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**CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS IN THE HUNGARIAN ARMED FORCES
IN THE 20TH-21ST CENTURIES**

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I. Aim of the research

The primary objective of this thesis is to clarify and introduce the following concepts: memory - historical memory, tradition - tradition care, heritage protection of artefacts and objects of military history, military holidays and commemorations. It also aims to synthesise and transfer knowledge in the above areas to teachers, civilian and military professionals in the field of education and training. In this spirit, the dissertation can provide a basis for the realisation of national strategic objectives, such as the incorporation and application of traditions rooted in the past in the education of young generations and in other areas of cultural life.

The topic can be placed in the timeline according to the following timeline: the Horthy era, the era of the Hungarian People's Army and the 30 years after the regime change. The dissertation attempts to outline the theoretical background of the legal framework of military holidays and commemorations and to present the practice. It discusses the debates and the results of the legislative process, and then gives examples of the ways in which military commemoration is expressed, from the ideation to the realisation, including the sites where it takes place. The history of the emergence, cultivation and nurturing of the heroic cult is outlined through a number of examples, presenting its central institutions, the Royal Hungarian Military Archives and Museum, established in 1918, but also the military units that actively preserved traditions and grassroots, comradeship initiatives.

Heroic monuments were spectacular instruments of tradition preservation, as well as the sites of the period between the two world wars, and the theatres of military commemorative politics. The dissertation presents the ideological and legal background, the practical implementation and the artistic aspects of the erection of memorials. It also discusses the cult of the patron saints in the armed forces and its survival after 1990. Particular emphasis is given to the veneration of Saint Barbara (Borbála in Hungarian) as an example.

The dissertation describes the system of religious, national and state holidays, covering the different periods, their celebration within the armed forces, their special aspects and the changes brought about by politics. Troop traditions play an important role.

The dissertation focuses on the impact of the politically and socially motivated cult of heroism and the preservation of military memory on the culture of the armed forces, their everyday life and the way they think.

Since its establishment in 1918, the Imperial Royal Hungarian Army has always played a prominent and proactive role in preserving and cherishing the memory of the heroes. Since 1918, the Museum and Institute of Military History (later the Royal Military Archives and the Royal Military Museum) has been a central and proactive partner in the development of the memory of the heroes. The dissertation therefore focuses on the history of the institution, its tasks and its role in society both in the past and present.

II. History of research, sources and methodology

Pursuant to Article XLIX of the Army Act of 1921, the name of the armed forces was changed to the Hungarian Royal Defence Forces from 1 January 1922. The new Defence Forces also sought to reflect Hungarian traditions in its image, but just as the uniforms, weapons and training of the Royal Hungarian Army, which had been established in 1868, were 'adapted' to the joint Austro-Hungarian army, so it was not possible to introduce new weapons and uniforms immediately after the First World War, thus the Defence Forces naturally followed the patterns of the former imperial and royal forces in the early 1920s.

The source material of military heritage can be divided into two distinct parts. One deals with the theoretical ideas, debates and differences of opinion, the other presents and provides information on the implementation. The theoretical part is basically contained in the archival documents. Here we can read about the debates and disagreements between the proposers of a law or regulation before it was enacted. In the archives, the final proposals were drawn up on the basis of all the material submitted. The events that took place in practice can be gleaned from works published during the period. The researcher will find it interesting to see how what was laid down by law or decree was preceded by controversy and how it was put into practice.

The primary starting point is the main legislation regulating the Hungarian Royal Defence Forces: the Act XLIX of 1921 on the Hungarian Royal Defence Forces, the Act II of 1939 on Defence, the Act of 1942 amending and supplementing Act II of 1939 on Defence, and the Act IV of 1938 on the recognition of the merits of the fire fighters of the 1914-1918 World War, and the Act of 1942 on the legal status of the organisation's personnel.

One part of the celebrations and commemorations is the military ones, which came into life within the defence forces. These and the participation of soldiers in them are regulated by special laws and regulations. This was particularly important because in the armed forces, where people of different nationalities, languages, religions, social status and classes were united in a common, lofty goal, their vocation and position required them to participate in social events and military festivities. In this connection, a number of works have been published which set out precisely the expected behaviour. It follows that it is of paramount importance to study and analyse the various regulations, even those that one might not think contain relevant passages. These include, for example, the regulations for the chaplaincy service in the field, the draft for the handling of special personal matters of officers (officer candidates, chaplains) of the Royal Hungarian Army, and the regulations marked A-37, which include the service regulations, the various service regulations and guidelines.

