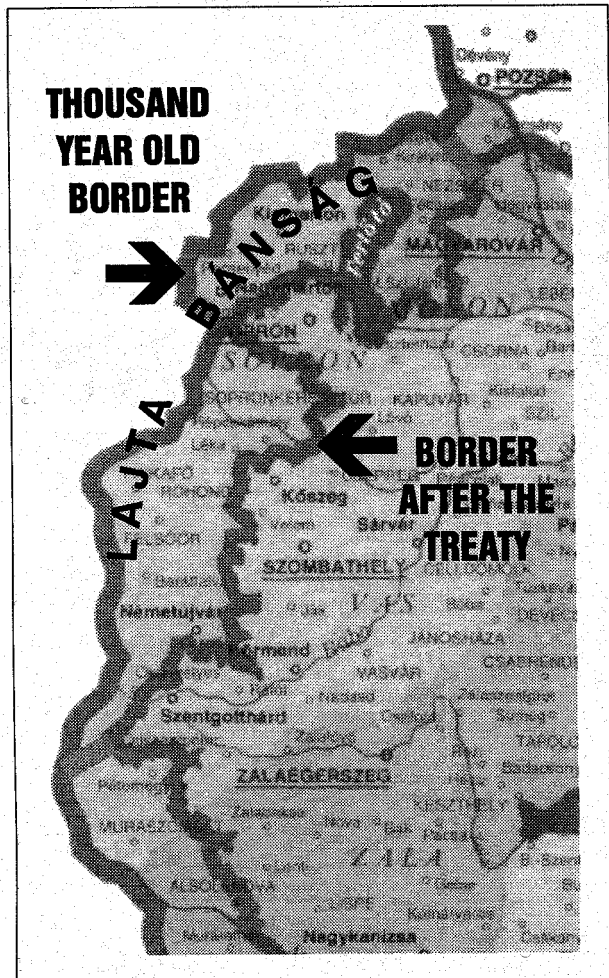


THE HISTORY OF LAJTA-BANSAG

*A lecture dedicated to
the memory of the Heroes of
Western Hungary*



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(1997)

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August 1st, 1921 the following Notices appeared in the Main Squares of the Cities and Towns of Western Hungary:

**“AN DIE BEWOHNER DES BURGENLANDES.
TO THE INHABITANTS OF WESTERN HUNGARY.**

ACCORDING TO THE TRIANON PEACE TREATY THE TERRITORY OF WESTERN HUNGARY IS TO BE ANNEXED BY AUSTRIA. THE TASK OF TRANSFER IS ENTRUSTED TO THE ALLIED MILITARY MISSION AND DELEGATED TO OFFICERS OF THE ENTENTE POWERS. BEGINNING AT 0 HOUR ON AUGUST 23RD, 1921 EXTENDING TO THE 24th HOUR OF SEPTEMBER 6th 1921, ORDERS OF THE ALLIED MILITARY MISSION, LOCATED IN SOPRON AND ISSUED BY ITS OFFICERS AS ITS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES ARE TO BE OBEYED BY ALL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

AT 16 HOURS AUGUST 29th, 1921 HUNGARY WILL TRANSFER PREROGATIVE OF GOVERNMENT OVER WESTERN HUNGARY TO THE ENTENTE POWERS, WHO IN TURN WILL TRANSFER SAME TO AUSTRIA. FROM THE TIME OF THE PUBLICATION OF THIS DECLARATION, ALL PUBLIC ASSEMBLY AND HOLDING OF MEETINGS WILL BE PROHIBITED.

SOPRON, AUGUST 1st, 1921 THE ALLIED MILITARY MISSION.”

