

# MAGYAR FRONT



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Winter 2024



1999



2024

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

# A note from the Editor

I originally created the *Magyar Front* (and *The New Hungarian Voice*) at a time when the internet was in its infancy, and finding English language information about Hungarian history and culture was much more difficult than it is today. These publications were initially tailored for English-speaking people, primarily the descendants of Hungarian immigrants, but also including interested non-Hungarians. Back then, many Hungarian natives as well as immigrants outside of Hungary thought providing such material in anything but Hungarian was not only unnecessary, it was downright unpatriotic. Although these people were a tiny minority globally-speaking, I was kept very busy defending my points of view in those days.

Over the past twenty-five years I have brought to light many of my historical discoveries which may be minor in the great scheme of things, but they have been significant pieces of the historical puzzle that were previously unknown. And although my base is in Canada, I have showcased historical artifacts that no one else has written about or documented. Meanwhile, I have personally donated and facilitated the donation of a significant number of pieces to the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum.

But what I am most proud of is raising awareness of others' dedication to the preservation of Hungarian military history, and publicly recognizing their efforts – you can read some of their names on pages 5, 6, 7, 18, and 19. These people belong to a tiny, misunderstood, and underappreciated segment of our society who ensure that history is preserved – something essential to everyone. Most of them are members of the IHMHPS who contribute to the *Magyar Front* – a small group that has done more than its fair share to raise public awareness of our history. Our International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society is without a doubt one of the most innovative, original, and progressive groups that has endeavoured to bring relevance and understanding to those interested in our past and who, I hope, will contribute to a better future.

*P.Cz.*



## MAGYAR FRONT VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE 1 Winter 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](mailto:czink@shaw.ca).**



## Cleveland's Endre Szentkirályi Receives Badge of Honour

Endre Szentkirályi, a native son of Cleveland, Ohio, USA and born of Hungarian parents who emigrated from Hungary in 1956, has lived a life full of community commitment. The same community that welcomed his parents and helped them assimilate into the American way of life, yet retain the cultural traditions of their heritage, are now reaping the benefits from the undaunting sense of service that Endre imparts.

Endre studied English and German at Cleveland State University, received an MA in English from the University of Akron (both colleges located in the State of Ohio), and earned his PhD in literary and cultural studies from the University of Debrecen in Hungary. He currently teaches English and German at one of Greater Cleveland's high schools.

With a sense of pride and his scholastic skills, Endre has chosen to honor the kinfolk of the same Hungarian community that he was raised in by, gifting them a lasting tribute to those sons and daughters that served the country their parents chose as their home. In his book, *Cold War to Warm Cooperation; The Military Service of Cleveland Hungarians*, Endre memorializes the military service of these neighbors from the period of 1950 to 2014.

Throughout Cleveland's rich immigrant history, 60,000 original Hungarians increased to 105,000 during 100 years (1910-2010) of record. The largest influx centering around the end of the Second World War and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The sentiment of the times was anti-communist, and the most appropriate way to embrace patriotism was to serve in the military. The imposed draft of service-aged young adult men during the Korean and Vietnam conflict eras also increased the rank and file of those forces.

The book is broken down into several major sections. The opening section (in English) includes many facts and history pertaining to the 1950-2014 period in general along with some Cleveland-specific details, and ends with a compiled list of 300-plus names and respective branches of service. Following that is more than 130 pages of pictures submitted to, and collected by Endre during his research. At the end is a list of more than 250 service members with short biographies highlighting their specific service details (in Hungarian).

Endre has also written two other books: *Being Hungarian in Cleveland: Maintaining Language, Culture, and Traditions*, and *Clevelandben Meg Elnék Magyarok? - Visszaemlékezesek Gyujtemenye (Do Hungarians Still Live in Cleveland? A Collection of Oral Histories)*.

Additionally, Endre has been active in the Hungarian scouting community for decades, serves on the Board of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society as well as the Hungarian American Coalition. He is the secretary and also was the president of United Hungarian Societies, which serves as an umbrella organization that unites the Greater Cleveland area Hungarian-American organizations.

Endre Szentkirályi is among the few who dedicate themselves not only to preserving Hungarian culture and history, but to also share who we are and where we have come from with a world unfamiliar with Hungary and Hungarians.



# The Magyar Front Cross of Merit



Obverse



Ribbon bar



Reverse

Words alone cannot express my gratitude for the help and support I have received throughout the twenty-five years I have produced the *Magyar Front*, so I designed and produced this award, the Magyar Front Cross of Merit as a token of my appreciation.

My concept for this silver jubilee project was to establish a new award for those IHMHPS members who have gone above and beyond to help make the *Magyar Front* a very well-respected and useful resource; and to make available our new challenge coin to everyone - not only as a commemorative souvenir, but also as a tangible reminder that we all have the potential to make significant contributions to endeavours that we feel passionate about.

The Magyar Front Cross of Merit is a gold version of our challenge coin with the addition of a ring and ribbon loop. It's worn at the neck on the same custom-manufactured ribbon as that of our IHMHPS 2014-2018 Commemorative Cross, and features the elements of the insignia of the IHMHPS and the *Magyar Front*, with the new addition of a central globe. The reverse bears Lord Tennyson's words: "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." - the motto I have adopted for our organization.