The majority of the source material of military tradition preservation can be found primarily in the collections of the Museum of Military History: the Poster and Small Print Collection, where printed regulations, orders, circulars, invitations, information leaflets can be read; the Handwritten Memorabilia Collection contains handwritten information leaflets, awards, certificates; the Object Collections preserve artefacts requiring special source research methods: cups and other memorabilia. To give specific examples, the St. Barbara scroll is in the Material Memorabilia Collection, while the St. Barbara sword is in the Cold Weapons Collection. There are objects of interest relating to military traditions and holidays in the Flag Collection (troop flags and flag ribbons), whose inscriptions can greatly assist research. They can provide information that has been missed in written sources. The same is true of the coins and badges hidden in the Numismatic Collection or the paintings in the Fine Arts Collection. The Book Collection and the Photographic Archives are, of course, a classic research base, with a wealth of contemporary photographs of military ceremonies, commemorations, memorials, war graves and grave and tablet dedications.

The most important written source material on the subject can be found in the Archives of Military History. These include documents relating to the Military History Archives and Museum and the Military Museum (foundation, operation, rules for collecting), and museum archival material (organisation and conduct of commemorative events; erection of heroes' monuments; anniversary celebrations - the recapture of Buda or commemorations of St Stephen's Day; guidelines for the care of military traditions; care of war graves; celebrations

related to the governor). The archives of the Chief of the Hungarian Royal Hungarian Defence Staff provide support in unravelling matters of academic principle, while the records of the district commands of the Hungarian Royal Hungarian Defence Forces between 1919 and 1945 provide information for local commemorations of troops. From 1 May 1922, the basic units of the Hungarian armed forces were the seven mixed brigades, which took over the functions of the military districts and the former divisions. The following mixed brigade commands were established in place of the liquidating district commands in the following Hungarian towns:

1. Budapest, 2. Székesfehérvár, 3. Szombathely, 4. Pécs, 5. Szeged, 6. Debrecen, 7. Miskolc.

The materials of the Presidency of the Hungarian Royal Ministry of Defence between 1919 and 1945 present matters of principle, resolutions, the process of naming barracks and military institutes, and the participation of military personnel in ceremonies and inaugurations.

In the Study Collection of the Military History Archives, we can find speeches, commemorations and the history of the creation of certain monuments.

If one wishes to study any aspect of the 20th century armed forces, there are some indispensable sources of literature, such as István Deák's *Once upon a time there was an officer corps. The Social and Political History of the Military Officers of the Habsburg Monarchy 1848-1918* and Tibor Hajdu's *Officers and the Middle Class 1850-1914*. Sándor Szakály's books and studies are indispensable for understanding officer life in the Horthy era. Although all three authors focused on the history of the development of the army and the career of the military officer.

For a basic knowledge of the military subject, in addition to the books listed above, the two-volume Military history of Hungary, which describes the organisation and role of the army, cannot be missed. Volume II of the book covers, among other things, the involvement in the First World War, the development of the armed forces of the Horthy era, and the participation in the Second World War.

However, direct reference books and general military history literature do not contain direct information on military holidays and their development, so other, less general sources had to be sought. These include, for example, contemporary-period materials: articles published in the Hungarian Military Review and - from 1931 - in the Hungarian Military Gazette (István Berkó: What do we celebrate on regimental days; How the idea of the unknown soldier was born; Ferenc Herczeg: Free-standing war memorials, military graves, memorial plaques and

memorial days; Endre Liber: Statues and memorial sites of Budapest or Sándor Molnár: Honvéd ünnepek; János Gabányi: Old Hungarian soldiers.)

As far as the processing and studies of holidays are concerned, there is no general summary work. These writings are limited to a single celebration, commemoration or cult. Changes, evolution and traditions are only partially addressed. There are even fewer works on military matters, such as those of Cs. Györgyi Kottra (The Cult of Capistran and the Patron Saints of the Hungarian Army and their Festivals) and Csaba Fazekas (Churches, Church Policy and Political Ideas in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy). The latter also mentions the feasts celebrated during the Austro-Hungarian period.

