

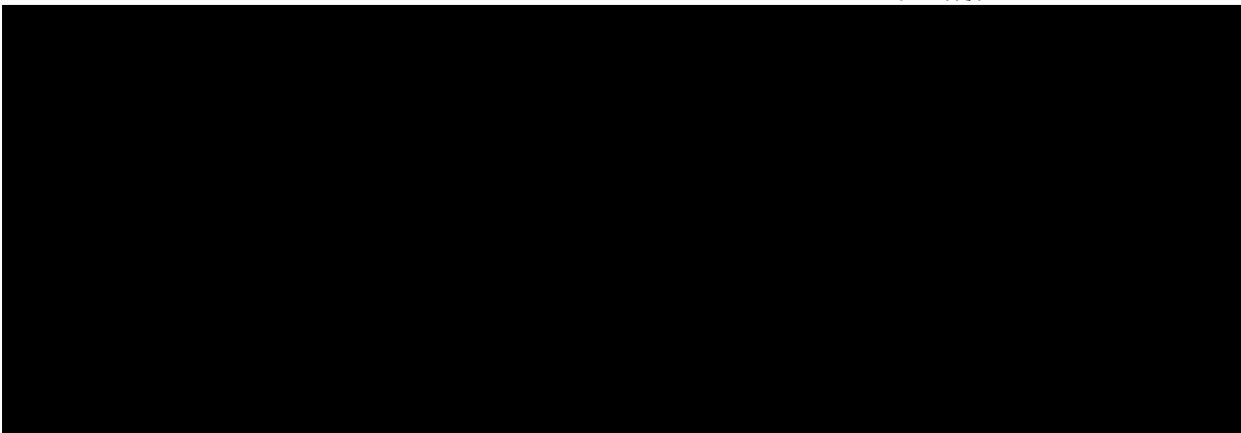
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History of the League of Fighters for Liberation

1. Two partisan associations, the Magyar Partizanak Bajtarsi Szövetseg (Veterans' Union of Hungarian Partisans) and the Partizanbaratok Szövetseg (Union of Friends of Partisans), were established in Hungary after World War II. Of these two, the Veterans' Union of Hungarian Partisans was the first to be established. Its principal objective was to organize all persons who had actually resisted the Germans. The Anti-German resistance in Hungary during World War II, such as it was, followed two general lines, namely, that stemming from anti-German feeling stimulated by sympathy for the Western Allies and that generated by the Soviet government through Hungarian Communists.
2. Those motivated by Western sympathies were, for the most part, people who worked in industry; however, their ranks also included the Jewish population and persons who held government positions prior to March 1944. The resistance of this group consisted merely in fostering the attitude that the Hungarians should cooperate with the Germans only to the extent that was absolutely necessary for the preservation of the country's independence. This movement had practically no organization and was not subjected to persecution. It disintegrated on 19 March 1944 when the Germans occupied Hungary, because the Hungarian bourgeois were afraid to offer actual resistance. Only one group under the command of Andre Bajcsy-Zsilinsky and Lieutenant General Janos Kiss tried to interfere with the defense of Budapest; however, they were promptly exposed and two of the leaders together with several members were executed, while others were given heavy prison sentences.
3. The Soviets tried to organize a resistance movement which was to be supported by the Hungarian Communists. As early as 1940 there were indications of a Communist resistance organization; this, however, was quickly liquidated by the Hungarian counter-intelligence service. The organization had but little success with the Hungarian workers. After its elimination the Soviets attempted to reestablish it by dropping small groups of defected Hungarian PT's into Hungary by parachute. These attempts, however, were largely unsuccessful because most of these partisans were soon arrested or surrendered voluntarily.

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having volunteered in the first place merely to escape captivity. Only a small group under Sandor Nogradi, now a lieutenant general, was active in the western Matra Mountains in the winter of 1944. Small resistance groups which operated during the siege of Budapest were of no practical consequence.

4. In summation it can be stated that there was no resistance movement of any importance in Hungary and that most of those who actually offered resistance were middle class people and anti-Communist. Consequently, the Veterans' Union of Hungarian Partisans established after the end of the war^{was} primarily made up of non-Communist persons and its leadership was by no means pro-Communist, because most of the leaders were public servants, lawyers, physicians and other professionals.
5. When some of the members of the Veterans' Union who held public offices, ventured to offer resistance to Communist pressure, the Communist Party, sensing the danger, launched a campaign to eject anti-Communist key personnel from the Veterans' Union. Ejection was usually accomplished on the ground that the persons concerned were at no time engaged in actual resistance. Considering the general nature of Hungarian resistance as described above, it was difficult in many instances to disprove the charges. Exclusion from the Veterans' Union quite often resulted in the loss of public position on the part of the individual concerned. The entire scheme finally resulted in Lt. General Sandor Nogradi's appointment to the leadership of the Veterans' Union.
6. Once under Communist control, the Veterans' Union of Hungarian Partisans established the Union of Friends of Partisans in the winter of 1946, in an effort to draw to the Communist Party those masses who possessed anti-German sentiments and leftist tendencies but who were not definitely pro-Communist. Extensive pressure was applied to persuade people join this organization. As members they were required to attend meetings and performances where they were exposed to systematic Communist propaganda including lectures on the heroic achievements of both Soviet partisans and the Soviet Army. In the summer of 1948 the Communists believed that the time had come for the two separate organizations to merge and be brought under the complete command of the Communist Party. The merger resulted in the establishment of the Magyar Szabadsagharcos Szoevetseg (Hungarian League of Fighters for Liberation). *

Objectives.

