

Hungarian Cavalry

Introduction

A small cavalry detachment is included in my Hungarian wargame units. Since the Hungarians are the forbears of all Hussars, my figures of course represent hussars. The figures chosen to model the cavalry detachment may prevent me from mounting a huge force, not by availability but from a cost perspective. On the other hand this set-up suits me fine, since I do not plan to model the whole World War 2 Hungarian Army, but just a small manageable force.

This paper can be read as a supplement to Kaare Myltoft's [articles on German Cavalry](#) - the hussars in the Hungarian 1st Hussar Division wore similar uniforms.



The Revell set 0215 German Artillery is very useful in many respects.

Besides including the 10,5 cm light field howitzer with crew and the horsedrawn limber, a single horse and a number of mounted figures are included as well. Alas, there is only one single horse in each set!

A number of single horses have been traded from various wargaming friends in order for me to avoid buying to many artillery sets.



Unfortunately I have no information on the mounts used by the Hungarian Cavalry. Consequently I had look elsewhere to decide how to paint the horses.

According to the traditions in some German cavalry, black horses were often issued to the senior squadron.

Lacking any specific information on the Hungarians I went for this, since being my first Hungarian cavalry figures, my hussars must be the senior ones!



I used 3 different figures from the Revell artillery set - the officer and two of the figures meant for the horsedrawn limber.



The Hussar squadron dismounted.

The officer on the left is from Esci's World War 2 German Infantry. The rest of the squadron consists of figures from Revell's German Infantry set.



The figures representing the Hussars were well suited to represent dismounted cavalry, since Revell has issued them with long boots - similar to riding boots.

In order to show their cavalry status I painted spurs on the heels.



The squadron horseholder - a figure from Esci's World War 2 German Infantry, together with a horse from Revell's Soviet Cossacks.



The Commanding Officer of my Hungarian Reconnaissance Battalion - mounted as well as dismounted.

My Hussar Squadron is part of the reconnaissance battalion, which at present also includes a squadron mounted on bicycles, and a Csaba armoured car.

Again, the mounted figure is the artillery officer from Revell's *German Artillery* set.

The dismounted figure derives from Esci's *SdKfz 251* set, on which a new head from an Airfix RAF figure has been mounted.

Painting

The uniforms are painted in Humbrol 29 (Dark Earth); leather equipment in 62 (Natural Leather); boots 85 (Coal Black). The white armband worn on the left upper arm are painted in white mixed with a little Dark Earth, in order to avoid the white colour being too bright. The finished figures were drybrushed with Humbrol 26 (Khaki). Collar patches and the small triangle worn on the left side of the side-cap is painted in dark blue.

The horses are painted in Humbrol 85 (Coal Black) diluted with white spirits in order to get a light tone colour. Painted on the grey plastic this works very well. Socks and fetlocks are painted in white mixed with a little Dark Earth. A number of drybrushing layers with dark and light grey colours were then applied on the horses. The reins, saddle and saddlebacks are painted in Humbrol 62; the saddle blanket is in Humbrol 111 (Field Grey). The girth is painted in Humbrol 155 (Olive Green). Similar to the figures, the horses were lightly drybrushed with Humbrol 26 (Khaki).

The horse equipment may not be according to Hungarian regulations. Lacking specific information, I used German usage as an inspiration.

Sources

1. *The Royal Hungarian Army, 1920 - 1945* by Leo W.G. Niehorster, Axis Europa Books, New York 1998, ISBN 1-891227-19-X.

2. *Axis Allies on the Ostfront* by Bob Mackenzie, Tac Publications, Oxford 2001.
3. *Axis Cavalry in World War II* by Jeffrey T. Fowler, Osprey Men-at-Arms 361, London 2001, ISBN 1-841763-233. (http://www.ospreypublishing.com/title_detail.php?title=S3233&ser=MAA)
4. *Germany's Eastern Front Allies 1941-45* by Peter Abbott & Nigel Thomas, Osprey Men-at-Arms 131, London 1982, ISBN 0-850454-751. (http://www.ospreypublishing.com/title_detail.php?title=Q4751&ser=MAA)

Per Finsted