Several works deal with the most important, prominent memorial sites: the Heroes' Square and the Heroes' Memorial Stone (Imre Helgert: National Memorial Site of Heroes' Square; Imre Helgert - Lajos Négyesi: Heroes' Square; László Prohászka: The Millennium Monument).

However, the debates about the celebrations and the order in which they are celebrated are mainly based on archival sources. We can rely on the yearbooks, albums, notices, and military newspapers of the time: the Hungarian Wings; the Ludovician Levente; the Ludovician Yearbook; the Ludovician Academy Bulletins; the Yearbook of the Royal Hungarian Bolyai János Military Academy; the Bulletin of the Royal Hungarian Rákóczi Ferenc Military Academy (Rákóczi Military Academy, Sopron).

The regimental histories and memoirs reveal the period following the Great War, when the tragic memory of the war was still a burning, immediate scar on society and its cultivation still permeated both academic and everyday life. The regimental albums, written in unparalleled detail and containing a wealth of personal data, edited and published by surviving comrades, are a unique source of this period. They describe in full detail the important events in the life of the regiment, such as regimental days, wreath-laying ceremonies and commemorations (some examples are: History of the 29 th Honvéd infantry regiment; 76 th dough boy and the Great War or the history of the 31st Royal Hungarian Infantry Regiment of Veszprém).

The research on military holidays and traditions cannot avoid the role of the military oath, for which Csaba Horváth (The History of the Hungarian Military Oath) and Tibor Hetés (From the History of the Hungarian Military Oath and the Military Flag) are helpful.

The national commemorations and local celebrations are reported in the national daily newspapers (8 Órai Újság, A Mai Nap, Budapesti Közlöny, Déli Magyar Szó, Demokrácia, Esti

Kis Újság, Esti Kurír, Esti Magyarország, Esti Újság, Friss Újság, Függetlenég, Hétfő, Hétfői Magyarország, Képes Pesti Hírlap, Képes Vasárnap, Kis Újság, Magyar Élet, Magyar Erő, Magyar Jövő, Magyar Nemzet, Magyar Szó, Magyarország, Magyarság, Nemzeti Újság, Népszava, Összetartás, Pest, Pesti Hírlap, Reggeli Magyar Szó, Reggeli Magyarország, Szabad Nép, Szabadság, Tolnai Világlapja, Új Lap, Új Magyarság, Új Nemzedék, Újság, Vasárnapi Újság), while local events (even at the troop and garrison level) are covered by rural, local newspapers.

Of course, the fact that the collections of the Museum and Institute of Military History are freely searchable was a great help in the preparation of this thesis. Although, unlike other subjects, as has already been mentioned, there are material sources, the dissertation is based on written sources. The sections on historical periods are based primarily on bibliographical material and press publications. The recent digitisation 'revolution' in public collections has made much of the press material easily accessible. All of the specialised literature on the subject was available in the libraries of the Institute and Museum of Military History: the Military History Library and the Book Collection of the Museum of Military History.

As the thesis covers almost the entire period of the Austro-Hungarian Empire up to the present day, and this has stretched the scope of the dissertation, it could only outline the topic and present a few typical examples. In the contemporary sections, a modern type of source was added: internet portals.

A major difficulty in preparing the thesis was that almost all source types had to be subjected to sharp source criticism, as the politics of commemoration and celebration of events - in almost all periods - were politicised.

III. Structure of the thesis:

1. Historical memory - Sites of memory

Since the 1970s, the concept of national cultural heritage has become a highly complex political issue, and the simple elements of the heroic past that can be understood within a national framework have become much more complex, mainly due to a change in the way Western

European public thinking has been approached. This also includes the thinking of national minorities on this subject, who are also seeking to cultivate their own culture, which is linked to the mother nation, as part of their own efforts. This is why public collections, exhibitions and memorials are being created and renovated, and why increasing attention is being paid to the graves of soldiers who died heroically in the storms of history. This effort can be seen in tangible ways in the breakaway Hungarian territories, but also in the case of minorities in Hungary and in many other countries in Europe. By the end of the 20th century, those elements of cultural heritage that are particularly symbolic of our common national or transnational history had been defined in such a way that they could be managed from a cultural and conservation point of view, both objectively and otherwise.