This is how it started and became known, the never before heard of place called "BURGENLAND". It was PRECEDED by the shameful "Treaty of Trianon". It really was a command, not a Treaty. Austria then had a leftist Social Democratic Government. It would have never occurred to them, that they, too, could get a slice of a mutilated Hungary, at least not until Benesh (then President of Czechoslovakia) and his gang kindled the appetite of the fellow Social Democratic Government. Only in the last minutes have the Austrians decided to ask for a slice of Western Hungary. The League of Nations ordered Hungary to surrender the territory in question in two Zones: Zone "A" consisted of Lajta-Fertomedgyes, Agfalva, Doborjan, Borisfalva, Felsopulya, Nemetszentgrot, Gaborfalva, Vasjobbagyi, Rabakeresztur right to the banks of the Raba River and the areas West of it. Zone "B" consisted of territories to the East of this line i.e. Sopron, Agfalva, Banfalva, Fertorakos, Horka, Boz, Balf, Nagycenk, Kophaza and the adjoining administered areas. According to previous announcements, the OSTENBURG Battalion withdrew its troops from the affected areas and retreated towards Sopron - Kismarton. Around midday the Austrian Gendarmerie crossed the Hungarian border from the directions of Bergbuck, Ebenfurt, Wienerneustadt, Kirschlag, Hartberg - Burgen - Furstenfeld - Fehring, with orders to take over Zone 'A'. In the streets of Sopron non-committed crowds were expecting the occupying forces.

A contemporary newspaper report:

THE STRAINS OF A MILITARY BAND SOUNDED CLOSER AND CLOSER. AN ARMADA OF PEOPLE FLOODED TOWARDS SZECHENYI SQUARE. THE RETREATING 2nd (Hungarian) BATTALION WAS ARRIVING FROM KISMARTON. PRECEDED BY A MILITARY BAND, MARCHING THERE WERE MAJOR OSTENBURG AND HIS GENERAL STAFF FOLLOWED BY A HEART STOPPINGLY WELL DISCIPLINED UNIT OF THE 4th GENDARMES. OFFICERS OF THE ENTENTE MISSION, WHO WERE THERE TO SUPERVISE THE TRANSFER OF THE TERRITORIES, COULD NOT HELP, BUT ADMIRE THE HIGHLY DISCIPLINED FORCES, WHO CARRIED OUT THEIR ORDERS OF EVACUATION WITH SUCH PRECISION. THEIR FACES SHOWED NO EMOTIONS OR IRE, THEIR MARCHING LINES WERE AS STRAIGHT AS A GUN BARREL, GUN SLINGS TIGHT AND THE

RHYTHM OF THEIR MARCH, WAS LIKE SOMETHING DRIVEN BY A CLOCKWORK.

NOW WE COULD HEAR SOME DISTANT CRIES - "SOUNDS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE COMING FROM THE DIRECTIONS OF AGFALVA AND SOMFALVA."

This is, how the two months long agony started, during which no one knew, whether the residents will be Austrians or Hungarians. The occupying Austrians were attacked by armed resistance forces at Agfalva, railway tracks were ripped up and the locality was kept under constant fire. The Austrians withdrew and according to a Military Mission report "Ostenburg, when getting news of the arms fire exchanges, sent a strong detachment of troops back to the evacuated Agfalva and restored the rule of law and order. This was, how events at Agfalva became world-news. It was also cited as an example by every newspaper of note. This was the beginning of those historic moves by people-power, events which modern historians like to ignore.

On hearing the news of this armed intervention, other members of the Border Community, too, took up arms. Residents of these areas, like their predecessors were fighters and protectors of the Border Districts for a thousand years. Behind the advancing Austrian Gendarmes, Austrians lead by Union agitators of doubtful political persuasion, appeared and marched under red flags. The insurgents, however, remembered vividly the misdeeds of Bela Kun and his communist gangs. Supported by armed Croat peasants bloody battles developed at Pinkafo as well as Kiralyhida, Szentgotthard and Rabakeresztur.

The Entente Mission put the blame on the Hungarians for what happened. The Hungarian Government, of course, rejected this, saying that how can it be made responsible for law and order in areas where an Entente Military Mission already assumed responsibility for it. The Military Mission was solely responsible. As it turned out it proved to be a political master stroke. Lacking the military force to deploy, the Allied Military Mission had no option, but to request the Hungarian Government, to get some of it's disarmed regulars to restore Law and Order. The job of restoration and upkeep of order went to Commissioner Antal Sigray. Thus the same units that were previously disarmed, were, with the approval of the Military Commission re- issued with weapons and other military equipment. Let us here commemorate Laszlo Baracsi, a farmer from Kecskemet, who was the first soldier, to have lost his life in the cause of West Hungary.