Only members of the International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society are eligible for this award and must meet the following criteria:

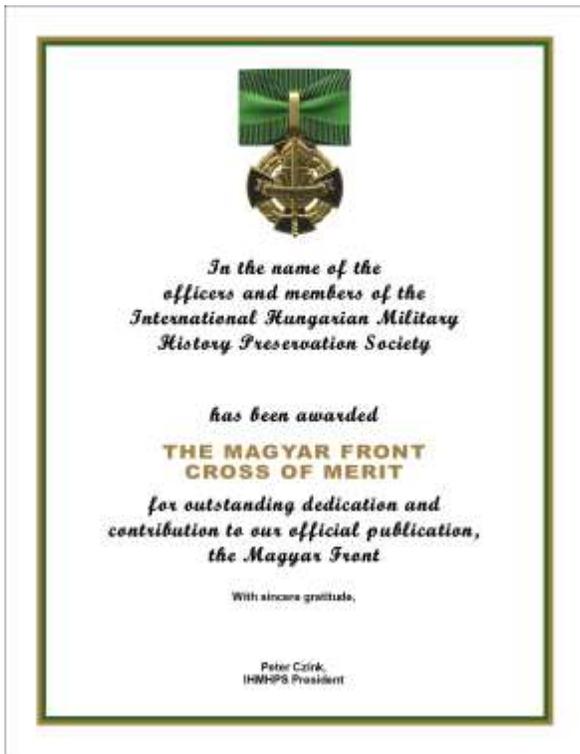
**Have regularly and over a long period of time produced articles for the *Magyar Front*,**

**Supplied information, documentation, and/or technical or historical assistance  
that has regularly contributed to the quality of the publication and,**

**Have been awarded the IHMHPS Gold Long Service Cross and the IHMHPS Badge of Honour.**

The cross is awarded in its red, custom-fitted case with ribbon bar, along with a large and small certificate.

*P.Cz.*



Left:  
Award certificate

Right:  
Presentation case



# Our First Cross of Merit Recipients

by Peter Czink

Magyar Front contributor since 2010

## Maj. Dr. Tamás Baczoni



Tamás has worked at the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum since 1995, and is currently the curator of its uniform and equipment collection. He has been involved in a great many militaria-related projects – I often see his name appear in connection with all sorts of international endeavours and articles, which always reminds me of how fortunate I am in finding support from the top experts in Hungary. Indeed, I am also constantly asking for his advice and opinions, and his encyclopedic knowledge of Hungarian uniforms and equipment never ceases to amaze me.

Despite his hectic schedule, Tamás has always managed to dig up obscure information or photograph some detail of a uniform or piece of equipment that I have inquired about. He is one of two employees of the museum that I have had the good fortune to become friends with, and I can't begin to express my gratitude to. If everyone involved with historical work was half as helpful, the world would indeed be a better place.

I asked him to sum up his thoughts regarding the *Magyar Front*, and he offered me these very generous words: "I think the *Magyar Front* is a heroic, romantic and your great mission to preserve your Hungarian heritage, which I think you feel much more deeply than many native Hungarians."



Magyar Front contributor since 1999

## Péter v. Laborc

Péter was born in Tata, Komárom county, where he began collecting found military artifacts at an early age. By the time he was in high school he had specialized in Hungarian uniforms, and since the 1980s he has had many major exhibitions of his collection and loaned pieces to other historical groups and organizations. Along with uniforms, his collection includes countless accoutrements and reference material, including period postcards and photographs.

Although his unique personal museum could be described as world-class, and his uniform collection is second to none, what distinguishes him even more so is an exemplary enthusiasm and willingness to help – even when it means a great deal of time and effort on his part. Over the years we have spent many hours discussing the minutiae of Hungarian militaria despite my imperfect Hungarian and early inexperience demanding further explanations. His knowledge, his vast library, and advanced collection have always been at my disposal.

In Péter’s words: “I hope that the next generation will nurture the knowledge and understanding of Hungary’s military, as the IMHHPS does. I am proud to be a member of an organization that for the past 25 years, has worked with all its heart and soul to fill in the blanks of our military history through valuable research.”

Magyar Front contributor since 2002

## Dr. Gergely Sallay

Gergely is Head of Department at the Hungarian Military History Museum, Budapest, where he has worked for the last 25 years. His main field of research is orders, decorations and medals, with special regard to Hungarian military history in the 20th century, is the author of several medal-related books and articles, and has curated many exhibitions.

A life-long collector and born historian, this fine gentleman possesses what a custodian of precious artifacts should have – a precise, scientific mind coupled with insight and sensitivity that will ensure that our history and culture will be preserved. Add to that kindness and patience – and something I am most grateful for, friendship.

Gergely has not only written articles for the *Magyar Front*, he has also helped me with countless questions – his answers requiring a great deal of time and research on his part. He recently wrote: “As I recall, I first read the *Magyar Front* back in 2002, that is when I got to know Peter Czink, who has been a source of great inspiration for me ever since, and has become a good friend... The *Magyar Front* plays a vital role in making Hungarian military history known in the English-speaking world, publishing articles essential for those interested in all things Hungarian and military.”





