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(unless otherwise noted)

*The New Front:*  
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History Preservation Society)**

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International Hungarian Military History  
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and includes both the *Magyar Front* and  
the *New Hungarian Voice* periodicals.

***The original Magyar Front was the  
weekly newspaper of the Front-Line  
Fighter's Association, and was  
published from the early 1930s until  
the end of the Second World War.***

## *A note from the Editor*

I have always believed that the greatest treasures can be found very close by – often right under our noses. Precious family mementos are usually among them and are universally cherished, however, a more in-depth examination and understanding can enrich us even more, and propel us towards enlightenment. Studying anything from different perspectives is guaranteed to facilitate understanding and improvement, and the resulting knowledge, put to practical use, can be exhilarating. I would like to refer to two things, and their synergy that represents, to me, our “new front.”

Not long ago, I distanced myself from the Hungarian Veterans' Association (MHBK) after ten years of faithful service. Although I was well aware of the prevalent xenophobia among my elders, I looked the other way, knowing that it is often difficult to let go of out-dated ways of thinking. As the leadership aged, and the organization's mandate seemed to lean ever more precariously to the far-right, I found that I could no longer pursue the study of military history objectively while associating myself with such obsolete company.

It was at this time that MHBK Vancouver Chapter member George Hennessy shared some information with me about his father's military service. A few years ago, this Australian citizen joined the Sydney Chapter of the MHBK after rekindling his interest in his family's military history. His father was a frontline fighter during the Second World War, and his grandfather was one during the First. As George shared his family photos and information with me, it became clear that we had a unique case on our hands – one that would not have been brought to light while under the auspices of the MHBK. Although the story was full of many of the martial situations we have dealt with in the past, a significant part of it has to do with aspects of our history that most Hungarians try to forget – as the parts of our past that we are not proud of, are often ignored.

George Hennessy bravely stepped forward to share a painful part of being Hungarian, and together, we examined it all very carefully. I asked him to write his father's story for us, and he graciously did so, and in the meantime, our scrutiny of the case revealed significant historical information that I am sure you will all find fascinating. Our journey was buoyed up by a number of helpful and bright people – Lorraine Weideman, Péter v. Laborc, Gergely Sallay, Judy Young, Ágnes Vashegyi MacDonald and Ajtony Virágh.

George's father is 98 years-old, and often apologises for not remembering things the way he used to. So many documents were destroyed after the Second World War, and the combination of these elements leave us with several missing pieces of the puzzle. Colleagues, more knowledgeable than I, have recommended that I wait to publish the results, however, I believe that it is timely to do so now – perhaps bringing it to the attention of the public will stir more memories and bring forward more facts.

Taking everything into account, Bandy's is a *Hungarian* story, and my role in presenting it to you fills me with pride. I only wish that so many years hadn't passed before acknowledging these brave Hungarian gentlemen.

On the facing page is a portrait of Endre Hitesi in his Hungarian officer's uniform displaying the rank of *zászlós*. Over his left breast pocket are the “Fire-Cross,” or *Tűskereszt*, awarded for frontline service; and the Reclamation of Upper Hungary, Transylvania and Southern Hungary Commemorative Medals. The reverse of the photo is pictured below it, and the inscription reads:

*I was able to survive the difficult times of the Arrow Cross regime in this disguise,  
which also made it possible for me to help many others in the same predicament.*