A newsflash from August 29:

SIGRAY HALTED EVACUATION OF WEST HUNGARY.

Also a communique by Town Commander OSTENBURG :

"UNDER ORDERS FROM THE COMMISSIONER I TOOK OVER COMMAND OF THIS TOWN. I ORDER, THAT EVERY FOREIGN MALE PERSON, NOT BEING RESIDENT OF SOPRON, MUST BY 18 hrs. ON THE 29th OF THIS MONTH PRESENT HIMSELF IN BARRACKS 48.

OSTENBURG, MAJOR, TOWN COMMANDER."

Foreign papers were reporting , that there were some 8000 people, who stood in the way of the Austrians. The Military Mission assumed, that some 10,000 troops would be needed to initiate or to counter military activity of the past few days. Contemporary diaries revealed, however, that those death defying patriots, to whose attacks they were referring, numbered no more than 300. After the first news of them reached the (Hungarian) population, volunteers began to pour in from all over the country. On the following day some 4 truckloads of volunteers arrived to Szombathely and Felsőor. The Military Mission ordered them to be locked in to the local Fire Department Stores, whereupon Count Erdody, the local Fire Chief pretending that there was a fire, ordered the bells to be sounded. Minutes later the previously locked up volunteers were laughing their heads off in the surrounding forests, while the

French Officers turned the area upside down, to find them. It was assumed that, that of the two patriots who were behind the scheme: one was Count ANTAL SIGRAY, Government appointed Commissioner, whom the Mission described as a "Stone faced Diplomat" He forever withstood attacks by the Mission, without ever losing his temper. The other one was Lord Lieutenant Dr. Zsembery, who was applying a unique strategy of his own. While male members of the Mission were in Council, hard at work, the County Footman was delivering bouquets of flowers by the dozen to wives of Mission Officers. He, like a good Diplomat knew, that battles are not always won on battlefields and that those, in the daytime angry and nervous officers, at night turn into mild mannered gentle husbands.

This was the day, when Ostenburg and his troops paraded before Commissioner Sigray and his hopeful and jubilant citizens.

The crowd demanded, that Ostenburg say something, who then proceeded to raise two of his fingers towards the sky:

" I SWEAR TO YOU, CITIZENS OF WEST - HUNGARY, THAT I WON'T LEAVE SOPRON ALIVE."

People of the condemned City of Sopron were jubilant and smiling on this Mohacs Remembrance Day. The Government, citing the current confusion and emergency situation and using those as an excuse, re-organised with the speed of lightning first the Oxenburg, then the Ranzenberger (later Pronay) Infantry Battalions to become Peace Keeping Forces and transferred them to West Hungary.

On August 30th, two days after the Agfalva event, and at the behest of the Entente Commission, the district was reinforced with extra troops. Correctly, according to the Treaty of Trianon, Hungarian Troops should have been withdrawn from there, yet at the Mission's request, who were charged with the responsibility of supervising the transfer from Hungary to Austria, re- occupation of the district by Hungarian troops was approved.

The Austrian troops retreated at Szentmargitbanya, too. Patrolling Hungarian mounted troops, like any fast moving units, penetrated the territories behind the Austrian lines as well. There, they were spreading the good news and creed to Hungarians living along the Lajta river. Volkswehr Companies, detached from Alcol run into gun- and machine gun fire as soon as they get to the boundary of the village. The Austrian Inspector from Szarvko reports the presence of 3 Companies of Hussars - erroneously, of course. It was the homecoming herd of cows that the local "Resistance" drove home, enveloped in a huge cloud of dust. At Pinkafo the Austrian Cavalry from Sinnerdor had a reception committee waiting for them with hand granades. About 60 "Resistance" Troops proceeding from Szentgotthad and heading towards Gyomafalva chased the Austrians out of Patakfalva, Dobrafalva and Kiralyfalva territories, too.