Magyar Front contributor since 1999

## Lorraine Weideman

Lorraine has been a key part of the *Magyar Front* and the IHMHPS since the very beginning. Her skills as an administrative manager are certainly an asset to all of our endeavours, and I clearly remember, many years ago, when she patiently explained what “right click” meant when I gingerly pawed a mouse for the first time. She has used her vast fine-arts, design and business experience to modernize numerous cultural and historical enterprises.

From the beginning – she has proof-read every word, taken most of the photographs and poured over every image and design element that has gone into the *Magyar Front*. She has discussed innumerable theories, ideas and plans with me, and to save money on printing costs, sat with me folding and stapling issues of our publication. She does all of our online work, and when I have ideas for a new badge or award for the IHMHPS (which membership dues don’t even come close to paying for) she insists that I have them made even during tough financial times.

When asked about her thoughts on our silver jubilee: “The *Magyar Front*, Peter’s vision and passion, brings me along on varied journeys. His inquisitive nature and insight lead us to adventures of discovery, and his meticulous attention to detail and dedication to historical preservation have been an inspiration to me, contributing greatly to my strength and confidence.”

Magyar Front contributor since 2005

## Vzlt. Manfred Winter

Manfred, a professional soldier (now retired as a Vizeleutnant, or Warrant Officer 1st class, the highest NCO rank in the Austrian Armed Forces) is a passionate collector and historian. He has been involved with numerous veterans’ organizations and historical projects and has been actively involved with the IHMHPS and the *Magyar Front* since he joined us. For example - as a member of the Austrian Veterans Association (ÖKB), he played a key role in the fundraising for the restoration of the 1874 ÖKB Mödling’s flag – projects such as this have been very inspirational to me, and his tireless work and innovative ideas have been a strong influence on how I have navigated our organization and publication over the years.

He has raised awareness of our Hungarian military history in his native Austria, rallying his comrades to support many of our organization’s projects. Not only has Manfred been an essential asset to the IHMHPS, especially regarding Austro-Hungarian military history, he has also been an enormous help with my work in the film and television industry.

His extensive knowledge and connections have played key roles in understanding the complex history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his support and friendship have ensured an indivisible and inseparable partnership.





# The Secret to Preserving History

by Peter Czink

President, International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society



I put out a “call for submissions” in late 2023, for IHMHPS members to write about their 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.” I immediately received several questions about what exactly could be included, and I quickly realized that the criterion was broad, and open to interpretation. Sometimes it’s hard to pinpoint from where our inspiration comes, however, I think the exercise is an exciting one and I am looking forward to these articles very much.

Our 2024 *Magyar Front* issues will be devoted to these personal accounts, and I hope that no one minds that I am going first. The task is not an easy one, and since I have had the very good fortune of handling quite a bit of militaria, and owning some pretty rare pieces, I have joined the rest of the IHMHPS members in wondering what the most significant thing to me could possibly be. While thinking about the matter I started going through my collection, and it became clear that seemingly everything had some sort of significance. There were items I found long ago, rare one-of-a-kind artifacts, groups of attributed medals, and precious gifts from friends.

Before I present the group that I chose, I would like to go over a little pertinent background. Two aspects are involved for me personally – one, my interest in militaria, and second my focus on Hungary (both of which developed at an early age). My first clear memories are from about the age of four, which was when I had my first taste of *magyarország*.

In July of 1968, my father’s car was destroyed by a bomb while parked in our driveway, situated a couple of metres from my bedroom window. It happened around midnight, and all I remember was that there was glass everywhere (most of the windows in my neighbourhood were shattered by the blast), and a lingering feeling of imminent dread. My father told the detectives that it felt like the whole house was lifted from its foundation, and as often is the case, strange things resulted – for example, the toilet tank in the adjacent bathroom was torn from its moorings and smashed against the opposite wall.

Very shortly after, my brother and I had to don our dress clothes and we were taken to Hungary by my mother, with no explanation of any kind. Soon I was in my ancestral homeland, standing in front of a still bullet-riddled apartment building of a distant relative who hadn’t been informed of our intentions - a bit of a shocker for a kid who had only known 17th Avenue and Oak Street in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Confusion over our unannounced arrival, coupled with tension over the impending unrest in nearby Czechoslovakia didn’t do anything to ease my anxiety, however, my experiences with kindness and hospitality there, along with a strange new feeling of belonging, made me think of Hungary as the place my soul must have originated from. Months went by – something must have happened between my parents in the meantime (my father had remained in Canada), and we were told we were going back to Vancouver. Someone presented me a keychain as a farewell gift – a souvenir medal from Budapest (a big deal for a four year-old), and I still have it to this day.