2. Military holidays and commemorations

Before 1918, Hungarian men served in the Austro-Hungarian armed forces, whose task was to protect the multi-ethnic empire and maintain order. Therefore, soldiers were not educated primarily to love their homeland, but to be loyal and devoted to the Emperor and King who ruled the empire by the grace of God. Accordingly, the celebrations and traditions of the army were linked to the anniversaries, festivals and significant events of the monarchy, the Catholic Church and the army itself.

The chapter discusses the concepts and types of celebrations and commemorations, the ways in which military history is remembered, and the commemorations of heroes.

3. Military tradition and military history in the independent Hungarian armed forces

The forms of national military tradition are contemporary with the initial steps of the formation of the independent Hungarian armed forces. The official and, at the same time, social and other organisational frameworks for this process were established as early as 1918, after the final dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The most important custodians of the preservation of tradition were the Royal Hungarian War Museum, the Royal Hungarian War Archives (from 1922 onwards, in the Horthy era, two independent organisations) and, alongside

them, the armed forces themselves, as a third pillar in their own right. The chapter describes their development and role, as well as the guidelines and forms of cultivating military traditions.

4. Celebrating military traditions through events

The most typical military events and celebrations are described in detail in this chapter, including Defence Day, regimental, class, memorial, regimental birthday, commemorations, anniversaries of World War II events, 15th March and related external events.

5. Erection of heroes' memorials

The National Commission for the Commemoration of Heroes' Memorials is highlighted in this chapter, as well as the establishment of several memorials during the period. The commemorative bell of Rovereto, the "Heroes' League" actions, the Heroes' Forest, the Heroes' Church, the Heroes' Gate and the Heroes' Mausoleum, the Heroes' Bell are described.

6. Patron saints and military holidays

Great emphasis was placed on moral education, patriotic sentiments, national feeling and team spirit within Royal Hungarian Defence Forces. These included the revival of the cult of the patron saint of the armed forces, which began in the late 1920s. A patron saint or patron saint is a transcendent person who protects a territory, a community, a body or an individual. He helps in times of trouble and intercedes on behalf of the higher celestial spheres. The cult of the (patron) saint, which is specific to Christian culture, is a continuation of polytheism. In this chapter, I will describe the patron saints in Hungary and describe in detail the cult of Saint Borbala.

7. The era of the Hungarian People's Army

On 20 January 1945, the Provisional National Government signed the Armistice Agreement in Moscow, by which the Government of Hungary committed itself to maintaining and providing land, naval and air forces that could be assigned to service under the Allied (Soviet) Army General Staff. The reorganization of the army has begun. In this chapter, I will describe the cultural life of the Hungarian People's Army, the shaping of the soldiers' world view, the impact of political changes on traditional military holidays, and I will describe the ceremonies of the holidays through examples.

8. Military holidays and their significance at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries

After the fall of communism, a major objective was to put the whole system of tradition on a new footing. A critical analysis was needed of the previous relationship with our national history, including our military history, and the need to reinterpret or redefine the previous values. On 21 November 1990, the Ministry of Defence took a position on the tasks of restoring the symbols and festivals of the Hungarian Defence Forces based on national traditions. We can learn about the changes in national and state holidays and commemorative days and their development.

9. The role of the Institute and Museum of Military History in the 21st century

The Institute and Museum of Military History is a centre for the study and scientific research of Hungarian military traditions and an independent centre of competence in military history. Its mission is the research, mapping, exploration and cataloguing of material relics of Hungarian and related universal military history, both at home and abroad, in close cooperation with domestic museums and other institutions. The role of the Institute and Museum of Military History by describing its current structure and tasks, and the role of the Memory of Military Heroes programme.

IV. Results, experiences

The politics of military remembrance, the cult of heroism and the preservation of traditions have a historical history going back centuries, even millennia, but the First World War undoubtedly increased their importance, or even institutionalised them. As a consequence of the Great War, it was given a particularly important role as part of national policy in Hungary and other countries of the world. The thesis will present the 20th-21st century aspects of this. It can be concluded that there is an organic link between the Horthy era and the present day, as detailed in the dissertation, with the traditions of the inter-war period serving as a model. At the same time, the contrast between these two periods and the traditions of the period 1945-1989 is clearly visible.