*In commemoration and with love,*

*Endre Hitesi. Budapest, November 2nd, 1946.*

*P.Cz.*

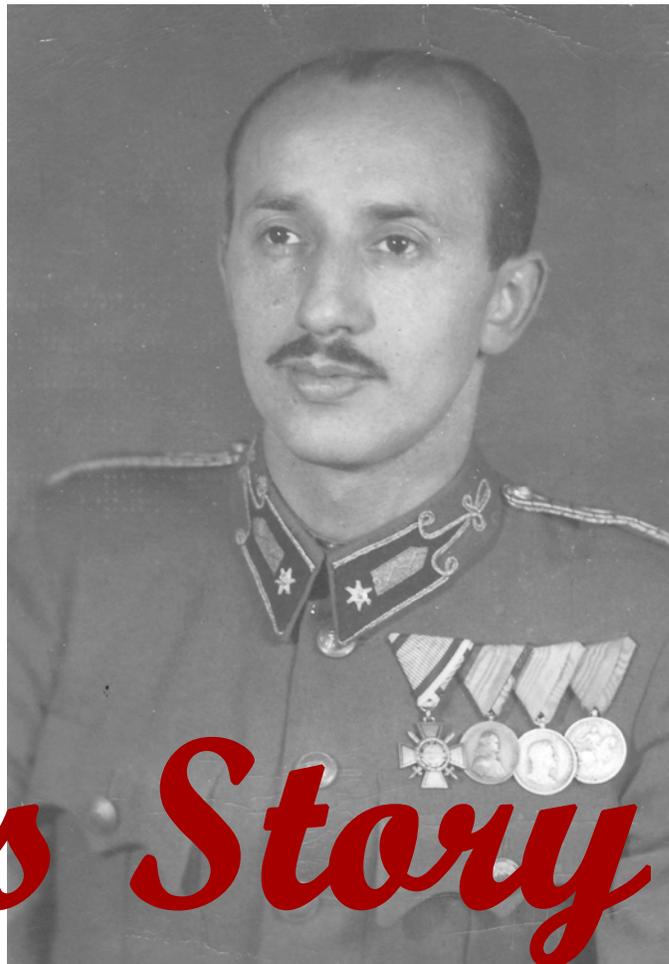
## *Our Cover:*

An unidentified, former officer and official of the Hungarian Frontline Fighters' Association, decorated with the Knight's Cross of the Imperial Austrian Order of Franz Joseph on War Ribbon (most likely with Swords), two Military Merit Medals on War Ribbon with Swords, the Red Cross Badge of Honour Second Class with War Decoration, Emperor Charles Troops' Cross, the Medal for the Wounded, the World War I Commemorative Medal with Swords and Helmet, the 1908 Military Jubilee Cross and the 1912-1913 Commemorative Cross. The last medal is unidentified.

Endre Hitesi, called Bandi by those closest to him, was born in 1910 into a middle class Budapest family. He was the youngest of three children, having two older sisters. His father Jenő was a decorated soldier who served in the Royal Hungarian Army during the First World War - Bandi remembered the day he left when he was only four years old, returning four years later, never having had a single day's leave during the entire conflict.

Jenő Hitesi had established a large and prosperous shoe importing business in Budapest, and after graduating from Szent István High School, Bandi joined his father in the family business. Although they were not religious, the Hitesi family had Jewish roots, and at that time one Jewish grandparent was enough to define a person as being Jewish. The Numerus Clausus Act - legislation in Hungary that limited the rights of Hungarian Jews - prevented Bandi from entering university, but he did quite well nevertheless, and even bought himself a car.

At the outbreak of World War II, eligible Hungarian citizens were subject to conscription, however, people of Jewish descent were instead placed into labour battalions, which at the time were recognized units of the army. Members of these battalions wore uniforms and were subject



HENNESSY COLLECTION

# *by George Hennessy* Bandi's Story

A nehéz és nyilas  
időket ebben az ál-  
ruhában sikerült át-  
vészelem.

Ugyancsak a ruha tet-  
te lehetővé, hogy  
sok üldözött sorstá-  
rsamon segíteni  
tudtam.

Megemlékezésül sze-  
retettel

Bpest, 1946. XI. 2

*Endre Hitesi*

to military laws and discipline, but carried no arms of any kind. In due course Bandi had to report to one of these units which was located outside Budapest, and travelled there in his car. Not entitled to a rank, he did qualify to wear the so-called "intelligence stripe" because he was a high school graduate.

The Hungarian Army was suffering from a serious shortage of all kinds of vehicles - the labour battalions especially so, since priority was given to the fighting units. A number of the commanding officers of these labour units were ex-World War I veterans called out of retirement - some still wearing their First World War uniforms. Many of these officers acted decently towards their Jewish personnel, diligently carrying out their duties of organizing labour, such as digging defensive trenches and tank traps. Later on during the Second World War, anti-Semitism became more blatant - fuelled by pressure from Nazi Germany, and cases of intolerant and even sadistic treatment of labour unit personnel have been documented.

As it happened, the Commanding Officer of Bandi's battalion was one of the decent ones who carried out his duties without any cruelty to those under him. On learning that Bandi actually had a car at the battalion (which had no mechanised transport of its own), he immediately installed Bandi as his official driver. They travelled to Budapest many times, where the CO would be invited to Bandi's home



During 1940-41, members of labour units were only issued a cap, without the national cockade, and an armband. Bandi, (second from left), and his comrades wear a particularly smart, unknown uniform, while some of their caps, each with the cockade, sport the traditional *topán* cap decoration on the side.

for proper meals – surely a welcome reprieve to the regular military fare. These circumstances developed a good relationship between the two of them, and Bandi remembers that unlike thousands of others, his time in the labour battalion had not been as terrible as it might have been. Two of his friends, who would write about their mistreatment to their wives, were not so fortunate, having served in another battalion.