7. The objectives of the League of Fighters for Liberation are as follows:
 - a. To rally those persons who persistently stood for the liberation of the Hungarian people, truly cooperated with the People's Democratic regime and are prepared to defend the Hungarian Democracy by force of arms and, if necessary, at the sacrifice of their lives.
 - b. To cultivate the veteran mentality.
 - c. To preserve the partisan tradition and commemorate those partisans who laid down their lives for the freedom of humanity.
 - d. To train the Hungarian people, particularly the Hungarian youth, along the lines of partisan ideology.
 - e. To support those persons and their dependents who actively participate in the fight against Fascism and to look after the interests of all partisans.

Membership.

8. There are two categories of members, promoting members and regular members. Promoting members are those who previously were members of the Veterans' Union of Hungarian Partisans or Hungarian Union of Friends of Partisans. Eligible for membership are persons who take an oath to defend the Hungarian Democracy in all circumstances and by all means, and whose life history and activity in the rehabilitation of the Hungarian democracy indicates the probability that they will live by this oath. Preference is given to those persons who actually participated in a liberation movement and can produce evidence of such participation, who served in the Democratic Army or Police Force with

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honor, are members of the Democratic Youth or figured prominently in the establishment of the Hungarian Democracy. Members are authorized to attend the general assembly and have the right to debate and to vote. They are obliged to uphold the veteran cause, defend the liberty of the people, and obey the directives of the Union's leadership as true partisans. Persons whose conduct is unworthy of association with the liberation fight of the Hungarian people, or of the ideal of the people's democracy, or who fail to observe the directives prescribed by the leadership are subject to trial and shall be ejected from the Union by an elected court of honor. (All of these data concerning membership were taken directly from a membership book).

Organization.

9. So far as is known, the League of Fighters for Liberation has the following general organizational structure: Central Headquarters, National Headquarters, Organization Greater Budapest, Komitate organizations, (regional), county organizations, district organizations (in Budapest only) and city and communal organizations. The National Headquarters is said to be made up of motor, parachute, sniper, radio and air sections. The district organizations in the area of Greater Budapest control the enterprise organizations which include the majority of the League's membership. Depending on the size of the enterprise concerned, these enterprise organizations consist of several sections which in large enterprises parallel the sections of the National Headquarters. The individual sections are subdivided into subsections of a hundred persons each. Members of the organization pay membership dues which, together with donations, constitute the funds of the organization.

Personnel of the Central Headquarters.

10. The following personnel are known to be assigned to the Central Headquarters: Lt General Sandor Nogradi, state secretary in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry and Deputy Minister of National Defense; Major General Istvan Szabo; Major General Kalman Revai, who is rumored to be under arrest; Lt Colonel Istvan Kenez, secretary general of the League; Pal Vigh, member of the presidency of the People's Republic; and Rudolf Dosa, organization secretary of the League.

Relationship with the Hungarian Workers Party (MDP)

11. Theoretically, the league is an independent organization which sustains itself from membership dues. In actual fact, however, it is a sub-organization of the MDP. Since the fall of 1949, the membership directives of the league have been published by the MDP party paper Szabad Nep. They correspond completely to those issued to other party organizations.

Activities of the Organization.

12. Aside from the official objectives of the league, as listed above, the organization places emphasis on pre- and post military training, with special emphasis on those branches of service whose training is particularly time-consuming. Basic drill is conducted for all members and special training is given in individual sections. Except for the fact that 6-mm small caliber rifles, formerly called Levente type rifles but now known as liberation fighter rifles, are being used instead of Soviet infantry rifles. The training is conducted in accordance with the regulations prescribed for the Hungarian Army.
13. Members who have motor vehicles of their own are assigned to the motor section. They practice convoy driving and cross country reconnaissance. They are also given instruction in motor maintenance and repair. In this training they are furnished with gasoline for their vehicles. This section is still in the rudimentary stage, because heretofore the League has had no motor vehicles of its own.

