

between Germany and the States forming the Rome block. This co-operation is naturally bound to be dynamic in character and must contribute to create an atmosphere of peace and justice in Europe generally. Hungarian public opinion would be delighted to welcome a *rapprochement* — leading to their entering a common path of action — between the Rome block and Poland and Germany which are on friendly terms with that block on the one hand and the policy of Great Britain, which has already on innumerable occasions saved the cause of peace by intervening as mediator aiming at the realisation of a compromise. A continuation of the previous traditions of British foreign policy — supported by a utilisation of its splendid relations with France — would undoubtedly enable

the great nations of Europe by means of mutual understanding and compliance to begin at last the great task which the fulfilment of the unfortunate treaties of peace that brought the Great War to a conclusion have for the last fifteen years been making more and more urgent, — viz. the reconstruction of Europe in general and of the Danube Basin in particular. There can be no doubt that, if the big nations prove able to unite in this work of understanding which postulates an uncommon degree of moral elevation, the smaller nations will also be impelled to yield to the moral pressure and will on their part too make those sentimental and material sacrifices which the Europe to be reborn in consequence is demanding — and which that Europe deserves.

JAMES FITZJAMES IN THE CHRISTIAN ARMY AT THE SIEGE OF BUDA

by

Fr. Endrődi

England always took a lively interest in the desperate struggles of Eastern Europe against the pagan Turks, the most formidable enemy of the Christian Continent in modern times. This lively interest was not only increased by the tragic battle of Mohács, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, but was more and more converted into a desire of active help. As early as the middle of the sixteenth century England, as one of the civilized nations of Europe, realized that the invasion of the Turks was not directed against Hungary alone, whose unfortunate geographical situation had rendered her defenceless against it; England saw that after the complete subjugation of Hungary the Turks would turn against the whole of Europe. For in these wars there were two conflicting forces fighting against one another: Christianity with its fundamental doctrine of love on the one hand, and a Paganism desirous of recapturing its former dominion over the world on the other. It became thus the universal interest of Europe to check the invasion of the Turks.

The year 1526, which was the year of the first great Turkish victory, brought into being almost at once the common front of the Christian world. Various companies of English volunteers, filled with enthusiasm, set out towards the distant East to show their manly valour in the wars raging there.

Unfortunately, our records of these brave men are very scanty and rare, especially with regard to those English soldiers who came to Hungary in the sixteenth century. We know that there

were Englishmen fighting in the army of Nicholas Zrinyi, the Hero of Szigetvár, and that they often distinguished themselves by their gallant conduct.

Two of these soldiers, who rendered a lasting and great service, deserve to be mentioned by name. These are Sir Richard Grenville and John Smith. Sir Richard Grenville, who became a famous naval commander in his later years, was quite a young man when he fought in the Turkish wars in Hungary on Emperor Maximilian's side, between 1560 and 1568.¹

About the turn of the century John Smith visited Hungary, he is known in English history as Captain Smith, Governor of Virginia, in 1608.² After serving his time in Austria he came to Hungary, to the city of Komárom; later he took part in the siege of Székesfehérvár, where his invention, the "fiery dragons", was used with great success by the Hungarian troops. In the spring of 1602 he was in Transylvania; at the siege of the castle of "Regall"³ he cut off the heads of three Turks in a combat, whereupon he received rich gifts from Sigismund Báthory, Prince of Transylvania, in addition to which he was raised to the rank of a Hungarian nobleman; he was allowed to carry the three Turkish heads in his crest, which may still be seen in the family crest of John Smith's descendants.

¹ *Dictionary of National Biography*. XXIII. p. 122.

² *Pallas' Encyclopaedia*, XV. p. 44.

³ The exact place of this castle is unknown. — Cf. "Turul", 1888., pp. 164—68. *Louis Kropf*: Captain Smith.