So far, Bandi's story was no doubt interesting, however, it would soon turn into an incredible one. While away with his unit, a letter arrived at his home in Budapest ordering him to report for duty in the regular army. A family member delivered this call-up order to Bandi, who immediately showed it to his commanding officer. The CO determined that since Hungary was at war, this extraordinary order to report to the regular army for active duty took precedence over his earlier conscription into the labour battalion. He was released and reported as ordered for active service.

He was posted to an engineering bridge building unit. They were mechanized, and used Hungarian designed tractors which towed pontoons capable of being joined together to form the foundations for floating bridges. This unit, being part of the Royal Hungarian Army, was deployed to Russia. At a point shortly before, or just after the commencement of an enormous counter attack by the Red Army, Bandi claims to have received an unprecedented field promotion to *zászlós* (the lowest officer rank in the Hungarian Army). Massive artillery and tank bombardment destroyed his unit – a great many lives were lost. In fact, the Royal Hungarian Army itself was decimated. Surviving troops eventually made their way back to Hungary as best they could.

Toward the end of the Second World War, the far-right, Nazi influenced Arrow Cross seized the reins of power in Hungary, and Bandi found his own family and many friends in mortal danger due to their Jewish heritage. The advancing Red Army, Allied saturation bombing and mounting losses added to a chaotic resentment among the population of Hungary – while excesses ran rampant. Bandi became determined to do his best to do what he could to counter the

*Continued on page 10...*



Seated next to Lieutenant Erdélyi, Bandi distributes pay to his labour unit comrades.

**M. kir. 203/15. sz.**

**Táb. Zs. Munkásszázad**

A re-creation of the armband worn by Endre Hitesi and his comrades in the above left photograph.

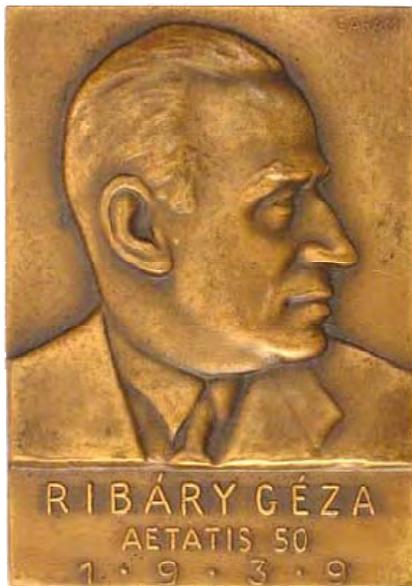
The numerals 3 and 5 may not be correct, as they were not particularly legible, even under high magnification.

The text reads: *M(agyar) K(irályi) 203/15. sz(ámú) Táb(ori) Zs(idó) Munkásszázad*, or Royal Hungarian 203/15 Jewish Field Labour Company. By the spring of 1941, regulations prescribed yellow armbands for Jews, national-colour ones for members of ordinary labour units, and white ones for Christians and those converted to Christianity.

## MYSTERIOUS PHOTOS FROM THE HITESI FAMILY ALBUM

The top photo shows Bandi and some of his labour unit comrades in civilian clothes, along with Sergeant László Benkő, a WW I veteran and contemporary of Bandi's father, who also served as a frontline fighter in the First World War. They are in what looks like a makeshift office of some kind.

The second photo was most likely taken in the same room, the large table now used for dining. 4th and 5th from the left are Bandi's parents, and the officer with the moustache is the labour unit CO, Captain Gyula Gábor. Standing beside him is a famous man - Lieutenant Dr. Géza Ribáry, a World War I veteran, lawyer and writer, who was the vice-president of the Országos Magyar Zsidó Segítő Akció (OMZSA), or the National Hungarian Jewish Support Program. The organization helped with compensation for Jewish Hungarians' financial losses caused by the (anti-) Jewish laws. Caricatures of both officers are displayed on the wall.



The bottom photograph is one of many that clearly shows a familiar intimacy between the officers, their men, and the Hitesi family. Dr. Ribáry is being hauled around in a cart decorated with representations of posted letters, one of which sports a treble clef. The reasons for these unusual events are still unknown - in fact, the identity of this well known champion of Jewish-Hungarian rights was also unknown until the photographs were examined for this article.



