

Hungarian Field Artillery

Introduction

With this article I want to show pictures of the pamphlets that were part of the Hungarian field artillery. My hope is that the article can partly serve as inspiration when setting up wargame units, and partly develop into a kind of picture archive of Hungarian artillery and artillerymen. If any readers have additional image material, I would like to hear about it.

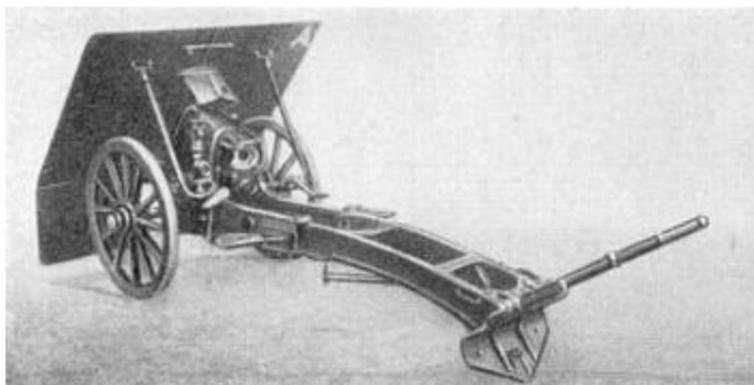
Overview

The field artillery of the Hungarian army included the following types:

Hungarian type designation	Country of origin	Caliber Notes
Mountain Howitzer 15.M	Czechoslovakia (Skoda)	7.5 cm Also available in a 15/31.M and 15/35.M version.
Field gun 18.M	Czechoslovakia (Skoda)	7.65 cm Also found in an older 5/8.M version.
Light field howitzer 14/aM	Czechoslovakia (Skoda)	10 cm Also available in a 14/bM version
Light field howitzer 37.M	Germany	10.5 cm
Light field howitzer 40.M	Hungary (MAVAG)	10.5 cm Only produced in a limited number.
Field gun 31.M	Sweden (Bofors)	10.5 cm
Heavy field howitzer 14.M	Czechoslovakia (Skoda)	14.9 cm Also available in a 14/35.M and 14/39.M version.
Heavy field howitzer 31.M	Sweden (Bofors)	15 cm
Howitzer 39.M	Italy (Ansaldo)	21 cm Also available in a 40.M and 40/aM version.
Howitzer 16.M	Czechoslovakia (Skoda)	30.5 cm Among the total of 4 pamphlets was also the 11.M edition.

In addition, a number of Belgian and English field guns were delivered from the German side during the war, which went to the security and reserve units that, among other things, participated in partisan combat behind the front in Russia. See the note at the end of this article.

Pamphlets



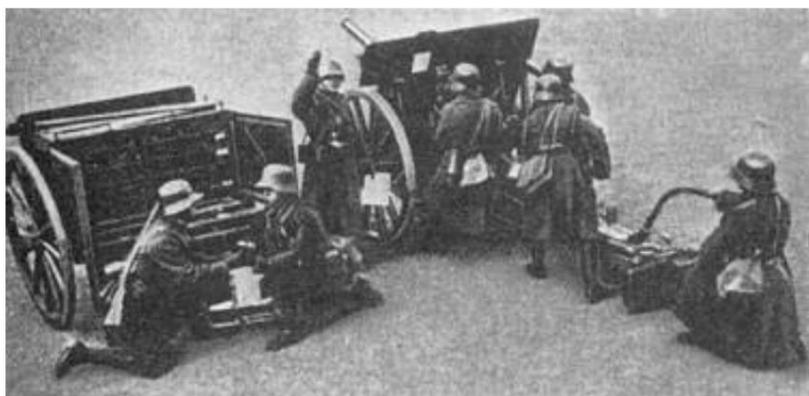
7.5 cm mountain howitzer 15.M.

The pamphlet, which was used by mountain hunters and border troops, could be separated and transported on a number of pack horses.