The beginning of the seventeenth century is the period of religious wars. The Thirty Years' War and the intricate internal affairs of the States involved in it were such a great handicap to the creation of a united public opinion in Europe that it was impossible even to think of the expulsion of the Turks from Europe. England was obviously occupied with the extension of her power abroad and the reconciliation of religious controversies at home. It was only much later, when the entire Christian world of Europe decided upon the most essential common step, the recovery of Buda, that troops of English warriors again appeared in Hungary.⁴ These English troops came to Hungary not only in obedience to the Pope's proclamation of a Holy War (Crusade), but also because the presence of English people in the Turkish wars was already looked upon as a historical tradition in England. This tradition sufficiently explains the fact that all the Englishmen who fought at the siege of Buda were volunteers coming mostly from the best families of the English aristocracy who were always so respectful towards traditions.

Of all these Englishmen James Fitzjames had the most valuable mission. He deserves, therefore, to be dealt with more particularly. No doubt, the impressions and experiences of his youth in Hungary had a lasting effect on the development of his character and on the choice of his career. When his father, King James II. sent him to Hungary he did not think that his fifteen-years old son would take his first campaign so seriously that it would determine his military career for life.

Fitzjames is indeed a most interesting type of soldier and general. Studying his life more closely we are surprised to see that he took part in no fewer than *twenty-nine* campaigns, in fifteen of which he acted as a full-fledged commander-in-chief. He fought at the siege of Buda before he was sixteen, and even at this very early age he is mentioned in the records of eye-witnesses as one of the most praiseworthy and most gallant soldiers. This is what J. Richards, an official delegate wrote about him: "Mr. Fitzjames was in all this Action with Count Taaffe, behaving himself with remarkable gallantry".⁵ As an enthusiastic and true soldier he revisited Hungary after a very short interval. Although he was appointed Duke of Berwick by his father, he only spent the winter months of 1687 in his country and in April his heart brought him back to the scene of the Turkish wars. In the campaign of 1687 and in the victory of Mohács he behaved so gallantly that he was promoted to the rank of colonel and was

made Commander of the Taaffe Cuirassier Regiment.

Following his father's call he returned to England, probably at the end of the same year. It was only now that he gave a full display of his wonderful military genius. Instead of recounting his numerous achievements, it will be interesting to pick out just one particular moment of his career. The development of England's affairs forced him to enter the French Army, where he became the only English general in history to lead the French troops to victory against the English troops commanded by a French general (Battle of Almanza, Spain, 1704). Montesquieu, who was a personal friend of his and published his memoirs, gives the most striking description of his character in his preface to that work: "He was brought up to uphold a sinking cause, and to utilise in adversity every latent resource".

This great soldier spent an essential part of his military training in this country. It was an unhappy accident that he had to turn the skill which he had acquired here against his country. But apart from this lamentable fact we had to select him for a more detailed description because he may be considered as an ideal type of those gallant heroes who have often in the course, of history proved that they could fight unselfishly for the high ideals of that Christianity which is the only safe foundation of nations and countries.

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Under the joint aegis of the Pawtucket (Rhode Island) and Budapest Rotary Clubs, American and Hungarian students are to compete for prizes with essays on this subject. The Budapest Rotary Club has offered prizes of 200 pengő to the higher-grade commercial schools for boys for the best essays. The prize-winners are to receive American certificates of merit. Mr. John F. Montgomery, American Minister in Budapest, has consented to act as judge and to distribute the prizes. The counter-competition is to take place in the Pawtucket Grammar School, where American students will compete with essays on the same subject for the Hungarian Minister of Education's certificates of merit. The American essay will be judged by the Hungarian Legation in Washington. The Mayor of Pawtucket has made arrangements that the prize-giving day is to be observed as a "Hungarian Day", and Hungarian festivals will be held on that date.

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⁴ Cf. *Danubian Review*, 1936. No. 12. — *Endrődi*: English Volunteers at the Recovery of Buda.

⁵ *Jacob Richards*: A Journal of the Siege and Taking of Buda 1687. p.31.