HENNESSY COLLECTION



HENNESSY COLLECTION

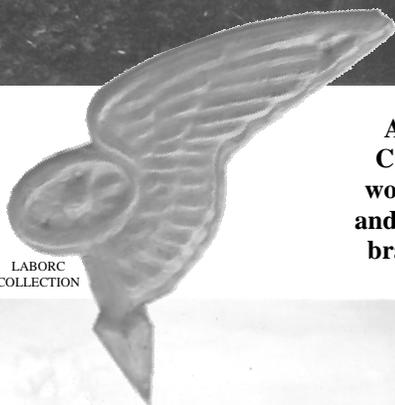


HENNESSY COLLECTION



HENNESSY COLLECTION

Above: An interesting series of photos of a field award ceremony - the unit's CO presents medals to some of the men. Left: The Motorized Troops' Badge, worn sewn on the left arm of the tunic. It was made out of aluminum for NCOs and other ranks, gold coloured (later embroidered) for officers; and backed with branch-of-service coloured wool (shown 1.5 times actual size of 3.5cm x 3.8cm)



LABORC COLLECTION



HENNESSY COLLECTION

Above: Images of Bandi's outfit - the *magyar királyi első lovas dandár gépkocsizó hadihídanyag oszlop*, or the Motorised Bridge-Building Support Unit of the Royal Hungarian 1st Cavalry Brigade. In the photo on the right, he stands in the middle of the boat, wearing a field cap.

Below left: Bandi continues the administrative tasks he was entrusted with during his service in the labour unit. The middle photo is another curiosity - captured Soviet gasmasks are pressed into service as headlight dimmers. On the right, Hitesi, and other frontline soldiers pose in front of a knocked-out Soviet T-26 S tank.

HENNESSY COLLECTION



A letter home from the Russian Front, dated October 11th, 1941.

The translation is provided below. Some of Bandi's words are particularly poignant:

"I hope though, that even if not at this moment, there will come a time when a person of good character will be distinguished from a bad person, and that *that* will be the criteria for the likelihood of his staying alive, rather than the religion recorded on his birth certificate."

Orosz harctér, 1941. október 11.

Drága Jó Szüleim !

Most bizony jó pár napig nem is remélhetek levelet kaphatni Tőletek, részben a pósta meglassulása, részben a táboriszám változása és harmadszor a vezénylésem miatt. Legkésőbb holnapután megyek át az új beosztásom helyére és ott iamét más címem és más számom lesz. A legtermészetesebb, hogy ezt akonnal közölni fogom, míg a nekem érkező leveleket, egy bajtársam aki itt majd a postát kezelni fogja, a legrövidebb uton utánam küldi. Egyelőre oca 100 km távolságba leszek csak a régi oszloptól és így néha át is rucoanhatok a postáért, elvégre az itteni méretek mellett az nem is távolság. Remélem, hogy a beosztásom ott is megfelelő lesz és ott is ki fogom érdemelni, hogy jó bizonyítványt kérhessek és kaphassak majd a leszereléskor. Itt ha már a leszerelésről írok, meg kell írjam, hogy nem sok reményem van arra, hogy november vége előtt hazakerülhessek, de ez azt hiszem a legvégső terminus. Bár háboruban vagyunk és itt minden számítás felborulhat az egyik pereről a másikra, és ugyanugy tévedhetek egy hónapot előre, mint hátra.

Magam hála Istennek még mindig változatlanul egészséges vagyok, még egy náthám sem volt, étvágyam kitűnő, csak rosszul alszom. Az idő lassan telésre fordul éjjel elég erős fagyok, nappal 0-5 fokig emelkedik a hőmérséklet. Ugy látzszik kincstári téli ruhát mi már nem kapunk / ez is jele a hazamenésnek/ de szerencsémre és hála a feleségem erőszakosságának nekem van több mint elég téli holmim.

Nagyon nehezen várom már a híreket az üzleti vonatkozásu dolgokban. Talán már időközben el is dőlt jobbra vagy balra a sorsunk és én nem, hogy részt ne vehetek annak alakulásában, de még csak tájékozva sem lehetek róla. Szerencsétlenség azamba megy, hogy ha már nekem katonának kell lennem, ugyanakkor kell odáhaza mindennek megtörténnie. Legalább külön-külön időpontban lett volna, talán sok minden másképen alakulhatott volna. De remélem, hogyha pillanatnyilag nem is, lesz még idő amikor a tisztességes embert megkülönböztetik a gazemberektől és ez lesz a kritériuma a megélhetés lehetőségének és nem a születési bizonyítvány vallás rovata.

Nem tudom hány napig megy most a pósta hasafelé, elkésni nem akarok vele, ezért már most arra kérek Anyukámtól, hogy a hó 27-én reggelre küldj pár szál virágot a feleségemnek születés napjára és mellékelj hozzá az idecsatolt névjegyet. Közszüntöm előre is a fáradozásodat.

Legutóbbi leveletekben semmi sem volt egészségi állapotokról. Okvetlen kimerítően irjatok a legközelebb erről is, mert ez az ami engem mindennél jobban érdekel.