The 15/31.M version had larger wheels and was intended for the mounted artillery that was part of the Cavalry Brigades.

The 15/35.M edition was also intended as a horse-drawn pamphlet - with the Mountain Hunters and the Border Troops.

The picture comes from Source 1. See more pictures of the pamphlet itself [here](#).

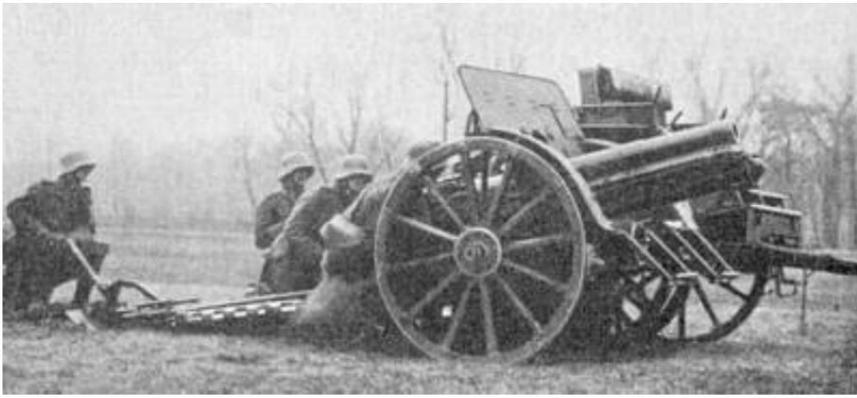


The picture shows an **8 cm field cannon 18.M** manufactured by Skoda Fabrikkerne.

Certain sources also refer to the pamphlet as a 7.65 cm field cannon.

The pamphlet was also found in an older **5/8.M** edition.

The image comes from Source 1.



10 cm light field howitzers 14/aM and 14./bM were, together with the German 10.5 cm light field howitzers, the backbone of the Hungarian field artillery.

The designations "a" and "b" indicate Hungarian modifications compared to the standard edition from the Skoda Fabrikkerne.

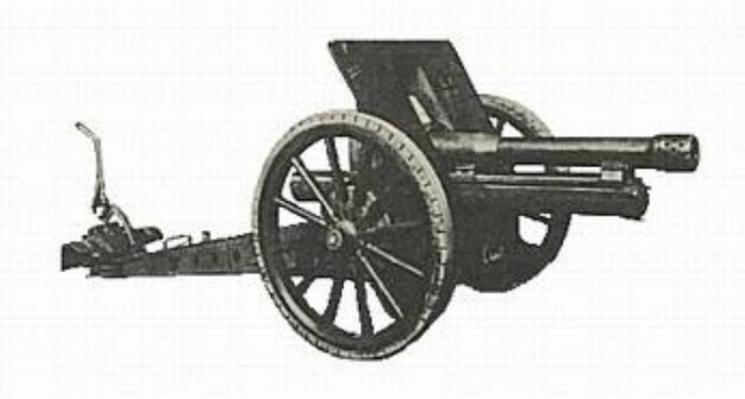
The image comes from Source 1.



10.5 cm light field howitzer 37.M of German model.

The pamphlet was available with two types of wheels - a horse-drawn version and a motorized version.

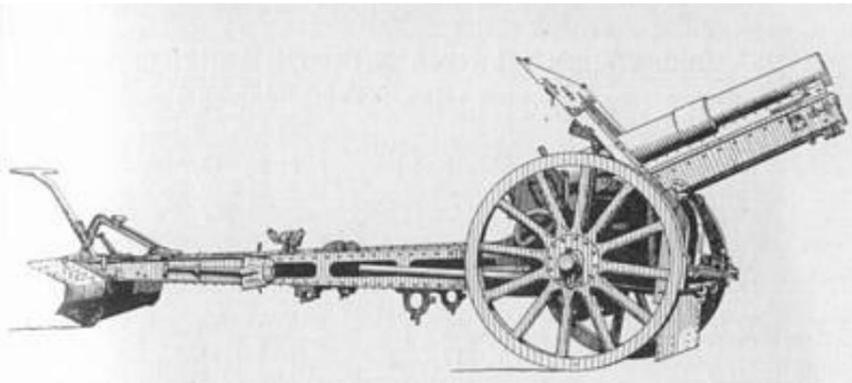
The image, which comes from Source 1, shows, as far as I can tell, the horse-drawn version.