The car bombing remained a cold case until a few years ago, when I solved it myself (but that’s a story for my memoirs). Years later, in 1977, Queen Elizabeth sent every elementary school student a commemorative coin to celebrate her silver jubilee, and I remember how thrilled I was with the little aluminum trinket. At that point, having two medals, I considered myself a collector and later, here and there I picked up the odd patch or cap badge from the local surplus store – whatever my meagre budget allowed. Things significantly changed a couple of years after when I found myself, a lowly LAC in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, standing in our squadron supply room chatting with the old veteran in charge. It was the 1970s, and the Canadian Armed Forces had switched over to a “modern” look – instead of the traditional Army, Navy, and Air Force uniforms, we were to all wear an odd “Canadian Forces Green” ensemble. Cadets were the last to receive the new outfits and we were individually called in to turn in our old (some of my kit was WWII dated) articles to be exchanged for CF Greens. I had always loved talking to veterans and this officer and I were getting lost in World War II reminiscences. As my eyes wandered to the racks of old turned-in uniforms, I asked him what would become of them. “Ah – they’ll get sent to Victoria to be incinerated.” was his off-the-cuff reply. There were blue wool tunics, caps, bags of insignia, and buttons – all no longer fashionable in the 70s. “That’s a shame,” I answered, “can I have them?” A little perplexed, he thought for a long moment and asked: “All of them?!”

“Sure.” I replied. In short, I soon talked a buddy of mine who was old enough to have a driver’s license into borrowing his father’s sedan and we deposited several carloads of the stuff in my parent’s basement. From then on, I was in the business of trading, buying, and selling militaria.

Things were very different back then, without the internet. As a kid I would often make my way downtown to roam the antique shops (now long gone), looking for pieces

of militaria that I could afford (a common medal or badge), however, finding anything Hungarian in Vancouver stores was out of the question. Slowly, however, I put together a nice little collection of primarily Royal Canadian Air Force wings and badges, along with a few medals from the First and Second World Wars.

My Hungarian roots were another matter. Although my parents fancied themselves as quintessential patriots, they were also from the “a child should be seen and not heard” generation, and my experience with the Hungarian language was more-or-less confined to my father’s mixed Hungarian and English tongue-lashings following each disappointing report card. When later I re-visited Hungary for the first time as an adult, I was shocked when I realized that not only could I barely speak Hungarian, I could neither read nor write it.

But Lorraine and I showed up there in 1995, determined to immerse ourselves in the culture and history of the old country. My father had moved “back home” in 1989 and he was my only connection there, and despite his view of collecting anything being a waste of time and money, I set out to find some historical items that would satisfy my new interests. On that first trip, our search for artifacts were forays into downtown Budapest antique shops, and in one antiquarian bookstore I found an old Hungarian Veterans’ Association almanac (*A Frontharcos Eszme Szolgálatában*) – a heavy volume filled with text and photos about WWI veterans, along with thumbnail bios and photos of the association’s members. I remember how it fascinated me – they wore curious felt helmets (soft versions of their protective steel wartime headgear), something I had never seen before. At the hotel I poured over the individuals’ images and did my best to read some of their stories, and as I turned the fragile pulp-paper pages I wondered how it could be that a Hungarian lad like myself had never even heard of the organization. Lists of decorations for bravery, photos of young Hungarian men with impressive moustaches, details of battles fought – all as ephemeral as the brittle, yellowing pages.

Back in Miskolc where my father lived, while Lorraine and I were exploring the city one afternoon, we came across a rather unassuming doorway with an incredible insignia painted on it – a WWII helmet in a wreath, and in Hungarian: “Doni Bajtársak Szövetsége” (Don River Veterans’ Association). The door was unlocked, and I gingerly pushed it open to find a dark stairway, which led us up to another door, which was answered by a friendly lady. I discretely glanced past her, noticing rows of folding chairs, flags, and assorted emblems, while I explained in broken Hungarian that I was from Canada, and that I was interested in Hungarian military history. My accent must have been charming, because she very kindly led us in. In a word, her initial encouragement led to a many-year long association with the group, and my being embraced and nurtured by an unforgettable group of World War II Hungarian veterans.

Back home, I decided that I should do my part to raise awareness about this sort of thing, so we immersed ourselves into the Vancouver Hungarian community. First, I approached the local Hungarian Hall, eventually becoming vice-president of the Vancouver Hungarian Cultural Society and developing several community projects. I already had

plenty of experience with not knowing enough about my heritage, and my focus was to provide access to our culture in the English language – the first language of the better part of Hungarian-Canadians (children, grand children, and great grand-children of the original immigrants). It was welcomed by everyone – except by most of the original immigrants, who saw me as a villain who would “destroy all they had built” by doing my awareness raising in English.

I had much better luck with the Canadian arm of the MHBK - Magyar Harcosok Bajtársi Közössége (Federation of Hungarian Veterans), and eventually led their Vancouver Chapter. The same problem existed there (information inaccessible by non-Hungarian speaking offspring), so I started my publication, the *Magyar Front* as a companion to their Hungarian language newspaper so that their descendants could have a little taste of their history and heritage. Seeing the need for that on a much larger scale, I also published a cultural and historical magazine called *The New Hungarian Voice* which covered broader topics. My parents unreservedly told me that I was out of my mind for doing such work as an unpaid volunteer.

After many years of experience I learned that this attitude from immigrants is not strictly a Hungarian disease – and it’s lamented by Canadian-born people with ancestry from all over the world. When dealing with history and artifacts specifically, the disinterest is overwhelming. Over the decades I have had countless experiences dealing with it, and one shocker stands out as a representative example.

