

Hungarian 15 cm Rocket Launcher 43.M

Introduction

On the Hungarian website <http://www.freeweb.hu/gamma21> I found the below picture of a 15 cm Raketkaster 43.M (= the German Nebelwerfer). The picture is the only one I have seen so far of this weapon system - in Hungarian service.

Background



In the army scheme (Szabolz Plan), which came into effect on 1 October 1943, it was planned to establish a total of four departments of 8 each. 15 cm rocket launchers.

Under the auspices of the 150th Artillery Regiment, training of a cadre of personnel who were to be part of the departments.

However, the funds did not match the ambitions in this area either, and thus only a rocket launcher division [1](#)) was created , which in November 1944 became part of the Szent-László Division (see my article Hungarian Parachute Units).

The website's Hungarian owner has provided me with a fragmentary English translation of the section on the rocket launchers. From this it appears that the pamphlets consisted of a mixture of German and Hungarian pamphlets. The latter was manufactured under license by the Manfréd Weiss factory under the designation 43.M.

None of the sources at my disposal mention anything about how many pamphlets were actually built and delivered to the army, but it is likely that Hungarian production ceased in the summer of 1944, when the Manfréd Weiss factory in Csépel was destroyed by Allied aerial bombardment .

The rocket launcher section of Division Szent-László consisted of a section staff and three batteries of four pamphlets.

The Hungarian website mentions that the planned four divisions were named the 151st, 152nd, 153rd and 154th. Department. Furthermore, it is mentioned that in November 1944, the 154th Division was deployed, equipped with locally manufactured anti-tank weapons called *Szálasi-röpentő*. The division was to form the core of a unit that was named Kommando János Damjanich. In the fragmentary translation, the weapon system is described as a kind of bazooka, so it is probably a weapon system that either resembles or is a copy of the German Panzerschreck.

Source criticism

I am not yet aware of how reliable the Hungarian website is as a source, so the above information from must therefore be taken with some reservations. The site's owner - Márton Gaál - who is 17 years old, states his sources "as a CD with historical information" and, as far as I understand, does not possess any further information.

I have passed on the address of the Hungarian website to Bob Mackenzie who has passed it on to a Hungarian speaking "brother-in-spirit". Perhaps d'herrer can judge the page's value as a source at some point.

The value of the written part of the website goes without saying, after all the picture shows Hungarian soldiers at a rocket launcher of the Nebelwerfer type!

My other sources

1. *The Royal Hungarian Army, 1920 – 1945* by Leo WG Niehorster, Axis Europa Books, New York 1998, ISBN 1-891227-19-X.
2. *Axis Allies on the Eastern Front* by Bob Mackenzie, Tac Publications, Oxford 2001.

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1) Source 1 also refers to the unit as the 101st Rocket Launcher Division.