10.5 cm light field howitzer 40.M.

The Hungarian factory MAVAG produced a limited number of this pamphlet.

Further information is currently not available.



14.9 cm heavy field howitzer 14.M.

This Skoda-made pamphlet was also available in a 14/35.M and 14/39.M version. Both types were modified in Hungary so that they had a longer range. It is not currently known what the changes consisted of.

The drawing comes from Source 1.

The high command's artillery reserve

The army's heaviest artillery - guns and howitzers - were included in units traditionally designated as the High Command's artillery reserve (my translation). An artillery section consisted of 3 batteries of 2 pieces, although a battery equipped with 30.5 cm howitzers only consisted of 1 piece.

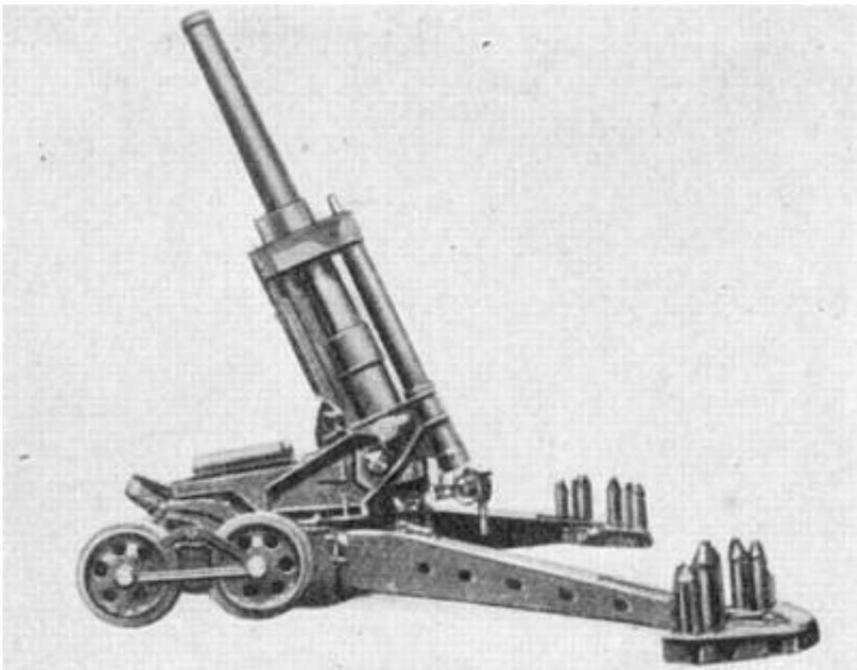


10.5 cm field gun 31.M of Swedish manufacture (Bofors).

Furthermore, according to Source 3, the Hungarians should also have used another pamphlet from the Bofors Fabrikkerne, namely the **15 cm heavy field howitzer 31.M**.

The specific circumstances surrounding these Swedish pamphlets are not known.

The image comes from Kilde 1's Swedish section.



21 cm howitzer 39.M manufactured by the Italian factory Ansaldo under the designation *Obice da 210/22 modello 35*.

A **40.M** and a **40/aM** version also existed. The 40.M had a reinforced one made, while the 40/aM version was made in Hungary.

The image is from Source 1's Italian section and may not show the pamphlet in its final form.

Pictures of the pamphlet in Hungarian service are currently not known.



30.5 cm howitzers 11.M and 16.M.