In Sopron, President of the "High School Youth Group" OTTO LEICHT as well as 1st Lt. ELEMÉR SZÉKELY were organizing people. We know from certain records, that for a front line stretch of 30 km there were only 3 mounted troopers on hand. Using changed and rested horses, these troopers were galloping to and forth all day before the Austrian lines, firing shots into the air at every 500 meters. Of all this the Austrians deducted that they were faced with a tightly controlled front line - and stopped dead. Together with his men from the Kecskemet farming district Ivan Hejjas arrived in a carriage and took up position in the area south of Agfalva - Kismarton.

At the same time the Mayor of Sopron trod the streets tirelessly, encouraging people to join up. A clergyman expelled from what is now known as Slovakia, PASQUALE ARANY, was always visible there in his white clerical robes. Slowly confidence started to return, but no one really knew: whether this was war or peace. What about the transfer of Zone "A" and "B"? From Győr 30 students, an entire class, arrived, from Sopron a whole year of students

came to help. People were coming from all over the country. The Fatherland was calling them and everybody wanted to do their duty, just like their ancestors once did.

A quote from Source No 4.:

"I RESPECTFULLY REPORT... IT'S ABOUT THE MOBBIN'. 'CAUSE WE 'BEEN ALL SEVENTYSIXERS ONCE. MESELF I WAS AN EIGHTYTWOER 'N ME MATE A NINETIER ROOKIE. WE'VE HEARD THAT THEY GOT THE GERMAN COMMO. THEY SAY THEY COMIN' AT US WITH AN ARMY. ME MATE AND I HAD DONE OUR THRASHIN'. AFTER THE CLEANIN' IN - OTHERS, TOO WILL FOLLOW US. WE THOUGHT US FAIR TO CUM." (Quoted work No 4, Page 45)

Ostenburg's unit stopped at Zone "A" Although everything was quiet, officially, under the pretence of upholding order the recruitment of the population continued. The rebel Army as from August 31st recognised Ivan Hejjas as it's Commander in Chief. In this capacity, he sent a Notice to the Allied Military Mission, and requested the Council of Generals, not to inform authorities in Vienna about his troop movements. He suggested that the Allies turn their radio sets off when they hear Hungarian military communications on the line. In Sopron a publication entitled "KURUC ALARM ON THE RAMPARTS OF SOPRON" would soon be released. (See book 4. page 49,par. 1).

"ALARM! TO ARMS, CHUM. OLD DRUMS ARE ROLLING,
ALL NEW CRY COMES OUT OF THE ANCIENT OBOE,
LAJTAFRONT PLACES ARE AGLOW WITH ORANGE FLAMES,
ALARM, TO ARMS MY CHUM,
THE FUN'S ABOUT TO START.
BLIND BOTTYAN'S DRUMS ARE ROLLING,
THE CAMP IS ON THE WAKING!

At the same time newspapers reported in loud headlines:

"THE UNITED STATES CONCLUDED A SEPARATE PEACE TREATY WITH HUNGARY AND LISTING OF NEW BOUNDARIES WAS OMITTED OF THE TERRITORY ARRANGEMENTS."

This was an indication that the USA did not consider the Trianon-defined borders as final. Prime Minister Bethlen was negotiating with General Hamelin in Budapest. The Government made a promise to the Mission that it will do everything in it's power to calm the population. At this time a modest, insignificant looking two-liner appeared in the press:

"PAL PRONAY, ROYAL CHAMBERLAIN, HUSSAR OBERST, WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE NATIONAL ARMY AT HIS OWN REQUEST."