Nagymamát, Böszöket sokszor csókolom, Kiszaszonyt egyéb személyesetet üdvözölöm, titeket nagyon - nagyon sokszor csókol igaz szeretettel. *fiatok*

HENNESSY COLLECTION

The Russian Front, October 11, 1941

My Dear Parents!

For the next few days I cannot even hope to receive any letters from you, partly because the mail has slowed down, partly due to a camp number change, and thirdly due to my orders. The day after tomorrow at the latest I am moving across to my new position, and there I will have a new address and a new number. Of course I will let you know these immediately, meanwhile with letters arriving for me, a colleague who will be handling the mail here will send it after me by the fastest method. For the time being, I will be about 100km from my old post and occasionally I will go across for the mail, as judging by measurements here this is comparatively not a great distance. I hope my posting there will be ok and that there too I can earn, ask for and receive a good reference when I get discharged. Since I am writing about discharge, I need to say that there is not much hope that I can get home before the end of November, but I believe that would be the latest. Of course we are at war, and any plan can come undone from one moment to the next, and similarly I could be a month ahead or a month behind.

Thank God I am in continuing good health, I haven't even had a cold, my appetite is excellent, only I am not sleeping well. The weather is slowly turning to winter, at night there are quite strong frosts, by day the temperature climbs to between 0 and 5. It appears we will not be issued any winter clothing, (which is a sign of going home) but fortunately and thanks to the forcefulness of my wife I have more than enough winter clothing.

I can hardly wait for news about the business. In the meantime our lot may have already been decided, and not only can I not take part in decisions, I don't even get to hear about it. It is my bad luck that if I have to be away as a soldier, everything has to happen at the same time at home. Perhaps if they happened at different points of time, everything might have turned out differently. I hope though, that even if not at this moment, there will come a time when a person of good character will be distinguished from a bad person, and that that will be the criteria for the likelihood of his staying alive, rather than the religion recorded on his birth certificate.

I don't know how many days it takes for the mail to arrive home, I don't want to be late with it, so therefore dear mother, on the 27th in the morning, send a few flowers to my wife on her birthday and attach the enclosed card, Thank you in advance for your trouble.

There was nothing in your last letter about your health. Definitely write about this next time, as this interests me more than anything.

Many kisses to Grandmother and Bozsi, greetings to the staff and to you all many kisses, with true love, your son.

Bandi

Continued on page 11...



Above left: Endre Hitesi, second from right with side-arm, poses with Hungarian and German comrades around an anti-aircraft gun on the Russian Front. Right: Hitesi and his CO, Lt. György Vali, on a knocked-out Soviet T-34 tank.

...continued from page 4

Arrow Cross and to safeguard his loved ones. In an officer's uniform, he formed and commanded an armed underground unit operating from a bombed-out factory. Here they engaged in the production of forged papers for use by those who needed most to escape the attention of the Arrow Cross.

One day Bandi drove in a military vehicle to the labour unit where his two friends were posted, as news had arrived that they believed that they would be unlikely to survive much longer. Still seemingly a member of the regular Hungarian Army, he feigned engine trouble and, pretending that he didn't recognise his two friends, ordered them to push his vehicle. As soon as they were at a safe distance, they jumped in and they all returned to Budapest.

One day after the Red Army entered the capital, Bandi, still in uniform, heard Russian voices outside. Not wanting

to be captured as a Hungarian soldier, he buried his uniform and medals under some rubble and donned civilian clothing, narrowly escaping a term in Siberia as a POW.

For two years Bandi and his family tried to put their lives back together, but by 1948 it was apparent that communism was there to stay, and life, as he once knew it, would never be the same again. He left Hungary behind and moved to Australia with his family, the two friends he had rescued and their families.

Bandi is alive today – 98 years-old, now in a nursing home and hardly able to walk. He still can be engaged in meaningful discussions and he even retains his old sense of humour. Recently, he happily went through all of his army photos with me, dutifully identified the people he remembered – then, as his memories faded, he promptly asked for his lunch, and left his past for us history buffs to deal with.