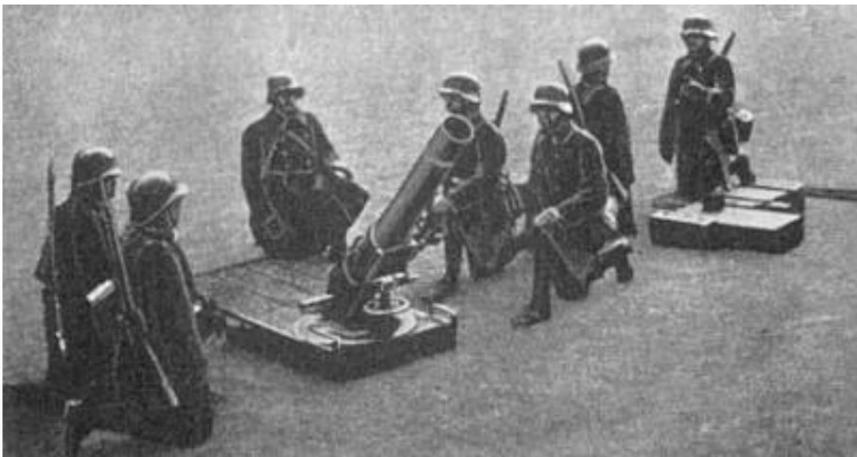
The heaviest pamphlets in the Hungarian artillery were - in the most literal sense - a relic from the First World War, as they had managed to keep 4 pamphlets hidden from the Allied Control Commission that monitored Hungary.

The image found on the Internet shows a Skoda Model 11 in Austro-Hungarian service 1914-1918.

The 4 pamphlets were taken out of service in 1940, but they returned to service in 1942

Mine throwers

From 1922 to 1935, two types of mine throwers were included in the artillery's total of 7 mine thrower batteries - 9 cm mine thrower 17.M and 14 cm mine thrower 18.M. A battery consisted of two half-batteries of five tubes - the 1st half-battery was equipped with 9 cm 17.M, while the 2nd half-battery was equipped with 14 cm 18.M.



14 cm mine thrower 18.M.

The mine-throwers, which must be considered a relic of the First World War, were a temporary solution and were phased out of the army's ranks in 1935, when they were replaced by traditional field artillery.

The image comes from Source 1.

Mortars in the traditional sense - light, medium and heavy - were included in the infantry units, but more on this on a later occasion.

Belgian and English pamphlets

Source 3 mentions that in 1942 the Hungarian security divisions (the division designation was more of a name than a benefit, as the units were of brigade size) were delivered a modest contingent of captured equipment - Belgian and English field guns - from the German side.

The Belgian field guns were of 7.5 cm caliber (and source 3 refers to them as GP111). The pamphlets may be of the Krupp model used in the Belgian army; the pamphlet is not unlike the Danish field cannon M.1902.

The English field guns were of the 18/25 pounder type, which was a combination of the barrel from the 18 pounder field gun (76.5 mm) on a 25 pounder made. These are probably pamphlets originating from what the British Expeditionary Force left behind in Belgium/France during the withdrawal in 1940.

During a reorganization at the beginning of 1944, during which the security divisions were transformed into reserve divisions (Model 1943), Source 3 gives the impression that 6 batteries of 4 pamphlets of the Belgian model and 2 batteries of 4 pamphlets of the English model were disposed of. However, the need for artillery in the II Reserve Corps was far from met, as there was a lack of material for 19 batteries. Furthermore, the corps' units had no observation batteries, so the opportunities for indirect fire have largely been non-existent.

Cannon tractors

Although the majority of the Hungarian field artillery was horse-drawn [1](#)), there was also motorized artillery. Among the latter were often units from the High Command's artillery reserve, batteries in motorized units and other heavy batteries.