Many years ago, we were at a neighbourhood garage sale, which featured several antique items. As I often do (here’s a good tip for those of you who like to do a little antique hunting), I asked the older lady in charge if she might have any military items kicking around. Her face lit up, and she told me about her father’s career in the RCAF, and how she had kept all his uniforms, medals, flight gear, and photographs.

“Of course I wouldn’t sell them!” she said. I understood, and told her that my first love was the RCAF, gave her my card, and that I would love to see them some time – she agreed that one day she would show them to me. I didn’t hear back from her, until a few years later, we pulled up to that familiar house and another garage sale. There she was, and she greeted us right away with “I still have your card and I’ll give you a call some day about my father’s RCAF stuff.” It was a nice little reunion, and after chatting for a while we were off.

Several years after that I received a phone call – it took a while for me to figure out what it was all about, but I soon realized that it was her sister calling me. The lady had passed away, and her sister had found my card and asked me if I would be interested in acquiring her father’s RCAF items. A little shocked, I agreed to meet her and stopped off at the bank to withdraw some cash – even though I didn’t know what was in the collection, I knew that uniforms, medals, and equipment by this time would cost serious money. We pulled up to the old house which was now a hive of activity: bins piled on the porch, movers taking away furniture, workers filling garbage cans, and many people who were clearly several generations of the same family, their numerous children running about the yard. We found the sister with

*Continued on page 12...*

# AWARDS AND INSIGNIA OF THE IHMHPS



Lifetime Membership  
Badge (Second type)



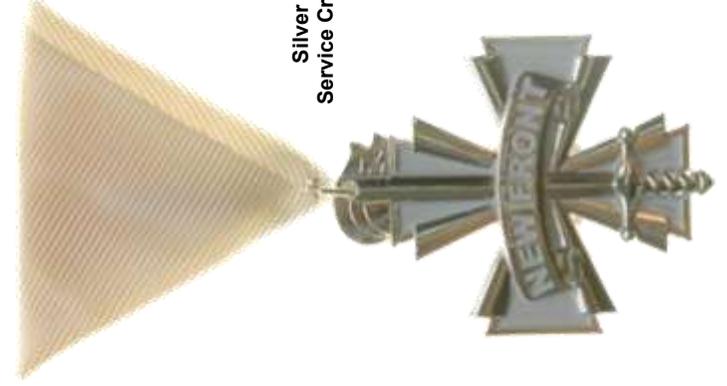
Magyar Front Cross of Merit



Badge of Honour  
Backed with red for IHMHPS  
leadership, white for members,  
and green for non-members.



Gold  
Service Cross



Silver  
Service Cross



Bronze  
Service Cross



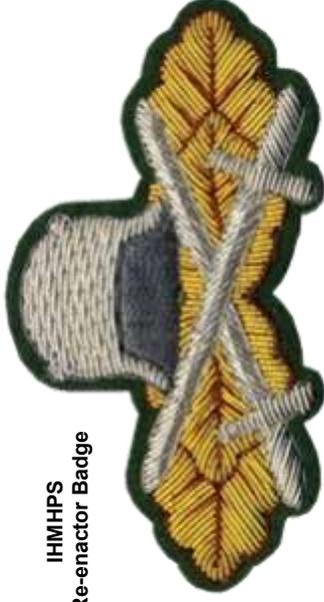
2014-2018  
Commemorative Cross



2014-2018  
Commemorative  
Badge



Magyar Front  
Correspondent  
Badge



IHMHPHS  
Re-enactor  
Badge



2008-2018  
Commemorative  
Badge



IHMHPHS  
Membership  
Pin

## IHMHPHS RIBBON BARS



Magyar Front  
Cross of Merit



Gold Service Cross, second  
award, with miniature BoH\*



Gold Service Cross  
with miniature BoH\*



Gold Service Cross,  
second award



Gold Service Cross



Silver Service Cross, second  
award, with miniature BoH\*



Silver Service Cross  
with miniature BoH\*



Gold Service Cross,  
second award



Silver Service Cross



Bronze Service Cross, second  
award, with miniature BoH\*



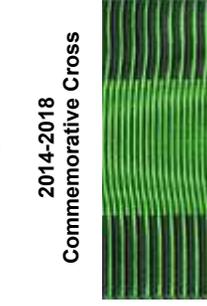
Bronze Service Cross  
with miniature BoH\*



Bronze Service Cross,  
second award



2014-2018 Commemorative  
Cross (and Badge)



2014-2018  
Commemorative Cross

\*BoH - the Badge of Honour is only worn on the ribbon of the highest grade of the Service Cross when the full-size badge is not worn.

...continued from page 9

whom I spoke, and I introduced myself, explaining that I could look over the items and if she liked, help her determine their value.

“Oh – they’re right there.” she explained, pointing to the bins on the porch. A little unsure of how to proceed among the general hubbub, I suggested that we could lay everything out somewhere so we could go over it item by item. She then casually told me to “just go ahead and take them.” Wondering whether she might be pulling my leg, I reminded her that these were historical artifacts and that they have considerable value - she chuckled a little and assured me that no one in the family was interested in them.

