

General Homlok - the Hungarian military attaché in Germany

Introduction

The book "*Og saaledes måtte det gaa*" by Colonel A. Hartz, Gyldendalske Boghandel, Nordisk Forlag, 1945, is about the colonel's experiences during the Second World War, first as garrison commander in Haderslev on 9 April 1940 and then as a military attaché in Berlin.

From 5 April 1941 to 22 September 1943, the colonel was Danish military attaché in Berlin. The majority of the book deals with this period and gives a good impression of the situation in Germany. Together with other foreign military attaches, the colonel took part in a number of trips organized by the German government apparatus for foreign military attaches.

In the present context, only those fragments of the book that relate to the Hungarian army must be mentioned.



General Homlok

During the participation in an attaché trip to the Atlantic Wall from 3 to 11 February 1943, the Hungarian military attaché also participates, among others.

The caption reads:

"Lunch in the German officer's casino (Rotchild's Palace) in Paris. Field Marshal v. Rundstedt talks with the Hungarian military attaché, General Homlok."

Life description 1) [__](#)

Lieutenant General Sandor Vitéz Homlok was born on 3 May 1892 and died on 5 April 1963.

1938-1939 Chief of the General Staff's Intelligence Division (Section 2)

1.5.1940 - 1.11.1944 Military attache in Germany and also:

1.5.1940 - 15.11.1941 Swedish military attache

1.2.1941 - 15.11.1941 Finnish, Latvian and Lithuanian military attaché

1.12.1941 - 1.12.1943 Swiss military attaché

Appointments

1.4.1942 Appointed Major General

1.1.1944 Appointed lieutenant general ("field marshal lieutenant")

In the Hungarian army, the rank of lieutenant general was called "field marshal lieutenant" (Hungarian: *altábornagy*), a tradition originating from the army's Austro-Hungarian past. Actual field marshals could only be appointed in wartime, but such were not appointed during the Second World War.

The army's only field marshal was Archduke Josef 2), who held the rank of field marshal, an appointment which originated from the First World War. However, the Archduke was not on active duty after 1918, but often attended parades and other official events wearing his field marshal's uniform.

Review of the Hungarian war effort

On pages 94-95, among information about Germany's confederates, is the following:

Hungary

In 1941, Hungary participated in the war against Russia with approx. 3 Honved divisions and 1 motorized division advancing between Stryj and Szernowitz. In 1942 they had to double their strength and participated in the summer offensive with the 2nd Hungarian Army of 9 small divisions and 1 motorized division.

In Hungary, criticism was very keen towards Germany, and when the 2nd Hungarian Army during the Russian offensive in the autumn of 1942, after the breakthrough at the Donbow, was beaten and blown up at Woronez, the force was reduced, pulled behind the front and used for partisan combat.

The reason for Hungary's reluctance to send reinforcements to the army in Russia was border disputes with Romania. There was friction in the part of Transylvania ceded by Romania to Hungary. Had Germany not kept the two capitals in check, war would have broken out between them.

Closing

Colonel A. Hartz's description of the events before, during and after 9 April gives a strong personal insight into how one of the senior officers involved experienced the events in Southern Jutland.

1) Source: *The Royal Hungarian Armed Forces 1919-1945* by Andris J. Kursietis, Ark Publications Company Inc., 1997.

2) Read more about the Hungarian army's last field marshal, Archduke Josef on the website Austro Hungarian Land Forces 1848-1918 at the address <http://www.austro-hungarian-army.co.uk/biog/Erzjosef.htm>