our cover reads: “The Magyar Front - In Korean.” IHMHPS member Shin Byeongwon’s story is on the facing page, and I can’t think of a better way to illustrate that we’ve been doing the right thing. Our work is a beacon to people around the world who share our interests; and I believe that Shin perfectly exemplifies the kind of bright and progressive lover of history and humanity we wish to inspire.

He’s a young serviceman and student who still can somehow find the time to translate issues of the *Magyar Front* into Korean (left).

We have other new members too, and I’m looking forward to their articles and contributions to our periodical - I think you’ll all enjoy what’s planned for our upcoming issues. If you haven’t already, take the plunge and write something about your collection or your family’s military past - it may be a little intimidating (as anything that’s new can be), however, I guarantee that it will give you exciting new insights into your own history.

Please note that our 2014-2018 centenary items are still available, and that the IHMHPS 2014-2018 Cross will continue to be awarded through 2019.

P.Cz.



IHMHPS 2014-2018 COMMEMORATIVE BADGE (Right) Available by donation* (any amount is appreciated).



Embroidered insignia (Left) \$5.00* each



2008-2018 Badge (Left) \$10.00* each

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

*The Magyar Front - in Korean



Shin Byeonggwon (left) has been an IHMHPs member since 2015. He's a twenty-three year-old ex-serviceman and student majoring in history education who has a passion for Hungarian military history. Shin's grandparents used to live in North Korea area during the Japanese occupation and from 1945 to 1950, however, when the Korean War broke out on June 25th, 1950, they moved to South Korea as refugees. His grandfather was too

old to be drafted, but his brothers were conscripted into the South Korean military. After the war, his grandparents settled in South Korea, and today Shin's father works as a public servant. Shin shares a poignant thought with us: "As you know, unification of the Korean Peninsula is still a long way off - my grandparents died without ever stepping on their home soil again."

Shin was interested in the Korean War from an early age. Hungary's association with North Korea at that time, as well as being the first Eastern Bloc country to establish diplomatic ties with South Korea, sparked an affection in him for things Magyar. Shin recalls: "In general, Korean military fans are interested in World War II Germany, but I was a little different. Not only were their wonderful coincidences with Korea, but Hungary's unique culture and military tradition had a great impact on me. I would like to focus on Hungarian military development during the inter-war period - that is a very interesting subject to me."

Shin has been exploring Hungarian culture and history since 2012 and has been studying it in earnest since 2015. He created a simple military blog (below), which developed into a focus on Hungarian military history. When he entered college in 2015 he didn't have time to keep it up, however, since 2017 when he left the army, he started to work on it again. South Korea maintains a mandatory conscription system - "I joined the army in January 2016 and was discharged in October 2017. My final rank was Sergeant.

I served as an artillery squad leader, operating self-propelled artillery with 155 howitzers (below) - these experiences were very helpful in the study of military history." Regarding his blog, Shin assures us: "I want to keep blogging about Hungarian history. I have categories which include the World Wars, modern, medieval, and ancient times. In the World War category I mainly deal with Hungarian military history. I enjoy translating foreign papers and my collected books to inform Koreans of Hungarian history."

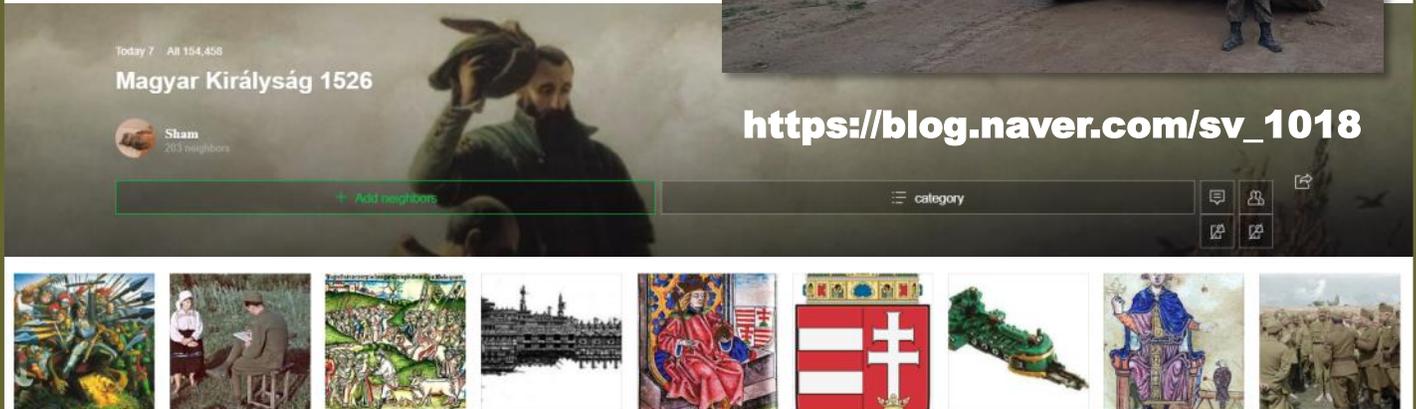
I have had experiences similar to Shin's when raising awareness about Hungary in the English language. It's hard work, and he tells me that "Many Koreans don't pay much attention to Hungarian history, but on the other hand, there are people who are interested in my work. My professors of Western History cheer me up. I feel really good when I hear people say they were influenced by me or are looking at my blog to learn about Hungarian history."

