

Hungarian train cars

Introduction

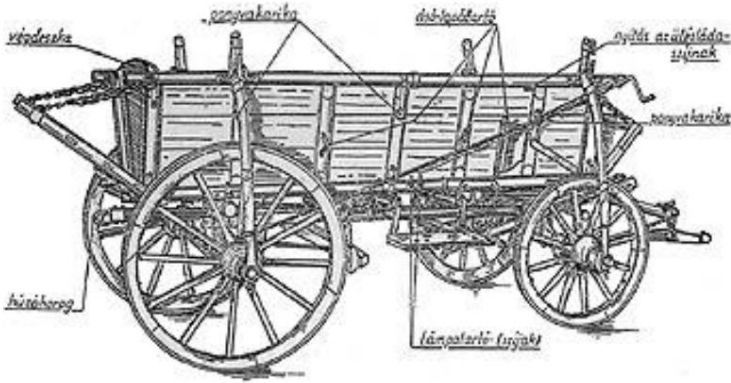
Although my previous articles on the Hungarian army might give the impression of the opposite, the majority of the army's equipment was horse-drawn. Unfortunately, the sources on the horse-drawn equipment are extremely scarce and the pictures of the wooden wagon shown here are so far the only ones I have been lucky enough to find - on the Internet as well as in books.

The train car

Two Hungarian websites that I recently came across contained the drawing and the photograph of a wooden wagon shown here.

The drawing comes from: <http://gamma21.freeweb.hu/morszagosjarmu.html>, whose helpful owner Martin Gaál has contributed an English translation of the Hungarian text.

The Hungarian wooden wagon 36.M was made of wood and was pulled by 1 or 2 horses.



The vehicle's specifications were determined in army order 420.014/3.b. -1936.HM of 26 May 1936.

The rear pair of wheels could be braked by means of the inclined arm mounted on the right side of the carriage. The brake was operated by the driver, using the handle at the end of the brake rod.

The chain devices at the back of the wagon made it possible for it to pull a cart, for example Maskingeværkarre 26.M.

There was also a special version of the train car, intended for ammunition transport.

The original text further states that the number of train wagons roughly corresponded to the number of trucks in the Hungarian army.

The photograph below is from:

http://www.nexus.hu/szellemkep/lapszam/1999_1-2/cikk09.html and shows the train wagon in the field.



My model

A Russian so-called *panje wagon* will be well suited to illusion Hungarian wooden wagon. Unfortunately, my examples of a panje-like chariot are included in my Russian wargame units, so another solution was needed for the supply element of my Hungarian infantry regiment.



My own model of the train car - or rather the model I use to show a Hungarian train car - therefore became German.

The model originates from Preiser (catalog number 16512) and represents *the Schwere Heeresfeldwagen Hf. 2.*

Many other companies also make excellent models of German horse-drawn carriages, but I chose Preiser's plastic model based on the criterion of availability - I saw it and immediately bought it!



For my project I chose to only use the chariot itself, as the horses and soldiers were too small in size compared to my other Hungarian wargame units.

I chose instead to use the two excellent pack horses from the Airfix set *German Mountain Troops* - with a bit of extra harness made from a thin piece of plastic.

The coachman, before retraining for the horse-drawn train carriage, was a driver in the Matchbox/Revell building kit *SdKfz 11*.

Supplier

My model was purchased from the shop "På sporet", which, as the name suggests, mainly deals in model railways and accessories.

The owner is also a keen collector of models in 1:87 scale, so a visit always leads to a nice chat about news etc.

The address is: På sporet, Vesterbrogade 165, 1800 Frederiksberg C.

The business also has a not particularly flashy website <http://www.paa-sporet.com>, whose main content is the physical address and an email address.

A possible Danish angle on the subject

In 1948-49, the Gardehusar regiment had a number of so-called *Hungarian wagons* - light horse-drawn wooden wagons, which were used for various transport tasks in the barracks area [1](#)).

Perhaps these wagons were left behind by the 300 Hungarian soldiers who were still in June 1945 at the Gardehusar barracks in Næstved, where "their care for the horses made a great impression on the Hussars" [2](#)). Unfortunately, I do not know what happened to the Hungarian soldiers afterwards. If anyone has information about this, I'd like to hear about it.

Another possibility is, of course, that these *Hungarian wagons* were left behind German wooden wagons or panje wagons, which were simply associated with the Hungarian soldiers because they used them in connection with stable service etc.

Per Finsted

1) Told by EC Finsted, who at this time was serving with the Guards Hussar Regiment.

2) *Gardehusarkasernen on 29 August 1943* by Anders D. Henriksen, Published with the support of Våbenhistorisk Selskab at Forlaget Devantier, Næstved 1993, ISBN 87-984530-0-9.