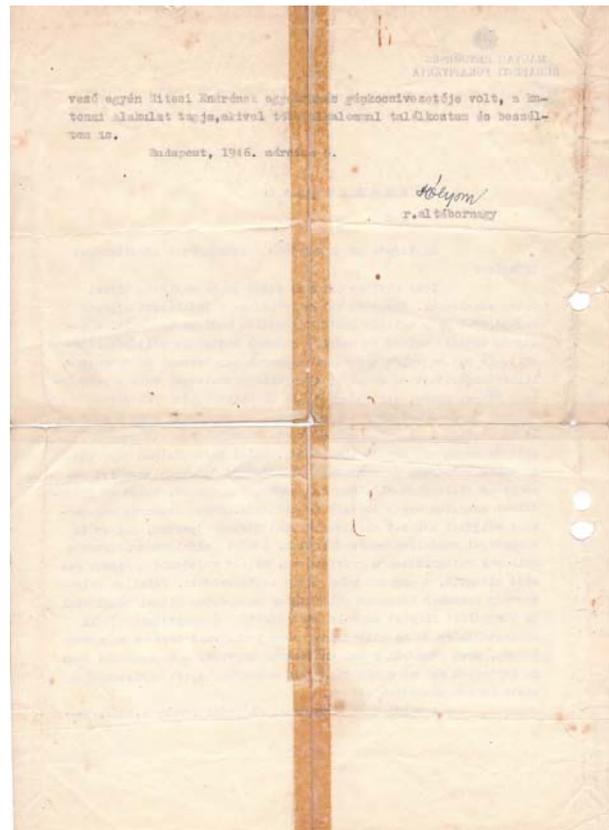
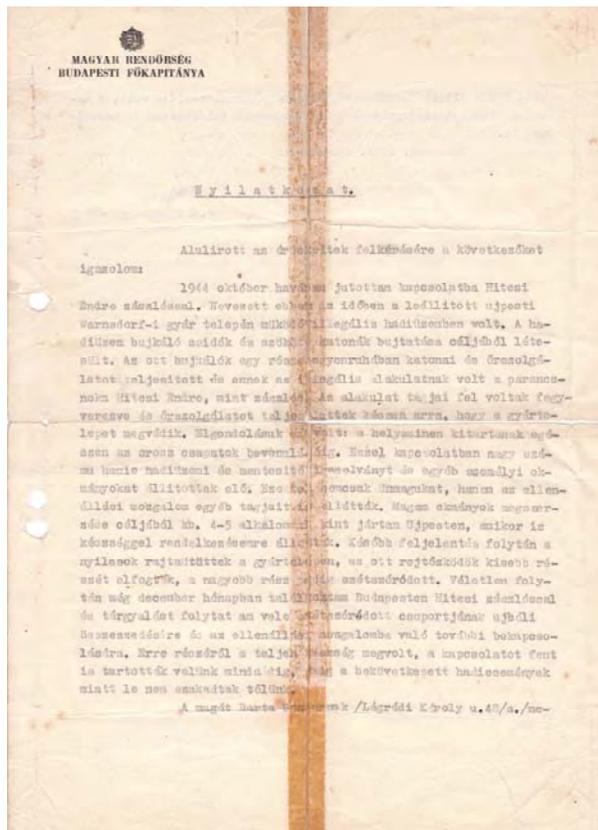
Csapatnév	1. lov. dd. gk. hidag. oszlop	Bevonulás előtti utolsó lakóhelye (kódsz. megve)	Budapest 11. Budaörs u. 7
Anyakönyvi igazolás		év, hó, nap	1940. nov. 30
Anyakönyvi száma		hely	Budaörs
Rendfokozat	Karp. ak	járás	
Foglalkozás	tisztviselő	megye (orvrégi)	
Családi- és utónév	Hitesei Endre	Vallás	izr
Atya neve	Hites Endre	hímlő	1940 október
Szállóanyja (anyakönyvi neve)	Hites Erzsébet	typhus	7
Házasitása (anyakönyvi neve)	Hites Erzsébet	choletra	9

Az elhalálozásról értesítendő pontos címe	Budaörs, Budaörs u. 7, Budapest 11.	Mikor halt meg (év, hó, nap s ha megállapítható óra is)	
Az elhalálozásról a megjelölt hozzátartozó mikor értesítetett		Hol halt meg	
Az elhalálozását igazolótanak ajánlatkozó aláírása		A halál oka	
A halotti azonosítást bizonyító egyéb bejegyzések		Mikor	
		Hol	
		Ki	
		Mikor	
		Hol	
		Ki	

Above: Both sides of one of Endre Hitesi's ID locket documents.

His unit is abbreviated to *M. kir. 1. lov. dd. gk. hidag. oszlop*, and his rank is listed as *Karp. ak* - we are not absolutely sure what the "ak" stands for, but "Karp." means "Karpaszományos" - *karpaszomány*, literally "arm braid" refers to the stripes he wore on his tunic's sleeves denoting his status as a high-school graduate. Under "occupation," he is noted to be a *tisztviselő*, or clerk. His religion is clearly listed as "izr" - *izraelita* (Jewish). Along the side of the document is a very brief last will and testament: "Általános örökösöm feleségem" - "My wife is my sole heiress." This ID document is for the regular Hungarian Army, and would have been issued to him after his time of service in the labour unit.