Shin has no intention of giving up the study of Hungarian history no matter what field he eventually works in. "My goal is to write a Hungarian history book in Korean. Also, I'm trying to add Hungarian influence to Korean projects. The subject of Hungary is fresh in Korea, and my friends who create things like games, animation, and novels ask me for a lot of advice." I am quite sure Shin will succeed - he has certainly inspired me, and has illustrated how embracing cultures other than our own can propel us toward essential enlightenment.

P.Cz.



https://blog.naver.com/sv_1018



MF FAQ

by Peter Czink



Insights and Objectives After 20 Years of the Magyar Front

What is the history behind the Magyar Front?

Twenty years ago I could hold my entire Hungarian military collection in one hand. I had no connections in Hungary, and items turned up at militaria shows so rarely, I never entertained the idea that I might be able to actually form an interesting collection of my own. From an early age, however, I was able to accumulate some decent Canadian and Allied uniforms, badges and medals, so my collecting bug had been satisfied since day one.

My first visit to Hungary as an adult was in 1995. The history that was apparent at every corner, and the wealth of things like museums and monuments, brought me tremendous joy, and I even managed to find a few pieces of militaria (one of which was a Frontline Fighters' Association almanac) that formed the foundation of my new collecting path. I was amazed by the new information I was taking in – I had long admired Hungarian uniforms and medals in the few books I had access to, but I had no idea that the wealth of unique Hungarian militaria was so extensive.



Lorraine and I were walking about on the side-streets of Miskolc one day during that trip, and we were surprised to come across a military insignia, complete with a proper representation of a World War II helmet, painted on a door of an ancient building (left). While having a closer look at it, my hand touched the doorknob and it opened, revealing a couple of beautiful old rooms – one a little office and the other an open area with rows of folding chairs. No one seemed to be around, so we walked in for a look around. Eventually an elderly gent asked if we needed help, and when I asked where we were, he explained that this was the Miskolc headquarters of the Don River Veterans' Association (Doni Bajtársak Szövetsége). Prior to this trip I was convinced I could speak

Hungarian, but I quickly learned, once in the country, that my language skills were pretty rotten. I managed to make my interest in Hungarian military history known, and I was welcomed with open arms – he even informed me that I could join them if I liked (my ID card is pictured below).

It was during that time in Hungary, in another town, that we came upon an official military supply shop where I was also warmly welcomed and allowed to buy a selection of modern Hungarian Defence Forces insignia – my collection

IGAZOLVÁNY

DONI BAJTÁRSÁK KÖRE

NÉV: Czink Péter Sándor

SZÜL. ÉV ÉS HELY: 1964. V. 9.
Vancouver B.C. Canada

LAKCIM: 438 West Pender St.
Vancouver B.C. Canada V6B 1T5

TAGSÁGA MINŐSÉGE: pártoló

TAGSÁGA KEZDETE: 1996. június 3.

Székesfehérvár, 1996. év. VIII. hó. 14. nap



Kamarás Oszkár

Kamarás Oszkár
elnök



Kanadából jött a koszorúzó Fotó: Farkas

Kanada, Don-kanyar, Miskolc

Miskolc (ÉM – BAL) – Kétévente jár „haza” Czink Péter Kanadából, hogy rendre koszorút helyezzen el a Don-nál elhunyt katonák emlékére állított kopjafájánál.

was burgeoning! I soon decided that I wouldn't bother with collecting anything other than Hungarian militaria. We made two more extensive trips in 1997 and 1999, and during those years I established the most precious aspect of my collection – friends and fellow enthusiasts who are still helping and guiding me today.

Resources for this sort of collecting were few and far between back then, and the internet was still in its infancy. Material in English was practically non-existent – I had put together a decent little collection by the turn of the century,



and even thought I wasn't able to do too much research, I was determined to share as much as I could with other inter-

ested English speakers.

In the meantime I had also become a member of the World Federation of Hungarian Veterans (Magyar Harcosok Bajtársi Közössége, or MHBK), and was entrusted with the position of Vancouver Chapter Leader in 1999 (my first ID MHBK ID card is pictured below left). Their periodical, the *Hadak Útján* was in Hungarian only and very rarely touched on anything to do with militaria, so I hatched the idea of putting together a little homemade supplement for Vancouver members and their English speaking offspring. I turned to Lorraine for help – she had been using computers at work for some time, and I needed to learn the basics. I remember one evening when we started lessons, and she told me to “right click” while I gingerly palmed the mouse. I had no idea what was on my right (or left for that matter) that could possibly need clicking, so I just stared at the screen, hoping something on the right might present itself. Fortunately, Lorraine is very patient.