On September 3rd the Entente Mission handed a Note to Foreign Minister BANFFY. They stated in this Note, that the Hungarian Government was truly opposed to the handing over of West Hungary and the responsibility for this rests squarely on the Hungarian Government. From Paris the Council of the Ambassadors at Large gave the Hungarians 10 days for the transfer of the territory. It was on this day, that Pal Pronay, as a private citizen, took over Command of the Insurgent Army in Vas County. He decreed that the uniform would be as follows: boy scout shirt, civilian trousers, boor hat, with the right hand rim turned up, as worn by the boers and on it an insignia depicting a white cross, on green background. On the same day President Benesh of Chechoslovakia offered to the Allied Mission services of the Chech Army to restore order. It was no secret, that he had in mind to establish a corridor between Serbia and Chechoslovakia to complete a ring of captivity around Hungary. Yet as at

September 4th on every field map of every Entente Officer, border signs stood on the old Hungarian boundaries. Lord Lieutenant Zsembery kept sending bouquets of flower, the size of a millstones to wives of Allied Officers. A flood of young people were streaming unstopably towards West Hungary. Insurgents closed the valleys of Raba, Pinka and Gyongyos. Only on the North, from the direction of Bruck did the Austrians attempt a break through.

On September 7th Dr. Davy, Province Governor arrived at Agfalva and ordered the population to occupy Sopron. During the night sopronites stormed Agfalva again. This was a well rehearsed action - of course. During the night insurgents drifted out of town, the Hungarian Gendarmes, under the guise of patrol activity returned their weapons to them. At the end of the battle the Gendarmes went into town again, collected the weapons and handed them back to the fighters again. This way there was never any shortage of weapons, but Officers of the Allied Mission never knew, where the Insurgents got their weapons from, and what happened when they finished with them. This was, how Somfalva and Lepesfalva got into Hungarian hands. Since the Austrians did not have enough forces to handle it, the Military Mission asked Ostenburg, to advance his armed forces and secure order.

On September 8th DAVY dissolved DEUTSCHES HAUS and withdrew to Wienerneustadt. The Government in Vienna meditated whether or not to vacate the Sopron Area due to this series of mishaps. What was the then attitude of Red Vienna is clearly described in a Note confiscated from a messenger:

THE AFFAIRS OF HUNGARY AT THIS TIME ARE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO THE ALLIED POWERS. THE SUCCESSOR STATES DO NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED, AS A GENERAL MOBILISATION COULD RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PARIS INSPIRED TREATIES. CONSEQUENTLY AUSTRIANS ARE COMPELLED TO LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. IN THEIR OWN INTEREST THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO EVEN TALK TO PEOPLE WHO ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW WOULD DESERVE TO BE SHOT. (Work, Vol II. Page 48)

On September 9-10 the Austrians evacuated Zone "A", north of Sopron and settled behind their old boundaries. Austrian Chancellor Schrober met the Military Mission on the border. He asked for the Austrian border to be secured, as he said "against bandits, supported by the Hungarian Government". On September 12th GYORGY ENDRESZ, world famous Hungarian pilot joined the Insurgents. Pronay took over command of the whole area.

On September 23rd Council of the Ambassadors at Large meeting in Paris, sent notification to the Hungarian Government. Till October 3 they had to vacate Zone "B" and sign the agreement for the Transfer of Authority in West Hungary.

On September 30th the Hejjas, Winter and Latzay groups closed all bridges over the Lajta river. While, for a few weeks, Benesh boasted of the employment of Chech troops to create the Chech - Serbian Corridor, now he exclaimed: "I AM NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE ONE SINGLE CHECH SOLDIER FOR BURGERLAND." Reason: On that morning at Ligetfalu a group of 22 Hungarian Insurgents attacked and occupied the Bratislava Chech bridgehead.

On October 4th, complying with the deadline set by the Council of Ambassadors at Large, Lt. General Hegedus, ordered by his Government, signed the minutes, ratifying the hand over of West Hungary. At the same time Pronay issued a declaration, announcing the secession of

West Hungary from Hungary and proclaimed the establishment of LAJTA-BANSAG STATE.

