

WWI Medals and Documents of Salamon PAKTOROVICS

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Two service medals awarded to my Grandfather during World War I
(obverse and reverse views)

1.



The medal above appears to be a decoration of the Red Cross for meritorious service.

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2.



The decoration on the right doesn't appear in any of the photos, but is an *Eisernes Verdienstkreuz, mit der Krone* ("EVK. m. d. Kr.", Iron Cross for Merit, with an imperial crown) clearly authenticated by the "*Legitimation für Besitzer des EVK.*" that accompanied the medal in its original box.

The following information about the *Eisernes Verdienstkreuz* (Iron Cross for Merit) was obtained from a page of the [WWI Document Archive](#) entitled "[Medals](#)"

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[of Austria-Hungary](#)" (Page © 1998 Micheal Shackelford): "Awarded to soldiers or civil servants of lower rank for merit. This decoration was instituted on 1 April 1916 and could be awarded with or without an imperial crown. For service at the front, gilt swords attached to the ribbon were instituted on 13 December 1916. The cross could be suspended on the ribbon of the Bravery Medal in case of war merit or on a plain red ribbon for merit in times of peace. Awards of the latter kind were apparently never made. The obverse has a central medaillion in which the imperial monogram "FJ" (Franz Joseph) is placed within an inner circle bearing the motto "VIRIBUS UNITIS" (by united forces). The reverse bears the year of institution '1916' within a stylised wreath. *The larger part of recipients of this decoration can be found among members of the medical corps [my italics], the field railroad corps and the military postal services.*" (Text by Michael Shackelford and Hendrik Meersschaert.)

A pair of certificates that may have accompanied the Red Cross award.

The following certificates are made out for *Reserve Feldwebel* Salamon PAKTOROVICS (interestingly, with his rank given in German, but his surname given first in the Hungarian manner). The certificates are dated 15 April 1916, while the Red Cross medal is dated 1914, which would seem to contradict any association; however, the date on the medal might refer to the date of its institution (suggested by the 50 year range between the two dates, 1864-1914), and perhaps could have been given for service in a subsequent year.

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The Hungarian language version



The German language version