My collection was still small, but I found that I could write about pretty much anything due to the lack of information available online. I had a set of the three Hungarian commemorative medals from 1938, 1940 and 1941, so the first issue of the *Magyar Front* (subtitled “The MHBK Vancouver Chapter’s Hungarian Militaria Supplement to the *Hadak Útján*”) was about those, created in Microsoft Word (with direct scans of the medals). It covered January and February of 1999, and I intended to produce six issues per year.

Throughout 1999 I presented photos of things like the militaria displays I made at the local Hungarian Cultural Society. I introduced the Hungarian Frontline Fighters’ Association as the “roots of the MHBK” and featured my collection of lapel badges, which included the mysterious *Új Front* badge. In 2000 I wrote a little piece on the “Protective Headgear of the Hungarian Armoured Corps.” At that time I misidentified what I later discovered to be the Gendarmerie motorcycle helmet as an early Hungarian-made piece of headgear which replaced the first Italian model (I was told that by the seller from whom I bought it, and it made sense, since it was similar to the later Hungarian type but without provision for radio earphones). Twenty years later I was able to properly identify it for posterity (better late than never).

By the end of 2000 I felt comfortable with the computer. I was organizing the Vancouver Hungarian millennium festival and building a replica of the Holy Crown of Hungary while I began publishing the *New Hungarian Voice*. I also invested in Microsoft Publisher which allowed me to create much more professional material. The *Magyar Front*’s subtitle was changed to “The MHBK Vancouver Chapter Newsletter,” but I was still printing at home on a very slow machine. In the meantime, more interesting material was coming my way – by 2001 I was making Hungarian military figures in 1:6 scale, and in the September-October issue I presented a new photo from my collection which made me determine that there was a special version of the Frontline Fighters’ Association uniform for the HONSz organization. The November-December 2003 issue saw the first publication of rare award documents from the St. László Division, some of which I later donated to the Hungarian Military



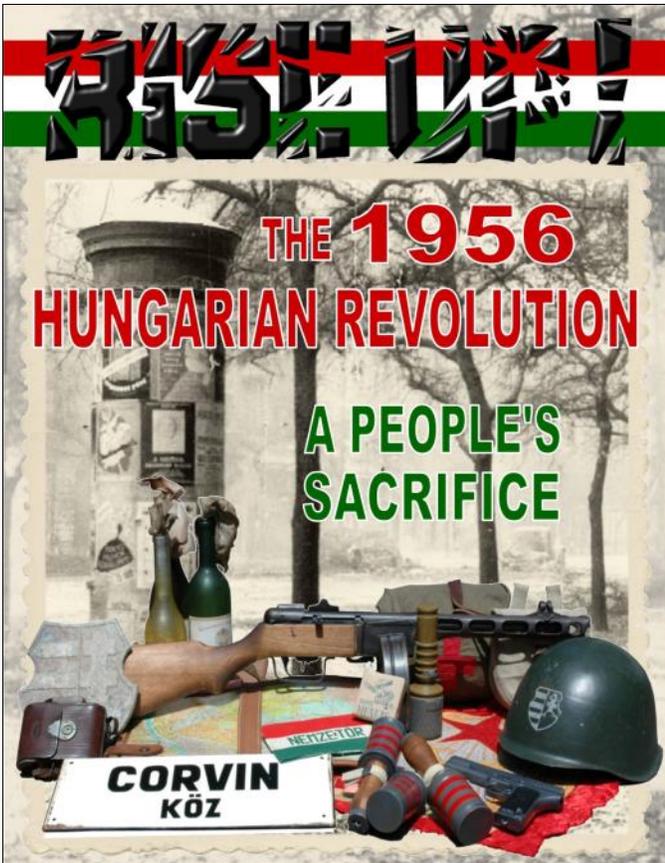
History Institute and Museum.

We created our website in 2004 and started a tradition of producing exclusive insignia and awards for our members, starting with the embroidered MHBK Vancouver Chapter badge (which later came to represent the *Magyar Front* and our historical preservation mission). I designed and manufactured new Gold and Silver MHBK Medals of Merit later in the year. Featuring never-before seen or published material became a priority for me, and I began to focus on artifacts like the unique Hungarian Frontline Fighters' flag from my collection and photographs which included the first known photo of a Hungarian veteran wearing the very rare Frontline Fighters' Association's Cross for POWs.

My main focus for 2006 was the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. I produced a very well-received monograph (*Rise Up! The 1956 Hungarian Revolution*), as well as an extensive display at the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library. We also organized other events around Vancouver, and produced a commemorative medal for members and volunteers.

Another aspect of our group and publication has been the support of the Military History Institute and Museum through donations of artifacts. Over the years, I have facilitated a number of items to be donated - George v. Draskóy's father's mementos, featured in the *Magyar Front* in 2007 ended up there, along with the collection of Endre v. Németh's decorations. Even a seemingly modest item, if it is missing from their collection, is important to them and very much appreciated.