As shocking as that may seem to military historians and collectors, it’s only one among a great many similar experiences for me. Recently, while browsing Facebook Marketplace I came across, of all things, a collection of IHMHPS awards. I sent a message to the seller asking about where they came from, and as I waited for a response I looked at my records and easily figured out to whom they belonged – an IHMHPS member originally from the old MHBK days. In the meantime, the seller answered that he picked them up at an estate liquidation auction, which I investigated, only to find out that my old friend’s children had turned over the bulk of the estate, including other precious family heirlooms, to a clear-out company where they were sold for peanuts.

Back to Hungary – and the good news. On our next trip I was a little more confident with the language, and we ended up stumbling upon a Hungarian Defence Forces supply depot in a small Hungarian town. They allowed me to buy a few pieces of current issue insignia, and the manager was very helpful, even mentioning that a local collector would often visit them and that I should get in touch with him. With his phone number in hand, I called him and arranged a visit.

We ended up among a great many high-rise buildings in various states of decay, and pressed a button next to a paper label with his name on it. An eerie, mechanical snippet of Beethoven’s *Für Elise* echoed from a small speaker, and we were soon ushered up to the indicated apartment. One piece of wisdom I often share with fellow enthusiasts is “there’s a fine line between collector and hoarder” – this poor chap was the latter. We stood in the one square metre of clear space beyond his door, and I scanned what I could above the shoulder-high piles of newspapers, boxes, odd collectables, cigarette packages, and assorted grocery produce. On the far end of the unit I noticed a few WWII Hungarian medals, their sun-faded ribbons nailed to the wall – those were not for sale.

The meeting wasn’t a complete bust, however, and I got a few more phone numbers, which led me to more like-minded individuals, who on our next trip took us to a Budapest militaria show and initiated introductions to some serious collectors, one of whom was a guy named Péter Laborc. From that point on it was a whirlwind, wheeling and dealing was involved, and soon we were back home with a proper collection of Hungarian militaria.

Péter was among the most helpful of the fellows, but in the melee I didn’t get his contact information. I remembered that he mentioned that he used to be a postman, and that he lived in a village called Baj – but that was it. It was still the

days before the internet. I figured that the local Baj Post Office might know his address, so somehow I managed to get their phone number and in somewhat less broken-Hungarian I called and explained that I was calling from Canada, and that I made an acquaintance with a resident of Baj named Péter Laborc who used to work for the post office, and that perhaps they might have an address for him (we still wrote letters back then). The cheerful postal employee on the other end of the line replied: “That’s my husband, why don’t you call him at home?” and gave me their number.

The friendship flourished, and Péter encouraged and provided me with continuous answers to my countless questions, facilitated my accumulation of a vast reference library, and did what no other Hungarian had done for me up to that point – he didn’t correct every other misused Hungarian word I spoke or wrote. Consequently, my command of the language expanded rapidly because of the confidence I gained from his patience and gentle nurturing of learning a language that can be very daunting.

Being more confident and having more connections in Hungary were great assets to my exploration and understanding of Hungarian military history, however, I was fortunate enough to acquire two more essential treasures – Tamás Baczoni and Gergely Sallay – key musicologists at the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum. I’m sure many people have stories of how difficult it can be to make satisfactory connections with the overworked staff of large institutions and companies – the inquiries must be endless. I have pestered these two gentlemen with detailed questions repeatedly, and have peppered them with ideas, rough drafts, and images that would have exasperated even the most dedicated academics – but they never complained, and in fact, they provide me with much more than I asked for. They have guaranteed that my interest and dedication would never wane.

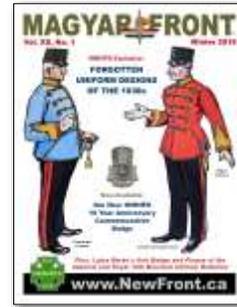
I have had the good fortune to get to know a great many collectors and historians, both professional and amateur – and have handled a considerable number of artifacts. Some collectors have shared modest pieces with me, coupled with their tireless research and insight that has contributed greatly to my own education and understanding; while seasoned historians have exposed me to priceless treasures and knowledge that I never dreamed of. My own collection has grown exponentially because of them, and my friendships and associations with fellow enthusiasts has flourished.

I have always said that there is treasure everywhere (usually found right under one’s nose), yet the people who dedicate themselves to the preservation of our historical treasures are a tiny minority. When I carefully open my old copy of *A Frontharcos Ezme Szolgáltatában* to pour over the faces of those brave Hungarians, I intensely feel that despite their past courage and fortitude, today those soldiers are only as strong as the fragile pulp paper in my hands. Without the collectors and historians who breathe them back into life, who remember them - not just for a few minutes on Remembrance Day, but all year long, what would become of this vitally important part of our history and our heritage? My fellow collectors and historians are truly the most precious and valuable group that I can think of.