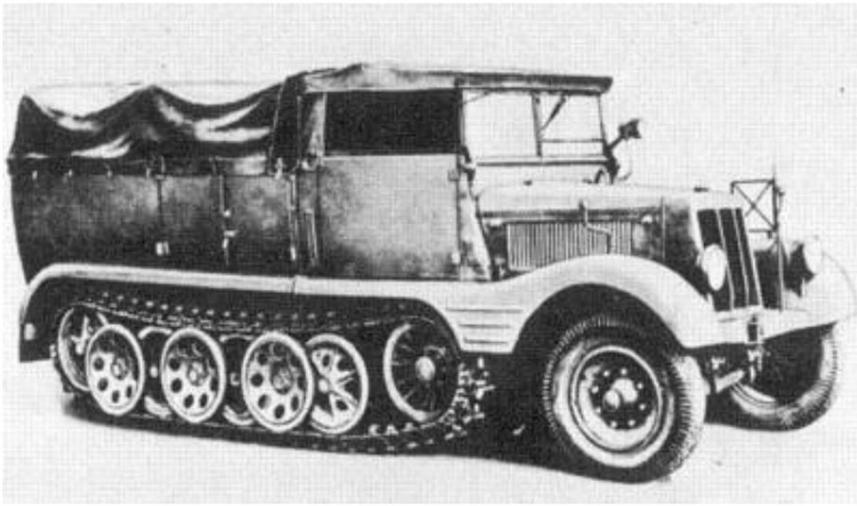
37.M Krupp L2.H. 143.

Hungary bought several hundred trucks from the Krupp Factories, as well as a license to manufacture additional copies themselves.

The MÁVAG Factories (Mágyar Allami Vaggon és Gépgvár) (= the Hungarian State Railcar and Locomotive Factory) subsequently produced several hundred more of these six-wheeled vehicles.

The gun tractors were mainly used to pull light guns, for example anti-tank guns.

The image originates from Kilde 5's German section.



37.M Hansa Lloyd

This is the vehicle which in German service had the designation SdKfz 11.

The Hungarians purchased 80 artillery tractors in 1938-39 to pull 14 batteries equipped with 10.5 cm field gun 37.M as well as for 4 anti-aircraft batteries equipped with 40 mm anti-aircraft gun 36.M.

The image originates from Kilde 5's German section.



38.M Rába Botond A.

MVG (Rába) Fabrikkerne (Magyar Vagon és Gépgyár) was, together with MAVAG Fabrikkerne, the main supplier of trucks to the army.

At least 700 [2](#) of this 1.5 ton gun tractor were produced in the years up to 1944.

The wagon accommodated 2+14 men.

The image comes from Source 5.



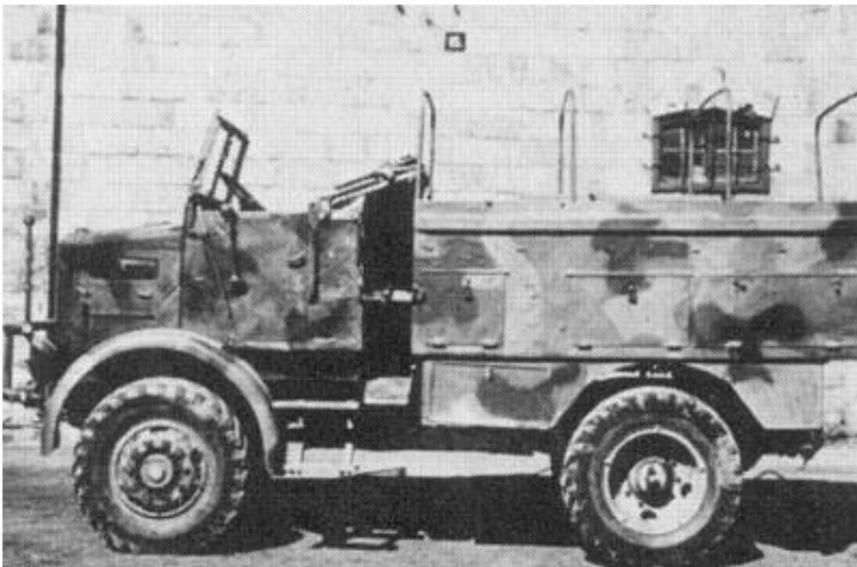
38/42.M Rába Botond B.