The Winter 2008 issue was the first to be commercially printed, and featured images of Frontline Fighters' Association founder Elemér Kertész's personal award documents. The old MHBK Vancouver Chapter Newsletter subtitle was later dropped when I resigned from the MHBK, and in the summer of that year I designed our new shield-shaped insignia and introduced the International Hungarian Military





History Preservation Society (IHMHPS). More groundbreaking content appeared in the Magyar Front, including masterpieces like “Bandi’s Story.” I produced IHMHPs lapel badges and created the system of IHMHPs Service Crosses (previous page, below right), along with establishing the IHMHPs Badge of Honour (above).

The Horthy-era Hungarian Diplomatic Corps dagger (and the uniform that goes with it) was identified and presented for the first time with the help of the Ullein-Reviczky Foundation in 2010, while a special edition of the Fall issue was published in Hungarian. The only known photograph of the Frontline Fighters’ Association’s Lifetime Membership Badge was also discovered among the foundation’s archives.



Working together with the Military History Institute and Museum, other new things have been presented exclusively to our readers, such as forgotten prototype uniform artwork and photographs. I published the New Hungarian Voice until 2010, and then focused entirely on Hungarian military subjects - like our Uniforms and Insignia Special Edition of the Magyar Front (right).

Many of our members have worked wonders in the preservation of our military history – even more so during the 2014 – 2018 World War I centenary – the “General Bauer Memorial Project” is a shining example. During the

centenary I presented a comprehensive account of the Frontline Fighters’ Association’s rank insignia, field caps, and uniforms (articles which have been published in Hungarian in the museum’s yearbook *A Hadtörténeti Múzeum Értesítője*). I finally solved the Új Front badge mystery during that period, and created the IHMHPs 2014-2018 Cross (below left). Our continuing efforts to raise awareness of the role of First World War Jewish-Hungarian veterans was illustrated by the presentation of the “Vályi Memoirs” and I continued lobbying the Order of the Valiant (*Vitézi Rend*) to update their criteria and recognize these worthy individuals.

My main focus during the centenary was the documentation of various aspects of the Frontline Fighters’ Association, featuring exclusive articles about the Motor Corps, the Szürketaxi Chapter, the HONSz Security Guard section, the female uniform of the veterans’ association, the BszKrt Chapter, ID documents, and we even discovered the fate of one of the most prominent leaders of the association whose disappearance after the war was shrouded in mystery. The new IHMHPs 2014-2018 Commemorative Badge and the IHMHPs 2008-2018 commemorative pin were made available in 2017.

Last year we continued our presentation of new material which included the first comprehensive article on leather headgear from the Ottenreiter Leather Goods Company, and the announcement of the discovery of the Gendarmerie motorcycle helmet – and we even made a recording (available on our website) of the long forgotten “Frontline Fighters’ March.”



MAGYAR FRONT

Uniforms & Insignia Special Edition



www.NewFront.ca

Why did you resign from the MHBK?

I have always known that veterans and their organizations are a key factor in the study of military history. Although personal reminiscences can be very subjective and at times need to be set aside if we are to study history scientifically, the fact that the veterans were present at the time in question is an important connection to the understanding of past events. Of course veteran's groups serve their members' needs for camaraderie and fellowship, however, I believe it is very necessary for them to be inclusive of anyone who may be interested in historical preservation. The MHBK was created "in exile" – for decades based in Canada and the USA, and by the time I became involved the veterans had had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who were born outside of Hungary in English speaking countries. Their publications and events were in Hungarian only, and they had little interest in making their history available to anyone but themselves. My attempts to provide English language material for this ever-growing population of descendants through the *Magyar Front*, and ten years of the *New Hungarian Voice* were extremely well received most everywhere, but fell on deaf ears when it came to the leadership of the MHBK and other Hungarian establishments. I became very frustrated as I watched the number of veterans dwindle, while their offspring grew exponentially – offspring who were often interested but didn't speak Hungarian, and therefore had no access to their ancestors' history.

What is the purpose of the Magyar Front?

The *Magyar Front* is the voice of the IHMHPS. Members receive hard-copies of our publication, and all of our back issues are available for free on our website. The publication allows non-professional historians to share their data and collections in a professional manner. Things are very different from twenty years ago, and now there are many websites and social media groups dealing with militaria, however, many of them lack organization and are often merely show-and-tell forums which offer little to the serious enthusiast. There are also professionals and experts among us who help guide us toward improving our work and understanding. The *Magyar Front's* purpose is to present examples of historical preservation, while that of the IHMHPS is to recognize individuals as members of a common cause which facilitates accessibility to our interests and raises awareness of it.

