



Magyar Warriors. Volume 2: The History of the Royal Hungarian Armed Forces, 1919-1945

By Dénes Bernád, Charles K. Kliment

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The Hungarian armed forces (known as the Honvédség) were built up from the 1920s, their expansion gaining momentum once Hungary became free of the strict post-First World War Trianon treaty limitations in August 1938. Politically, Hungary was looking for a strong ally, who would help it to recover at least some of the territories containing sizable Magyar ethnic populations that had been lost after the First World War. Initially, in the mid-1930s, Italy gave political assistance and supplied military material; then – on the eve of the Second World War – Germany also lent some support. In November 1938, Hungary managed to peacefully recover a chunk of its former territory from Czechoslovakia, followed by the Sub-Carpathian area during a brief border war in March 1939, and then the northern part of Transylvania from Rumania in August 1940. Later, in April 1941, the Bachka region and parts of Baranya were also taken back from the dismembered Yugoslavia, in a swift military action. The rub is that Hungary was sucked into the cauldron of the Eastern Front, and soon the Honvéds (Hungarian soldiers) found themselves deep in Soviet territory, outgunned and outnumbered by the Red Army. Later on, from August 1944, the beleaguered Honvédség had to fight in defense of its own territory. Alongside tiny Croatia, Hungary remained the last German ally up to the bitter end, and paid the price accordingly. This comprehensive reference, to be published in three volumes – the fruit of over twenty years of meticulous research – strives to provide a complete picture of the Hungarian armed forces between the years 1919 and 1945. Volume 1 (published in 2015) presents a brief history of the Magyars up until the end of the Second World War, as well as the building of the armed forces, and details the armored formations and their equipment. Volume 2 covers in great details the activity of the air force (Chapter 4), the river flotilla (Chapter 5), as well as the combat operations of the Honvédség (Chapter 6). The final volume will contain type sheets of every weapon and vehicle used by the Army, as well as all aircraft types in service with the Air Force. The discussed topics are described in great details, and illustrated with over 500 photographs, several maps and many tables.

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Editorial Review

Review

"I was unaware that Hungary was Germany's last remaining ally at the end of the Second World War, so this second volume about its armed forces has bolstered my knowledge in that respect. Bernad and Kliment tackle their chosen subject with verve and enthusiasm, and the end result is a detailed study which, when the final volume is published, will represent the major defining work on Hungarian armed forces in the twentieth century - a major achievement." (*Books Monthly*)

"...spectacular work..." (*FAM Historia Militaria*)

"The variety of both softskin and armoured vehicles illustrated within the book will please many modellers while the overall history provides a detailed and interesting picture of the armed forces of an important ally of Germany in the Axis powers." (*Military Model Scene*)

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A high quality, sturdy book which should be sat on all serious historian's reference book shelves...A highly recommended piece of work. (*Military Modelling.com*)

About the Author

Dipl. Eng. Denes Bernad was born in 1964 in Transylvania (Rumania), in a family of indigenous ethnic Hungarians. He studied at the Transylvanian University in Brasov, where he graduated in 1988 as a Mechanical Engineer. From 1992 he lived in Canada, and in 2006 he returned with his family to Hungary. Currently, he works in the automotive industry as Program Launch Manager. He is fluent in three languages. His main interest is the military history of Central and Eastern Europe, especially Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria. His books deal especially with air forces and aircraft of these countries. He has written or co-authored seventeen historical books. Aside from the above books, Denes Bernad has published many studies concerning the history of aviation in *Air Enthusiast*, *Air International* and *FlyPast* (UK), *WW1 Aero* (USA), *Avions* (France), *Repules*, *Aero Historia* and *Uj Szarnyak* (Hungary), *Militaria* and *Skrzydlat Polska* (Poland) and *Aeronatica*, *Aeromagazin* and *Model-Ist* (Rumania). He is also the founding member of the *Asociatia pentru Propagarea Istoriei Aviatiei* (ARPIA) - Association for Propagation of History of Aviation (Bucharest, Rumania) and *Magyar Repulestorteneti Tarsasag* (MRT) - Hungarian Society of Aviation History (Budapest, Hungary). He is also a foreign correspondent of the French aviation magazine *Avions*. Charles K. Kliment was born in 1932 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He studied polymer chemistry at the Technical University in Prague, and specialised in the research of hydrogels for medical, cosmetic and industrial uses. In 1969 he emigrated with his family to USA. He retired in 2001 and lives in Princeton, New Jersey. Already during the Second World War he began his interest in military history and combat weapons. During these years, he assembled a large collection of war-time photographs, documents and memoirs. He specialises in AFVs, especially in the history of tanks, developed in the pre-war Czechoslovakia and their

use in Second World War. This was a topic of his first published book, Czechoslovak Armoured Vehicles 1918-1945, published by Bellona Press, UK (1978). Besides that, he has authored eight further books, translated two others, and published many articles in historical and modelling magazines, such as Military History, AFV News, Airfix Magazine. He also co-operates with various military museums and armoured vehicles restorers.

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