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14. The parachute section also suffers from lack of equipment. So far, training has been conducted only on the Farkas Hill near Budapest. In an effort to provide the required number of parachute instructors, the OMRE, the Hungarian association of air personnel, was commissioned to train 90 parachutists for the League in December 1949 and January 1950. Pilot training is done entirely within the OMRE, which from outward appearances is an independent organization, but which is actually controlled by the League of Fighters for Liberation. This training includes glider training as well as training in power aircraft; however, emphasis is placed on the former type of training because of the goal of having a large number of students available for training in power aircraft. The time allotted to glider training is very short, A and B certificates being issued after one summer's training. The glider training also includes a thorough introductory course in the theory of motor flight, with the view of providing those glider pilots who appear to be fit for motor flying with the theoretical knowledge required before they begin actual training with aircraft. This pilot training receives wide support, the various enterprises and employers having been directed not to hinder participation. Admission to the pilot training course in motor aircraft is contingent upon passing an extremely rigid medical examination. For example, only forty of a total of 150 aspirants were classed as being fit for this training in Diosgyoer in January 1950. The physical examination is followed by a political examination. The training in motor aircraft flying has already completely lost its sporting character and is being conducted on purely military principles.
15. The OMRE has a large number of glider fields. Engine aircraft fields include Hajduszoboszlo, in eastern Hungary, SW of Debrecen; Szentes, in southeastern Hungary, on the Theiss River, north of Szeged; Tatabanya, west-northwest of Budapest; Sajokapalna; Bekescsaba, in southeastern Hungary; Budacers, southwest of Budapest and Gyocer, in northwestern Hungary.
16. The majority of OMRE training personnel consists of former regular air force personnel. Generally, the training quotas are filled by former air force personnel formally discharged from the air force, but at the same time reassigned in mufti to OMRE where they receive the same salary. The OMRE has a sufficient number of gliders to conduct glider training on a large scale. Engine aircraft available include types such as UT-2, Arado, Buecker and Sokol. Training activities conducted at OMRE training airfields are of a purely military nature, with students quartered in barracks and training groups consisting of 40 to 100 men. Instruction concentrates on the elements of air fighting. Information concerning the duration of the courses is conflicting. According to the various reports the courses last from 4 to 12 months. Graduates of the flight training course in motor aircraft generally enter the Hungarian Air Force as officers.

Partisan and Other Training.

25X1X17. [REDACTED] the League conducts certain courses of instruction in strict secrecy in various parts of Hungary, mostly in castles or manor houses where the students are prohibited from intermingling with the local population. Such courses are generally known as partisan courses. As an illustration, one such course was given in November 1949, in the former agricultural school in Kapuvar in northwestern Hungary, west of Sopron. The course lasted six weeks and was attended by about 70 students ranging from 15 to 50 years of age, all of them reliable Communists. The population observed that in the morning the trainees did gymnastics and trained with rifles and submachine guns and in the afternoon engaged in field training. Students were not granted leave while attending the course. Their clothing consisted of a yellowish green jacket, long yellowish green trousers, tightened below by means of a buckle, a blue shirt, a red necktie and a Soviet-type cap. When the instruction course ended, another one began at once which in turn was followed by a third. Since informant, a farmer from Kapuvar, fled while the third instruction course was in progress, [REDACTED] le on subsequent courses. [REDACTED] shore of Lake Balaton [REDACTED] which was conducted in [REDACTED]

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ed members first receive training in evening courses which embrace a total of 90 instruction hours. Subjects of instruction include topography, ballistics and gunnery. Those making the best marks are transferred for further training to the Bakonyjako training camp north of Lake Balaton which is situated south-east of Papa. One such course conducted in mid-July 1950 was attended by 600 persons including 45 women and was scheduled to last six weeks. The course included motor, parachute and signal training. Motor training was conducted with Csepel 125 cm³ and Java motorcycles of which 250 were available. Reconnaissance riding in the field under simulated combat conditions was practiced. The parachute section was composed of 60 persons who, after passing the course at Bakonyjako, attended an additional course. All trainees repeatedly went to the Papa airfield. The uniform of the trainees consisted, in part, of gray overalls with the rifle and hammer insignia on the left sleeve and flat gray Soviet-type caps. The food at the camp was excellent, though the discipline was extremely rigid. The best among the students were scheduled to attend another course of instruction in southern Hungary east of the Danube River.

Mass Propaganda.

19. The League of Fighters for Liberation conducts a large number of mass sports contests which are open to non-members as well as to members. Being conducted for propaganda purposes, these contests make it possible to attract persons who dislike pre-military training. Motor sports contests and shooting matches, are continuously held; the latter, being conducted on the basis of enterprise contests, constitute a large-scale activity, with all major enterprises in Hungary involved.

MSzSz and the Hungarian Army

20. Soldiers of all ranks may join the MSzSz which has organizations in all branches of the service. These organizations provide additional political training for their members. Instructors are furnished by the Hungarian Army when the number of instruction personnel available to the League does not meet the requirements. Usually the instructors are officers and soldiers who themselves are members of the League.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. The referenced report contained information on the Hungarian Association of Liberation Fighters. According to subsequent information, the official designation of the association is Magyar Szabadsagharcos Szovetseg (Hungarian League of Fighters for Liberation (MSzSz)).

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