My goal for the *Magyar Front* is not only to present new and interesting historical data, but to also encourage people to be interactive. There are relatively few museums and professional historians compared to the vast public who often unknowingly sit on enormous historical treasures. I think we should all endeavour to be historians in a sense – who wouldn't be enriched if they knew a little more about their family's past? How many attics are full of important photographs or documents that so often get thrown away once so much time has passed? Collectors often fill the gap and successfully preserve things that may have been lost - but making their precious finds known can be daunting and time

consuming. I sincerely hope that my work will encourage people to dive in and write an article or put on a display – I had no prior experience or specific education regarding this sort of thing, so anyone with a little patience and dedication can share their collections and passions which may eventually become significant historical contributions.

What does it take to produce the Magyar Front?

I was once soundly ridiculed by my father when I told him that producing the *Magyar Front* was not a money making endeavour - in fact, it's a labour of love that costs me money. I have always believed that investing in creating something good and useful is money well spent. Our IHMHPS membership dues have remained the same all these years because I want to make sure that they are affordable to anyone who wants to get involved. They don't quite cover all the costs, especially due to ever increasing postal rates, however, they come close enough. The most challenging aspect of production is coming up with the articles themselves – especially previously unpublished material. Even when I receive an article, it may not fit with other pieces in the next issue, so having a few on the back-burner is always a good thing. We are also at the mercy of the physical size of the publication – each issue is made up of four sheets of paper folded in half, so you can't just add one or two pages – it must be four at a time (and extra pages would also increase the weight, and therefore the mailing expenses).

After I have laid out the new issue, which can take several weeks (depending on how busy I am with my day-job), it's proof read a few times and then I take it to the printer. Fortunately he's a friend who gives me a good deal, but for the special price I have to machine staple and fold all of them. I print from 100 to 150 copies of each issue. Another part of my job is to put them all into envelopes and post them.

What do you actually do for a living?

For the last few decades I have worked in the film and television industry as a prop designer/builder and a historical adviser. Props are specifically any item that an actor actually handles on screen (as opposed to the sets, and set decorations). Common items such as a glass or a weapon are purchased by a prop buyer, however, items which don't exist (in the realm of science-fiction, for example) must be designed and built. As a historical adviser I am consulted by various departments as to how things should look or what period pieces need to be found – more often than not it is military history that I deal with.

How many IHMHPS members are there?

Our membership varies from year to year, however, it usually is around fifty people. I also send the *Magyar Front* to a few institutions and to people who seriously inquire about membership. We have hundreds of new visitors to our website every month, and I receive email inquiries weekly. Many people are looking for information about their ancestry and have come across our publication, so I often find myself

offering other options for them to continue their searches. And there are plenty of people who enjoy using our online back issues as a resource for their specific collecting or historical interests who may not want to invest in membership, which is fine by me.

Why issue medals and insignia?

Part of the study of military history is to pay homage to the service and bravery of military personnel, and things like medals and badges are a big part of military (and civilian) culture. I don't want our members to be mere spectators – my hope is that they actually become a part of what interests them so. In my opinion, preserving history is as important as the history itself – without the preservers, both professional and non, historical documentation would not exist. Awards not only reward the recipient, they also encourage others to take part. Even though they are not as popular as they used to be, I think that things like commemorative badges and pins are important - they represent historical preservation in today's disposable world, and will assure awareness and pleasant memories in the years to come.

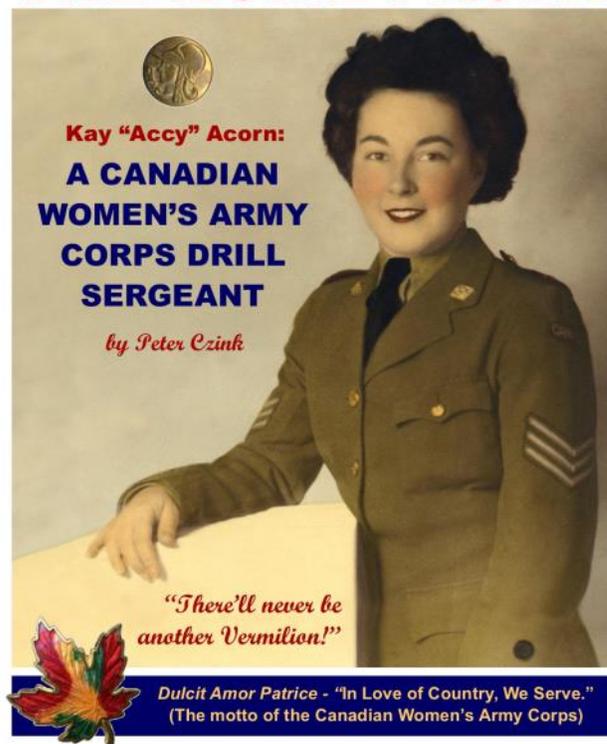
What has the Magyar Front accomplished?