Below: An official declaration of Endre Hitesi's participation and leadership in the anti-fascist resistance, written by Budapest's Chief-of-Police Lieutenant General László Sólyom. Sólyom, an advocate of democratic reform in Hungary, was executed a few years later by the communist authorities.



DECLARATION.

At the request of the interested parties, I, the undersigned, certify the following:

I came in contact with zaszlos Endre Hitesi during the month of October, 1944. He was at the time at the illegal munitions works operating on the premises of the Warnsdorf factory at Ujpest, which was closed down. The munitions works was established to provide refuge for Jews and escaped soldiers living in hiding. Some of those in hiding provided military and guard duties, dressed in uniforms, and Endre Hitesi as a zaszlos was the commander of this formation. The members of the formation were armed and kept guard prepared to defend the establishment. Their intentions were to defend the place until Russian troops entered. In connection with this they prepared a great number of forged military and exemption certificates and other personal documents. With these they provided not only themselves but also other members of the resistance movement. I myself went to Ujpest on some 4 or 5 occasions in order to obtain documents, at which times they readily assisted me. Later, after having been exposed, the Arrow Cross raided the factory, caught some of the people hiding there, and the rest dispersed. Accidentally I again met zaszlos Hitesi during the month of December and had discussions with him for the reorganization of his dispersed group and its further activities within the framework of the resistance movement. There was complete readiness on his part to achieve this aim and contact was maintained with us until, due to military developments they were separated from us.

The person calling himself Sandor Barta, of 48a Legrady Karoly Street was the uniformed driver of Endre Hitesi, a member of the military formation, whol I had met and had talked to on several occasions.

Budapest, 1946, March 5th

(signed) Solyom  
Police Lieutenant General

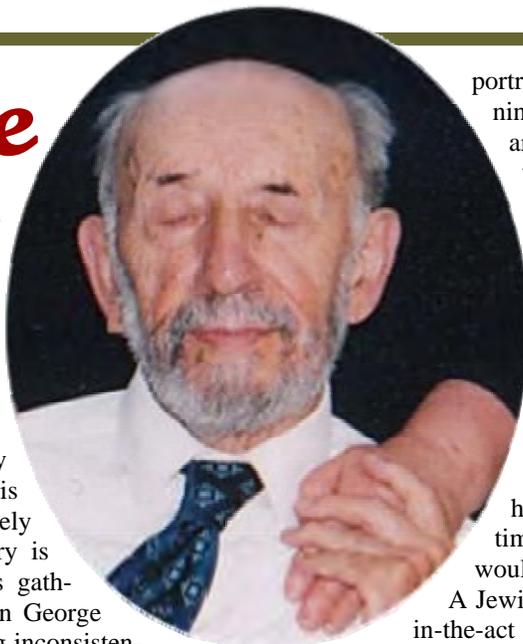
# Epilogue

When I first asked George Hennessy to write an article about his father, I never would have imagined that we would end up examining it in such detail. Bandi's Story was put together from what George had learned over the years, and from his dad's own personal reminiscences. Unfortunately, George only developed a serious interest in his father's military career relatively recently, and today, Bandi's memory is clouded from so many recollections gathered over his many years. So, when George was finished, I noticed a few puzzling inconsistencies, and questions arose - from other historians as well.

Lively discussion followed, and I requested high resolution scans of the Hennessy photos - then a systematic examination of all of the material commenced. The most glaring anomaly was Bandi's recollection of being promoted to officer rank - something he adamantly stands by to this day. He remembers being promoted in the field on the Russian Front, however, no documentation can be found. He certainly was there, his dog-tag papers exist, his unit is known, and he has 146 personal photos that are irrefutable evidence of his participation. The photos show him with a side-arm and performing tasks that would indicate responsibility and leadership - he is, without a doubt, a highly intelligent and educated gentleman. Anti-Jewish laws at that time stripped the rights from Jewish-Hungarians, and Jews were not allowed to become army officers - in fact, the ranks of considerable numbers of Jewish officers and soldiers (many of whom were WW I veterans), were taken away as well. The fact that Bandi was even in the army at that time, with the word "Jewish" on his ID papers - a soldier fighting alongside German troops - is mystifying.

Prior to his service in the army, he served in a labour unit, as many of his fellow Jewish-Hungarians did (the fact that he was later transferred into the regular army may even be unprecedented). His labour service, however, is also highly unusual. He and his comrades wear peculiar uniforms and interact freely with high ranking Hungarian army officers. Careful examination of his 47 photographs from that time revealed that one of the officers was a famous First World War artillery lieutenant, lawyer and champion of Jewish-Hungarian rights - Dr. Géza Ribáry, who appears in no less than 12 candid snapshots from Bandi's family albums. Here too, we see Bandi executing tasks far more significant than a simple soldier or labourer would be expected to perform.

