

HUNGARY: AN EMPTY STOMACH or a COUNTRY .

Not too many Americans knew about Hungary in the 1940-s and very few can tell the difference between Bukarest and Budapest even today.

Two fateful dates however placed Hungary in the headlines.

The first was December 12, 1941, when a declaration of war was made on the U.S., and the second, when Germany marched into Hungary on 19-th of March, 1944.

The importance of those two dates makes this article part of not only the general history, but also a segment related to the American Prisoners of war in Europe during World War II.

The declaration of war legalized military actions against Hungary, and the German supply lines through Hungary made those actions necessary.

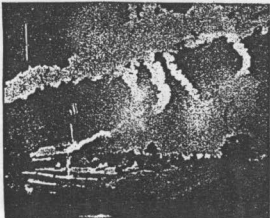
I am convinced and feel very strongly, that America would not use its mighty air power and cause major destruction on Hungary if the German Armies would not present the targets.

After this introduction a logical deduction must be stated:

1.) Hungarians fiercely resented the German occupation for two basic reasons. First they lost their proud independence and under the will of a foreign power and for foreign goal they had to send our best men to die, and second for the reasons stated before, the nation and especially the cities had to suffer severe punishment caused by the U.S. Airforce.

2.) After the devastation and loss of lives and large sections of some targeted cities, the indignation and anger started to grow against America, especially when diplomatic efforts were made to the West to liberate Hungary from the Germans, not to kill and destroy.

In this atmosphere and feelings of hostility the inevitable had to happen; U.S. Airmen were forced down by a very seldom accurate anti-air-gun, or by an almost non existing "axis" fighter airplane, or even by a mechanical malfunction.



Air battles

Légi csaták

The somber results;



A lefőtt ellenséges repülőgépet csendőreink őrzik.
Burning airplane guarded by
the Gendarmes.

Now,after the Gendarms are introduced let us get acquainted with the system:

The Hungarian Royal Gendarmarie was the most elite unit of the nations Armies.Its officers were law-graduates or *Ludvikás* (Equal to the American West Point).Underofficers and lower ranks were also *currier* soldiers and the lowest rank was that of a sergeant.

The Gendarmarie was totally responsible for the security and safety of all citizens living in rural areas. For the safety of the city-dwellers the Police was employed.

American air-personal,when forced to parashot to safety often was saved from the irate civilien population by the Gendarms and by taken them in custody,their life was saved.The Gendarmarie did not known any other word,but DUTY and toward Prisoners of War applied only one rule,that of Geneva-Convention.How do I know this? I was one of them!

Twenty years went by,married an American Lady with four children (I like instant coffee and instant family), and in her Diner in Cortland N.Y. somone was looking for me.His name was John Morris and he found out,that I was a native of Hungary. He told me about his misfortune of being shot down in Hungary near Tata."We were scared to see field-workers approaching us with hoes,shovels ,but we were ready to panic, to see uniformed military personal drawing near with fixed bajonetts, wearing hats with large cock-feathers." I started to smile."Much to our supprise,we were not massacred,but searched and taken in custody while one of the gendarms even said to us,OK!" I smiled again.I was not there, but expected nothing different,I trained them and commanded them,and I am proud of them.

1 st Lieutenant of the
Hungarian Royal Gendarmarie,

Gabriel G. Kiss
Gabriel G.KISS. *Kiss Gabr*

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