When considering *Magyar Front* readers and IHMHPS members, I think the publication has proven to be an excellent resource for people interested in Hungarian military history, and has certainly done its fair share to promote the subject and inspire people from all over the world. It is an invaluable learning experience for me on many levels, and I hope that I will always influence others to try writing articles and to share their collections. I hope that I have illustrated that there is always more to an artifact or document that meets the eye, and that looking more deeply at what's under our noses can often produce remarkable results. I feel that our endeavours have built a strong bridge between the amateur and professional, and I am very grateful that curators of important public collections have worked with us so kindly and generously. One of my most significant interests is the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association, and through the two decades of producing the *Magyar Front* I believe that I have raised global awareness about this historically significant organization more than anyone in the world (including Hungary). Although it may seem obscure, it illustrates very well that a person, even from a far-off land can make a valuable contribution to the preservation of Hungary's military and cultural history.

What is the future of the Magyar Front?

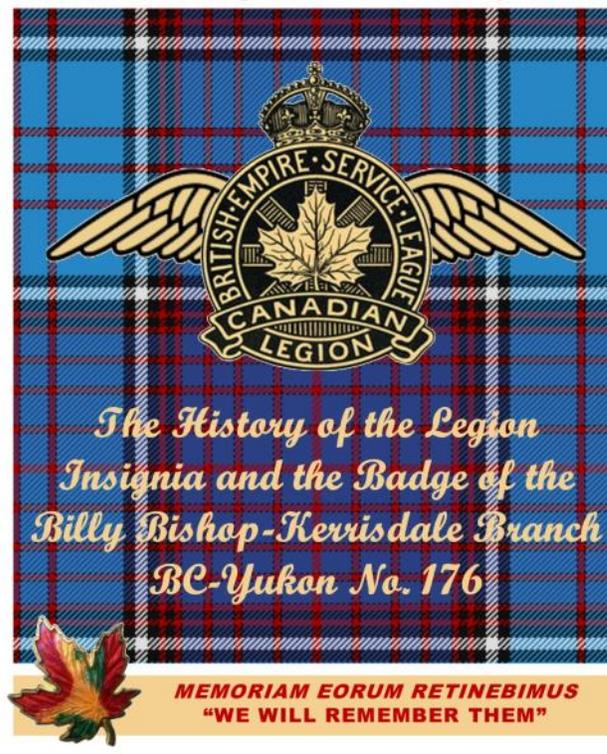
Anything is possible. For me, the *Magyar Front* is like a work of art, which is not yet finished. Nietzsche wrote: "Not every end is a goal. The end of a melody is not its goal; but nonetheless, if the melody had not reached its end it would not have reached its goal either." The *Magyar Front* isn't simply a publication – the articles and discoveries, our members from around the globe, as well as our regalia and memorabilia form a cohesive and living society from which

THE HOME FRONT.

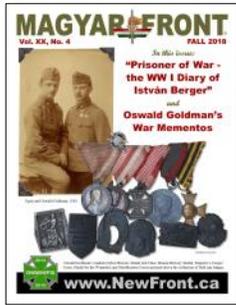


My non-Hungarian militaria spin-off, the Home Front.

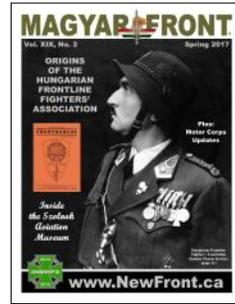
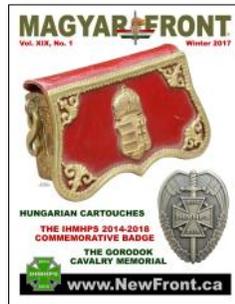
THE HOME FRONT.



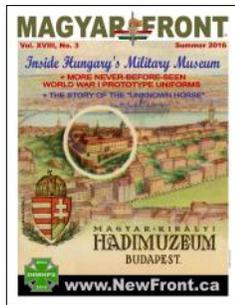
VOLUME XX
2018



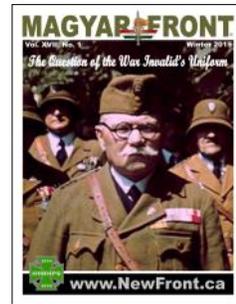
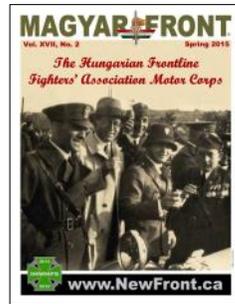
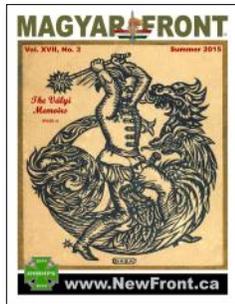
VOLUME XIX
2017



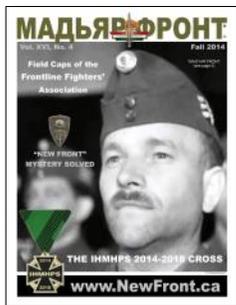
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2016



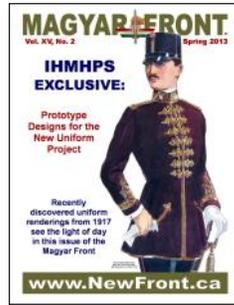
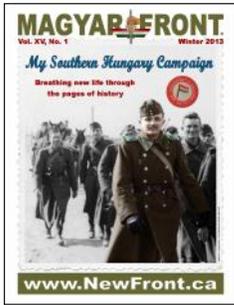
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2015