By noon the following posters were visible in the Cities:

“PEOPLE OF WEST HUNGARY! ALL TERRITORIES AFFECTED BY THE TRIANON PEACE TREATY HAD BEEN DECLARED NEUTRAL AND INDEPENDENT AT FELSŐR ON OCTOBER 4th 1921 AND HIGH COMMAND OF THE INSURGENT ARMIES FOR THE EVACUATED AREAS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. POPULATION OF THE NEZSIDER, KISMARTON, FELSŐPÜLYA AND NEMETÚJVÁR DISTRICTS SUPPORTED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE MINUTES, DECLARING THEIR INTENTIONS AND DULY SIGNED UNDER SEAL BY DISTRICT OFFICIALS WERE SENT TO THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF IN FELSŐR. PAL PRONAY, CHIEF OF COMMAND.”

This was a real turn of events. Nobody thought of this chess move before. The Military Mission was rushing to see Sigray, who gave the following communique to the Times of London:

“THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT FULFILLED IT'S OBLIGATION IN RELATION TO THE TREATY OF TRIANON, BY COMPLYING WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE WESTERN POWERS AND COMPLETELY VACATING AND HANDING OVER TO THE GENERALS' MISSION IN SOPRON ALL TERRITORIES REQUIRED, ALTHOUGH AUSTRIA TO THIS DAY GAVE NO GUARANTEES THAT IT WILL LIVE UP TO IT'S OBLIGATIONS AS PRESCRIBED IN THE PEACE TREATY. THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INSURGENT FORCE. THE GOVERNMENT DID EVERYTHING IN IT'S POWER TO PREVENT THEIR ESTABLISHMENT. HUNGARY CANNOT BE MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVENTS THAT HAPPENED ON TERRITORIES WHICH IT ALREADY HANDED OVER AND WHOSE POPULATION IS NO LONGER UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF HUNGARY. THE POPULATION OF WEST HUNGARY TOOK UP ARMS, BECAUSE OF IT'S FEAR OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY AND THE FEAR OF ADVANCING COMMUNISM. BUT MOST CERTAINLY IT'S ALLEGIANCE TO THE MOTHERLAND AND THE INSTINCT OF SELF PRESERVATION WERE CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES TO SOME EXTENT. THE FEAR, THAT EMOTIONAL ISSUES WERE TO BE SOLVED BY FORCE LED TO EXAGGERATED DESIRE FOR RESISTANCE. THE ONLY SOLUTION, IN MY OPINION IS, THAT THE POPULATION SO AFFECTED BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE IT'S OWN FATE.”

Whose brain sparked this ingenious chess move? That of "stone faced" Sigray, the "ever smiling" Zsembery, the "sombre" Pronay or that of Budapest's "secretive Transylvanian chess player," Prime Minister Istvan Bethlen? It makes no difference now. The Great Powers issued an ultimatum to Hungary and got a legitimate answer that made the whole of Europe laugh at them.

On October 5th through mediation by the Italian Ambassador the parties started negotiations towards a compromise. Prime Minister Bethlen and his entourage travelled to Venice on the following day. On October 14th they struck a Hungarian - Austrian agreement in Venice. It was decided, that some of the territory destined to be lost will go back to Hungary, some will go to Austria. As for the question of where to belong , in Sopron, Agfalva, Banfalva , Fertorakos, Horka, Boz, Balf, Kophaza, Nagycenk and the territories around them, plebiscite would be held to determine the peoples' will. Who was right after all, Sigray, who wanted to keep all of the territories, or Bethlen, who feared for the very existence of the starved and

mutilated country. It makes no difference now, One of the eyes in the chain holding the Trianon treaty together broke, owing to the bravery of a handful of patriots. There was a glimmer of hope: if they were successful here, maybe we could do something in the North and the South of Hungary and in Transylvania, and maybe even in Karpatland. This, of course, was and remained a hope only! The Hungarian Curse followed as usual.