Basically the same vehicle as type A, but equipped with a more powerful engine.

Reportedly, a copy should be in the Textile Museum in Budapest.

At least 700 of this 1.5 ton gun tractor were produced in the years up to 1944.

The image comes from Source 5.



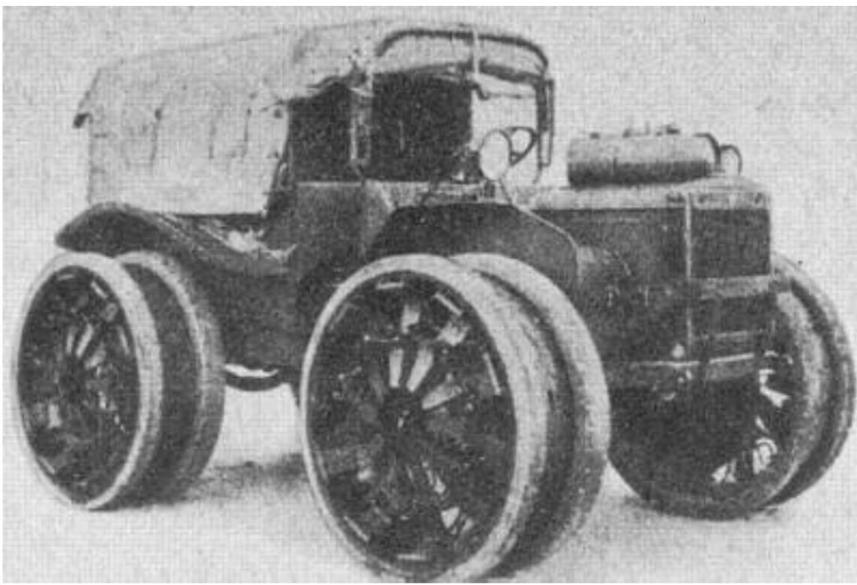
Rába Maros.

MVG and MÁVAG produced in collaboration a number of subcontractors produced in the years 1943-44 135 copies of this cannon tractor.

The diesel engine and other mechanical components came from the German MAN factories.

The passengers sat on longitudinal benches.

The image comes from Source 5.

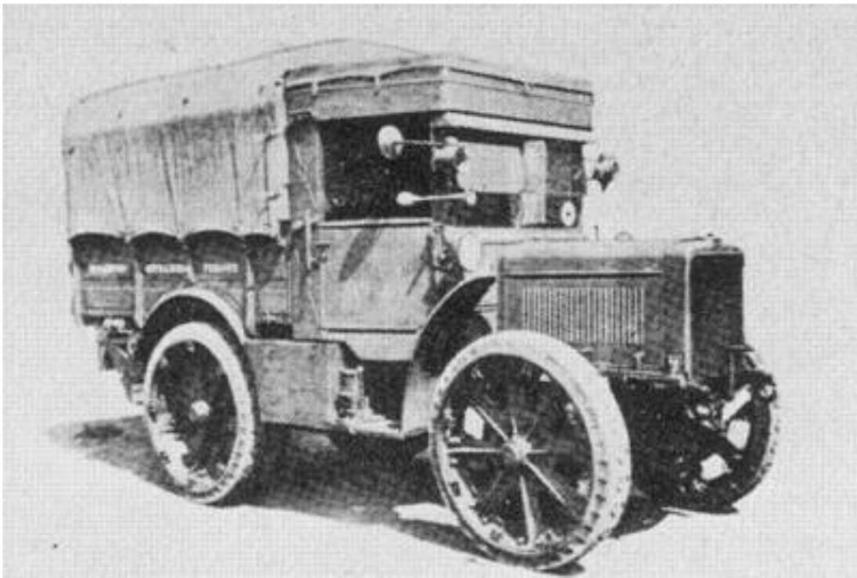


28.M Pavesi P4.