After 1941, it would have been impossible for Jewish-Hungarians to have been allowed any roles in the army, or in other fields or services, for that matter; and it is most likely that Bandi lived as a civilian again for a few years. It was in 1944, when the Arrow Cross, or Hungarian Nazis, came to power, when Bandi again put on a uniform. His impressive



portrait as an officer appears at the beginning of this article, complete with his array of medals - his military participation would have easily qualified him for the awards, but Jewish-Hungarians weren't allowed those either - even their Hungarian citizenship was taken from them.

Today, Bandi remembers little about the resistance, but a few documents still exist to prove his significant participation. I have a feeling that it was his role as a fighter and leader in those dark days that might have been even more significant than his time on the frontline - they certainly would have been more dangerous for him.

A Jewish-Hungarian resistance fighter caught-in-the-act in a Hungarian army uniform would have been executed on the spot. I am sure that anti-Semitism followed Bandi to Australia too, so consequently he made very little of his activities near the end of the war.

Bandi's Story is far from being truly finished - there is still a lot to learn, and it is my hope that bringing it to light might help in uncovering more evidence and recollections. Ever since I was a boy I was drawn to old soldiers and I used to demand to hear their stories as far back as I can remember - and over the years I have had the pleasure to meet a great many brave fighters. Even with a few pieces of the puzzle still missing, I am certain that there haven't been any quite as inspiring as Bandi's Story.

*P.Cz.*



**Lieutenant Dr. Géza Ribáry addresses a unit of Hungarian labour troops, standing at attention somewhere in Hungary, around 1940. Behind him, with another officer, is Endre Hitesi.**

## “OUR ORGANIZATION’S INSIGNIA IN AUSTRALIA”

This article from the original Hungarian veterans’ newspaper, the *Magyar Front* (August 15th, 1937), tells about how World War I veterans in Australia, “fighting under the British flag,” requested the Hungarian Veterans’ Association for a shield shaped badge for mounting in the pedestal of their memorial. The insignia, pictured here, was promptly sent to the land down-under.



This monument to Dr. Gábor Zsoldos, decorated with a World War II Hungarian helmet, was photographed at Sydney, Australia’s main cemetery recently by George Hennessy while he was searching for the monument mentioned in the *Magyar Front* article.

## Szövetségünk jelvénye Ausztráliában

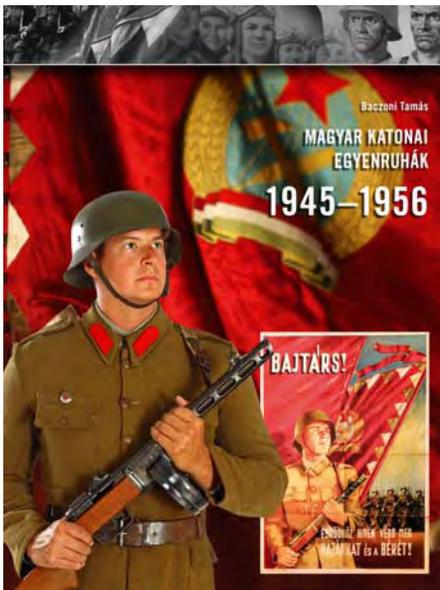
A *Magyar Frontban* annak idején hírt adtunk róla, hogy az *Ausztrália* területén lakó, a világháborúban a brit lobogó alatt küzdött frontharcosok



*Sidney-ben* hősi emlékművet emeltek és kérték, hogy az *Országos Frontharcos Szövetség* küldje meg nekik paizsjelvényét a hősi emlékmű talapzatába való beépítés végett.

A jelvény elkészült s már útban van *Ausztrália* felé, hogy a messze tengerentúl is hirdesse a *magyar katona* dicsőségét.

# MAGYAR KATONAI EGYENRUHÁK 1945 - 1956



*Hungarian Army Uniforms 1945 - 1956* is a beautifully illustrated new Hungarian language reference book by Major Dr. Tamás Baczoni of the Military History Institute and Museum.

It's a companion volume to *Uniforms of the Royal Hungarian Armed Forces*, by Dr. László Tóth in hardcover (23cm x 31cm, 207 pages).

This comprehensive work details the uniforms of the immediate post-WW II Hungarian armed forces with full colour photographs of extremely rare, short-lived military items. The communist Rákosi era, Soviet inspired uniforms and equipment are superbly documented, as is the brief period of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

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