To support the above, the thesis presents the forms of military historical memory, guiding the reader through the sites of memory and describing the rules and procedures of commemorative events. Among the sites of nationwide events, the history and purpose of Heroes' Square in Budapest is described in detail. In explaining the function of the square, it provides an international perspective on the emergence of the Unknown Soldier idea in Europe and outlines the origins of the commemoration of Hungarian heroes. Of particular significance was the establishment and celebration of the Heroes' Memorial Day, discussed in detail.

At the level of the national armed forces, it describes the cultivation of military tradition and the collection of military history, in which the Royal Hungarian War Museum played a prominent role alongside the units. Among other things, it is here that the commemorative books and collections of memorabilia which record the preservation of military traditions and serve as a guide for posterity have been preserved.

At the local, municipal level, the erection of heroes' memorials and the organisation of commemorations held there have served and continue to serve the preservation of the memory of heroes. The dissertation describes in detail the types of these local memorial sites, of which the Heroes' Grove, the Heroes' Forest, the Heroes' Church, the Heroes' Mausoleum or the Heroes' Gate are special as 'genres' or forms of presentation.

After 1945, the traditions of the Horthy era were radically reassessed. The dissertation will describe the politically motivated changes and the new ideology, this time also through examples. This was particularly striking in the context of church - and certain state - holidays.

The main focus of the dissertation is on contemporary commemorative politics, with a great deal of detail on military holidays and the preservation of troop traditions at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. Thus, the Day of Hungarian Defence, the days of the armed forces and the armed forces units, the troop festivals, as well as the related efforts to preserve national military and troop traditions are described. All these are presented in a systematic and comprehensive manner. The thesis concludes with an overview of the wide-ranging activities and the current role of the Institute and Museum of Military History, a centre of excellence in military history which plays a key role in all this.

It is hoped that the dissertation will serve as a point of reference for the future activities of the Hungarian armed forces in the field of tradition, and will help to understand the centuries-old history and the Hungarian military heritage, which should play a very important role in shaping the spirit of the current national defence, strengthening the team spirit and shaping the mindset of individual soldiers.

V. Publications on the subject of the thesis

1. Ravasz István (ed.) National and military holidays in war. (or the "happy peace times" will not return) 1939-1945. Budapest, 2005. pp. 368-371.
2. Hungary "should hold a national holiday for all time on 16 November" - A memorable date: 16 November 1918. Kreutzer Andrea - Makai Ágnes (eds.): Bulletin of the Military History Museum 10. Budapest, 2008. pp. 21-27.
3. 95 years of remembering our military heroes. Szilvia Závodi (ed.), Bulletin of the Military History Museum 13. Budapest, 2012. pp. 169-181.

4. Heroes' Memory. Szilvia Závodi (ed.). Bulletin of the Military History Museum 15. Budapest, 2015. pp. 135-151.

5. The origins of the Heroes' Memorial Day. Trianon Review, 2017, Vol. 9, No. 1-2, pp. 33-36.

6. Efforts to regulate military holidays in the Royal Hungarian Defence Forces. Gergely Pál Sallay-Szilvia Závodi (ed.). Bulletin of the Military History Museum 19. Budapest, 2019. pp. 49-71.

7. Places of remembrance, Márton Forgács-Pál Gergely Sallay-Szilvia Závodi (eds.). Bulletin of the Military History Museum 20. Budapest, 2020. pp. 109-118.

8. Efforts to regulate military holidays in the Hungarian Royal Defence Forces. Gergely Pál Sallay – Závodi Szilvia (ed.). Bulletin of the Military History Museum 19. Budapest, 2019. pp. 49-71.

9. Gergely Sallay (ed.) Heroes' Monuments in Hungary, National defence and Trianon. A tangible military history. Budapest, 2020. pp. 56-57.

10. Gergely Sallay (ed.) Remembrance and memory, National defence and Trianon. A tangible military history. Budapest, 2020. pp. 54-55.