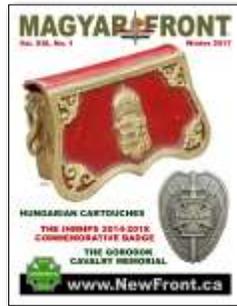
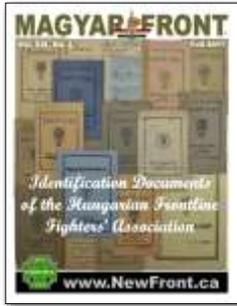




VOLUME XX  
2018



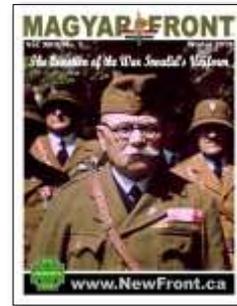
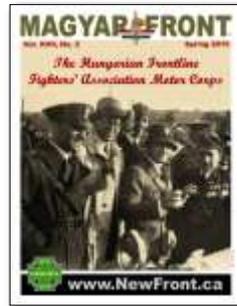
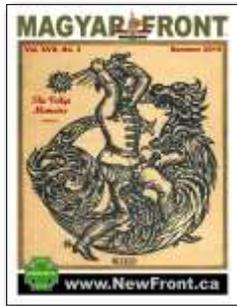
VOLUME XIX  
2017



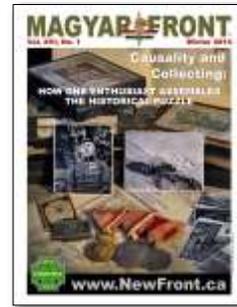
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2016



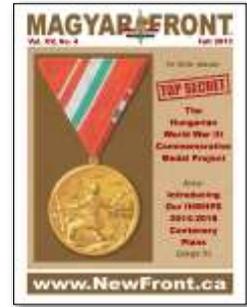
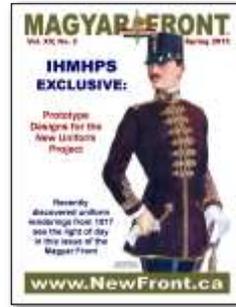
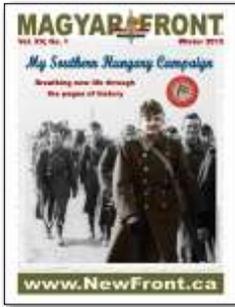
VOLUME XVII  
2015



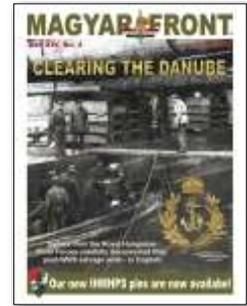
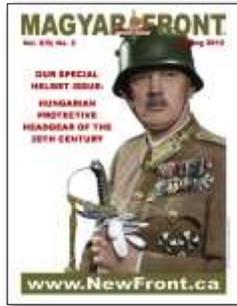
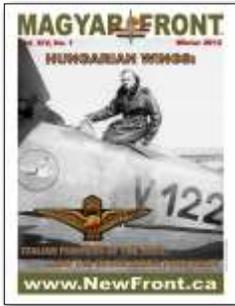
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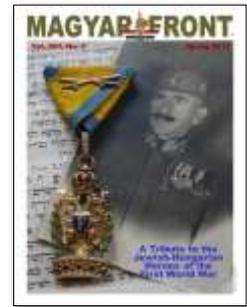
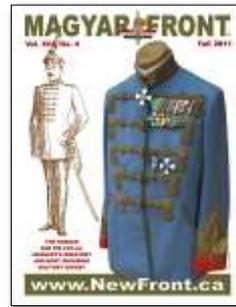
VOLUME XV  
2013



VOLUME XIV  
2012



VOLUME XIII  
2011



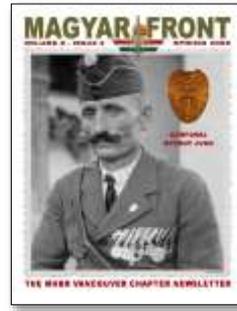
VOLUME XII  
2010



VOLUME XI  
2009



VOLUME X  
2008



VOLUME IX 2007



VOLUME VIII 2006



VOLUME VII 2005



VOLUME VI 2004



VOLUME V 2003



VOLUME IV 2002



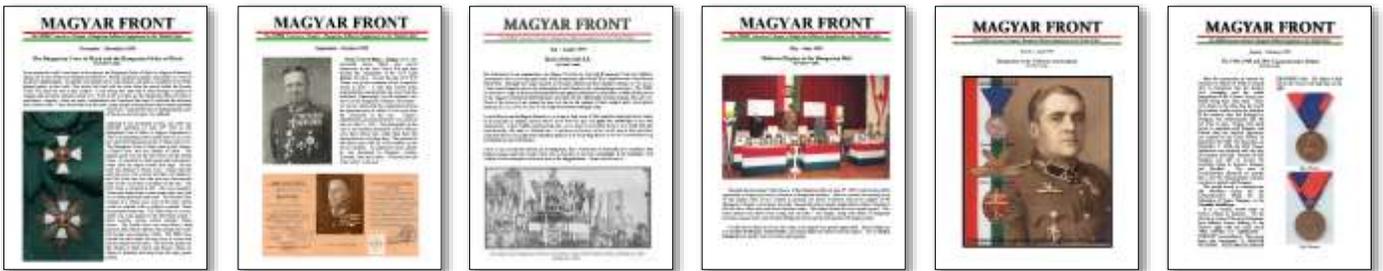
VOLUME III 2001



VOLUME II 2000



VOLUME I 1999



# *International Hungarian Military History Preservation Society Award Recipients*



## **MAGYAR FRONT CROSS OF MERIT**

Tamás Baczoni • Péter v. Laborc • Gergely Sallay • Lorraine Weideman • Manfred Winter