Hungary bought 106 pcs. FIAT-Pavesi tractors in the years 1928-1932 and obtained a license to manufacture additional copies himself. The Manfred Weiss Factories produced another 100 examples (WM-Pavesi P4-100).

Although outdated and unpopular with the troops, it served until the end of the war.

The image originates from Kilde 5's Italian section.



32.M Breda.

Like the Pavesi tractor, the Breda tractor was also a relic from the First World War.

The army purchased 104 pcs. to tow its heavy field artillery - 21 cm and 30.5 cm howitzers.

This vehicle also participated until the end of the war.

The image originates from Kilde 5's Italian section.

Additional image material

From an artilleryman's photo album

The following pictures come from a Hungarian website, which contains an artilleryman's experiences from the war on the Eastern Front and pictures from his photo album have been made available. The quality of the pictures leaves a lot to be desired, seen from today's eyes, but they are there... There are twenty or so pictures in the collection and I have shown the most interesting ones here.

Unfortunately, the website is in Hungarian, but click on *the photos* to see the photo album. The other pages also contain some pictures.



The picture shows a **10 cm light field howitzer 14/aM or 14./bM**

This and the two following photos come from a Hungarian website, each an artilleryman's photo album has been made available.

The quality of the images leaves a lot to be desired, seen through today's eyes, but the images are there...

There are twenty or so pictures in the collection and I have shown the immediately most exciting ones here.



Impersonation.

If the picture had not been part of the soldier's photo album, I would not have included it here

It's so indistinct that it could be said to represent pretty much anything, but I assume it shows a Hungarian performance on the march (trot).



Signal group.

Most interesting in this picture is the oval frame antenna, which was not uncommon in the Hungarian army - especially in the earlier part of the war.

I myself have used the photo as a basis for the production of a radioman who is part of my Hungarian artillery division's staff battery.



The **signal group** in a slightly more field-like arrangement, probably in honor of the photographer.

From other sources

So far, there have been few pictures of Hungarian field artillery, so when something finally appears, it's a bit of a sensation.

The website Third Reich Factbook has a section with pictures of Hungarian equipment; the following image originates from there. (<http://www.skalman.nu/third-reich/axis-hu-gallery-army.htm>)



8 cm field gun 18.M.

Sources

1. *Taschenbuch der Heere* by Kurt Passow, JF Lehman Verlag, Munich / Berlin, 1939.
2. *The Royal Hungarian Army, 1920 – 1945* by Leo WG Niehorster, Axis Europa Books, New York 1998, ISBN 1-891227-19-X.
3. *Axis Allies on the Eastern Front* by Bob Mackenzie, Tac Publications, Oxford 2001.
4. *The Royal Hungarian Army 1920-1945, Volume II, Hungarian Mobile Forces* by Peter Mujzer, Axis Europa Books, New York 2000, ISBN 1-891227-35-1.
5. *Historic Military Vehicles Directory* by Bart Vanderveen, After the Battle, Battle of Britain Prints International Limited, London 1989, ISBN 0-900913-57-6.

Per Finsted

Postscript

Part 2 of this article is intended to show images of the models that represent my Hungarian Field Artillery in a wargaming context.

Also, the 28.M Pavesi gun tractor will be the subject of a separate article at some point, as I have acquired a few models (resin) of this vehicle.

Notes:

1) *In certain reserve units in 1944 there were even batteries with 8 cm Field Cannon 5/8.M pulled by oxen forebuck.*

2) *In general, the number of trucks produced varies widely from source to source; where there have been several numbers, I have stuck to the lowest number.*