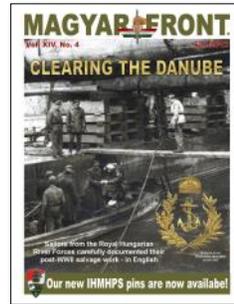
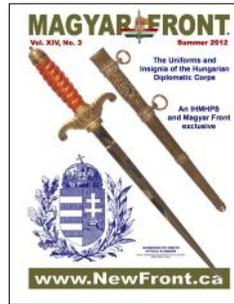
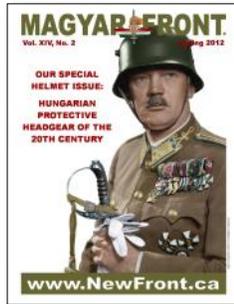
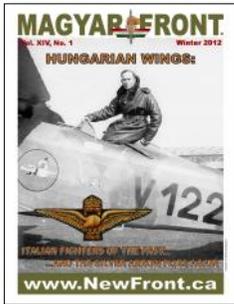
VOLUME XVI
2014



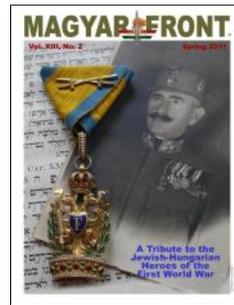
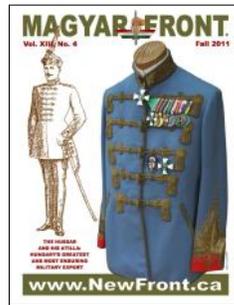
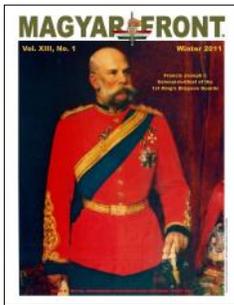
VOLUME XV
2013



VOLUME XIV
2012



VOLUME XIII
2011



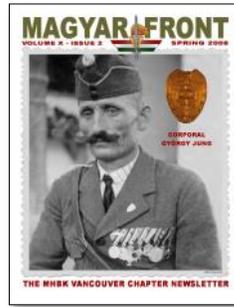
VOLUME XII
2010



VOLUME XI
2009



VOLUME X
2008



VOLUME IX 2007



VOLUME VIII 2006



VOLUME VII 2005



VOLUME VI 2004



VOLUME V 2003

MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10 - 2003

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MEMBER OF THE U.S. ARMY



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THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9 - 2003

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THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 - 2003

1992 HUNGARY AS A MEMORIAL



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ISSUE 7 - 2003

HUNGARIAN OFFICERS' UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT



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ISSUE 6 - 2003

REMEMBERING THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 - 2003

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO THE U.S. ARMY



VOLUME IV 2002

MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - 2002

THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 - 2002

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 - 2002

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 - 2002

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2002

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2002

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



VOLUME III 2001

MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2001

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2001

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
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ISSUE 0 - 2001

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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ISSUE 0 - 2001

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2001

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2001

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



VOLUME II 2000

MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2000

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2000

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2000

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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ISSUE 0 - 2000

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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ISSUE 0 - 2000

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 2000

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



VOLUME I 1999

MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 1999

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 1999

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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ISSUE 0 - 1999

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 1999

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



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ISSUE 0 - 1999

HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER MEMBERS



MAGYAR FRONT
THE HUNGARIAN VANGUARD CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 0 - 1999

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Mystery Badge Identified

by Peter Czink

I have often mentioned the leader of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association over the years. In 2009 I wrote an article about Count József v. Takách-Tolvay which included a list of his orders, decorations, and medals. On his right breast he is usually seen wearing a curious insignia of very similar design to the old Prussian aviation qualification badges - until now I have not been able to identify it.

The central device distinguishes it from a regular Prussian badge, and I thought that it might be a representation of a propeller or an airplane, making it likely, I thought, to be an inter-war aviation badge of some kind. Every once in a while I'd search for it online, without any success.

Five years later I posted his portrait on our IHMHPs social media page asking for help, but no one else seemed to be able to identify it. Recently, during a spare moment surfing the internet, I experienced a eureka moment when I finally found out what it is, after using new combinations of search words. Enormous amounts of new material appears online everyday, so don't give up on searching regularly!