## **BADGE OF HONOUR**

Tamás Baczoni • Ferenc Bálint • Ákos Bíró • György Borbandi • Peter Czink • Sven Dietel • László Dinga • Krisztián Gróber  
Joseph Gyökeri • András Huszár • George Hennessy • John Keir • Zoltán v. Kőrössy • Andris v. Kursietis • Péter v. Laborc  
James Marin • Andrew Németh • György Punka • Peter Raab • Gergely Sallay • Heather Schipper • Paul Schipper  
Rainer v. Schmitt • Steven Serda • Byeongwon Shin • Sergey Slakaev • Endre Szentkirályi • Stephen Szigethy • Péter Szikits  
Viktor Szontagh • Zoltán Tálósi • László Tokay • Steven Törincsi • Jeffrey Tóth • László Tóth • Lovice Ullein-Reviczky  
László v. Vizi • Lorraine Weideman • Robert Williams • Manfred Winter • Sigrid Winter • Sándor Zeidler



## **GOLD SERVICE CROSS**

Tamás Baczoni • Ákos Bíró • Peter Czink • Joseph Gyökeri • Andris v. Kursietis • George Hennessy • John Keir  
William Kondor • Zoltán v. Kőrössy • Andris v. Kursietis • Péter v. Laborc • James Marin • Gergely Sallay  
Rainer v. Schmitt • Steven Törincsi • Lovice Ullein-Reviczky • Lorraine Weideman • Manfred Winter



## **CLASP TO THE GOLD SERVICE CROSS**

Peter Czink • Gergely Sallay • Lorraine Weideman



### **SILVER SERVICE CROSS**

Tamás Baczoni • Ákos Bíró • Peter Czink • Joseph Gyökeri • George Hennessy • John Keir • William Kondor  
Zoltán v. Kőrössy • Andris v. Kursietis • Péter v. Laborc • James Marin • Gergely Sallay • Rainer v. Schmitt  
Steven Tórincsi • Jeffrey Tóth • Lovice Ullein-Reviczky • Lorraine Weideman • Manfred Winter



### **CLASP TO THE SILVER SERVICE CROSS**

Peter Czink • Péter v. Laborc • Gergely Sallay • Lorraine Weideman • Manfred Winter



### **BRONZE SERVICE CROSS**

Tamás Baczoni • Ferenc Bálint • Ákos Bíró • Bart Bryerton • Peter Czink • Sven Dietel • Robert Eiserle • Krisztián Gröber  
Joseph Gyökeri • Stefan Harass • George Hennessy • Jürgen Kaminski • John Keir • William Kondor • Zoltán.v. Kőrössy  
Andris v. Kursietis • Péter v. Laborc • Josef Lang • James Marin • Andreas Merle • Johann Prasch • Peter Raab • Gergely Sallay  
Erich Schellig • Paul Schipper • Rainer v. Schmitt • Byeonggwon Shin • Sergey Slakaev • Stephen Szigethy • Viktor Szontagh  
László Tokay • Steven Tórincsi • Jeffrey Tóth • Lovice Ullein-Reviczky • Sascha Valenta • Danny Warner  
Lorraine Weideman • Robert Williams • Manfred Winter • Sigrid Winter



### **CLASP TO THE BRONZE SERVICE CROSS**

Tamás Baczoni • Peter Czink • George Hennessy • John Keir • Péter v. Laborc  
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### **2014-2018 COMMEMORATIVE CROSS**

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Zoltán v. Kőrössy • Andris v. Kursietis • Péter v. Laborc • Otto Lang • István Legát • Erich Lenz • James Marin • Andreas Merle  
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Erich Schellig • Heather Schipper • Paul Schipper • Rainer v. Schmitt • Byeonggwon Shin • Viktor Szontagh • Steven Tórincsi  
Jeffrey Tóth • Lovice Ullein-Reviczky • Vladislav Usoff • Sascha Valenta • Christian Volgger • Danny Warner  
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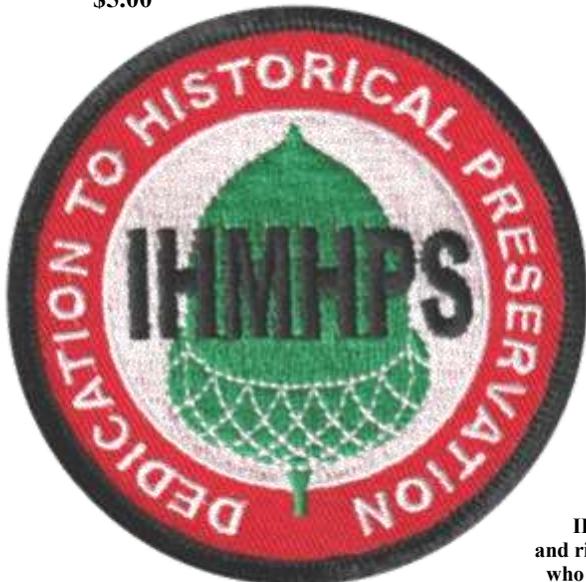
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