On October 21st an aeroplane landed next to the Cziraky Castle at Denesfa. The de-throned, pitiful figures of Charles IV and his Queen, Zita appeared and descended onto Hungarian soil. Who brought them, or asked them to come is still unknown to this day. Who ever had done it did the country a great disservice. Within hours, from Budaors to the Janos Mountain, Hungarian was slaughtering Hungarian again. The Little Entente (Hungarian name for the successor states) formed a ring of Armour around our Homeland. Although the Government defeated the uprising, any anti Trianon sympathy that existed was lost as a result of Actions in Western Hungary. The Austrians, taking advantage of the situation in which Hungarian fought Hungarian advanced to Pandorfalva, but once again on October 25th ragged, muddled, worn out insurgents saved Sopron from occupation!

October 26th the uprising troops published a communique:

“THE II. ARMY COMMAND OF THE WEST HUNGARIAN INSURGENT ARMY EXPECTS FROM THE POPULATION OF SOPRON COUNTY THAT THEY WILL SUFFER WITH PATRIOTIC PATIENCE THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL SITUATION WE ARE IN AND WILL ABSTAIN FROM ANY ABUSE OF THE SITUATION. THE COMMAND OF INSURGENTS WILL PUNISH ANY TRESPASS AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER, AGAINST INTEGRITY OF THE ECONOMY AND IN PARTICULAR IT WILL PUNISH WITH GREAT SEVERITY ANY HIKE IN PRICES APPLYING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OR INMPRISONMENT). AT THE SAME TIME IT DRAWS THE POPULATION’S ATTENTION TO THE OBLIGATION OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE INSURGENT ARMY TO PAY IN CASH ON RECEIPT OF ANY PROVISIONS OR UTILITIES REQUIRED BY THEM. REQUISITIONING OF ANYTHING IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. ANY ABUSE SO SUFFERED BY THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE REPORTED WITHOUT DELAY TO THE DUTY OFFICER OF THE COUNTY.

SOPRON OCTOBER 26, 1921.

WEST HUNGARIAN INSURGENTS, II ARMY GROUP COMMAND.”

Driven by an obsession the Insurgents pretended, that there were a hundred thousand of them, although they only numbered a few hundred. The results were there, however. The Mission was worried. General ARPAD GUILLEAUME , the new Chief Commissioner appointed by the Hungarian Government to replace Sigray, assured General Ferrario, of the Military Mission , that law and order will be quickly restored. That, he did do. His quick and determined actions restored confidence in both Sopron residents and the Military Mission.

Around Budaors, however, blood of the combatant in the fields still hadn't dried and uncontrolled emotions between Royalists and Government supporters diverted attention from the West Hungary issue, which became a second rate issue behind other seemingly more important events. Under heavy guard, they transported the Royal Couple to Tihany first, thereafter for All Saints Day to Baja, where the Captain of the English "GLOW WORM" torpedo boat received them on board, for their own security. Hungary, for the time being was free of dander, but, about half of Western Hungary was lost. Unsolved was still the future of those locations, whose fate was to be decided by plebiscite, therefore the Entente Mission transformed itself into an Election Committee.

Pronay, under the name of "LAJTA BANSAG" published the first edition of the Mini Country's newspaper. With great dignity he announced to the world demands of the new State and made public Government's ordinances. It looked as though it's the small state would begin a legitimate existence in earnest. But, for one day only. The newsprint never appeared again...

Plebiscite in the Sopron district took place in the following weeks. The enthusiasm and tireless work of the Mayor and his staff for their City and their Country finally won out. In the beginning of December the old bells of St. Michael Cathedral rang out, together with the Church bells of the Dominican and Benedictine Monks and the Orsolya Nuns. Ringing bells greeted the declaration by General Ferrario, that on the first day of January Sopron and Zone "B" would return to the jurisdiction of St. Stephen's Crown.

LITERATURE:

Count Antal Sigray's speech in Parliament

(Parliamentary Transcripts, Jan. 19, 1922)

Lajos Misugray-Krug: The revolt of Western Hungary (Sopron 1935)

Dr. Jenő Hejjas: The revolt in Western Hungary (Kecskemét 1926)

Rudolf Somogyváry: And we're still alive (Budapest 1941)



Sopron rightly deserves the crown of the most faithful City in Hungary.