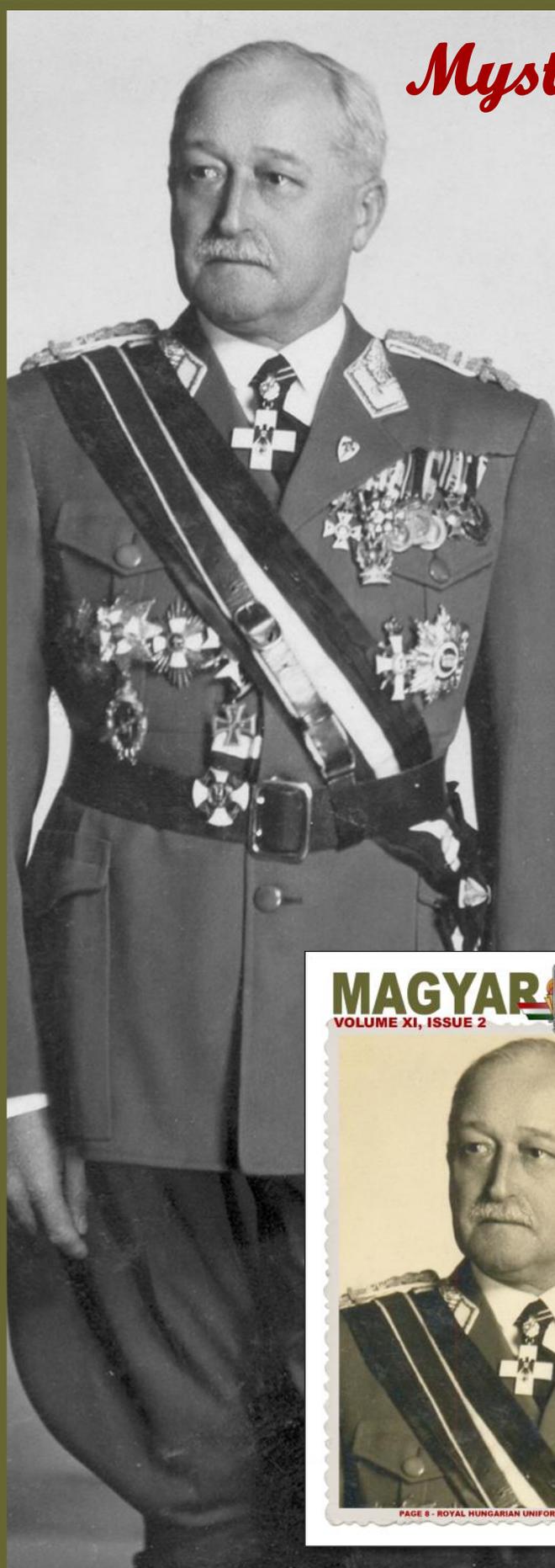
This Weimar Republic era badge, issued from 1929 to 1934, is called the *Sportkranz des Ringes der Nationalen Kraftfahrt und Luftfahrtbewegung* – or Sports Wreath of the Association of the National Motoring and Aeronautics Movement in English. The RKL was a civilian scientific research organization that represented both the automobile and aviation industries, and promoted innovation and technological development. Under the surface, like many such associations from that time, it also played a role in the clandestine formation of the German military despite the stipulations of the Treaty of Versailles.

The wreath of this badge (laurel leaves on the left and oak leaves on the right) and crown are identical to the ones designed for World War I Prussian aviation badges, with the addition of the organization's unique "RKL" emblazoned eagle (mounted on a bar which represents an extension of its wings) superimposed on the wreath at a 45 degree angle.

The Sports Wreath - the RKL's highest award, came in two classes – gold and silver, measured 4.5cm x 7.1cm, and was meant to be worn on the left breast pocket.

Next in precedence was the Sports Eagle, which was just the central Eagle and wings of the Sports Wreath, and also came in a gold and silver grade.

An Honour Badge was also awarded in gold, silver or bronze and consisted of the RKL eagle mounted on a cut-out diamond-shaped motif and was worn as a stickpin. A Service Eagle (in bronze and black metal) and membership badges were also issued.



Right:

Count József v. Takách-Tolvay in the uniform he wore in the early 1930s, wears the Sports Wreath on his left breast.



www.antique-photos.com



Above left: The Silver Sports Wreath. Below it is the Silver Sports Eagle, and the stickpin at right is the Gold Badge of Honour. (All shown actual size.)



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Right:

Dr. Gyula Lukács, a leader and lifetime member of the Eger headquarters Chapter of the Frontline Fighters' Association was also a county advocate for orphans and an Honorary Town clerk He wears the Sports Eagle over the right breast pocket of his uniform.



DR. LUKÁCS GYULA
vármegyei árvaszéki ülnök, tb. főjegyző, e. e. hadnagy, az egeri főcsoport vezetőtiszte, az Országos Frontharcos Szövetség örökös tagja.

Left: Dr. István Mezey also wears the Sports Eagle on his right breast. Mezey was a lawyer who, besides working for the Royal Hungarian Ministry of Education, was founder and later chairman of the Magyar-Nippon Társaság and honorary professor of Senshu University, Tokyo. He also served as the Vice-President of the Budapest VIII District Chapter of the Frontline Fighters' Association.

MILITARY 100 TREASURES

Selected Artefacts
from the Hungarian
Military History Institute
and Museum in
Its Centenary Year

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100

