

# DANUBIAN REVIEW

## (DANUBIAN NEWS)

A REVIEW DEVOTED TO RESEARCH INTO PROBLEMS OF THE  
DANUBIAN BASIN



Dr. ANDREW FALL  
MANAGING EDITOR

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29 ONSLOW GARDENS

## VITÉZ STEPHEN HORTHY DE NAGYBÁNYA. DEPUTY-REGENT OF HUNGARY. KILLED IN ACTION

The solemn festivities of St. Stephen's Day, one of the greatest national holidays in Hungary, were disturbed by the tragic news that broke into them like a flash of lightning. *On 20th August the Deputy-Regent of Hungary, vitéz Stephen Horthy de Nagybánya, died a hero's death on the Eastern front.* The whole nation was thrown into the deepest mourning by this news; the joy of the feast-day became the sadness of bereavement throughout the land, and it will be a long time before the fifteen million Magyars in Hungary and abroad recover from the blow.

These hours and days of grief bring home to every Magyar and all who sympathise with the Magyars the philosophic substance and meaning of Hungary's history, *namely that for a thousand years, ever since the days of St. Stephen, this nation has sacrificed itself in the defence of Europe. The Hungarian nation will now have before it a striking and inspiring parallel on which to build up another thousand years of history: St. Stephen, the founder of the State, who on the threshold of the past thousand years established the Magyars in Europe, lost his son, and Nicholas, to whom the country owes its growth at the beginning of the second thousand years, has sacrificed his son in Hungary's war for liberty which is also Europe's war for freedom. The two cases are practically identical, and it is certain that, like the Prince St. Imre's name, the name of vitéz Stephen Horthy will shine like a star over Hungary and over the whole of Europe.*

This fresh sacrifice means to the Hungarian nation that a new name has been added to the roll of

Magyar martyrs who have died for Hungary's cause, which all through the country's history has been the cause of Europe. How many Magyar martyrs sacrificed their lives when the Mongol hordes overran Europe! How many Magyars decided to sacrifice themselves for Hungary and Europe when the East, as represented by the encroaching Turk, advanced on Europe! After John Hunyadi and King Matthias, any man who engaged in military or political activities in defence of Hungary and Europe did so with the certainty that he would win a martyr's crown. King Louis II, Cardinal Tomory, and the rest of the heroes who perished on the Plain of Mohács were the forerunners of today's martyr Stephen Horthy. And how many such forerunners there were who trod the path that Stephen Horthy followed! Nicholas Zrinyi, the hero of Szigetvár, Francis Rákóczi II and the heroes of the Hungarian War of Independence in 1848—1849 who were killed by Paskievitch's Cossacks when nearly a hundred years ago the Magyars first fought against the danger of Russian panslavism menacing Europe. And now the name of the Hungarian Deputy-Regent, the hope of his country, is the last on that long list. In these hours every Magyar feels it to be his most sacred duty to rally round the bereaved Regent, and when tears have ceased to flow and sorrowing hearts have ceased to ache, every Magyar will realize that this sacrifice is an example calling on all to take part in the defence of Europe against the perils threatening from the East. In the present struggle between East and West the example set by Stephen Horthy is one to be followed by the whole nation.

### *Premier Kállay's Broadcast.*

Announcing the sad event over the wireless the Premier said: "On St. Stephen's Day, the day on which we commemorate a thousand years of Hungary's glorious history, a terrible blow has been dealt to the nation by the hand of Fate. Flight-Lieutenant *vitéz* Stephen Horthy, son of our Regent and himself Deputy-Regent of Hungary, has died a hero's death on the Eastern front. On this memorable, historical day the hope of the Hungarian nation laid down his life on the field of glory.

"He is deeply mourned by the country, by his young widow, his little son and every Magyar. Today many a mother trembles for her son's safety, but this greatest loss to the country is mourned by every Magyar mother and every Magyar father.

*"The Sacred Right Hand of St. Stephen, the founder of our State, has been raised as a sign to all of us. He, too, lost his son, but his nation survived and became great. On this day of mourning let this be regarded as a symbol. Our faith must be made manifest, by those at home in that they do their duty to the nation, to the future and to their comrades who are fighting for us; by those at the front in that each and all of them do their duty to the country and act as honour requires. To do this is now, more than ever, the duty of every son of a nation grieving but not downcast or fainthearted, a nation destined to live for ever, a nation that grows harder the greater misfortunes it suffers. We have now an example to follow.*

*"On this day of mourning a weeping nation regards its Regent and his wife with greater love and admiration than ever. It wishes them to feel that millions share their grief and bend their heads in reverence before a mother's and father's sacrifice. One and all we turn to the Regent beseeching him to be strong as the founder of the State, St. Stephen, was strong, to remain our leader; for he is our strength and security, and in him we have placed our faith and confidence.*

*"Nicholas Horthy was given to us by Providence in our darkest hour, and ever since, as one man, the nation has supported him. This is truer today than ever before. With such fathers and such sons Hungary must live for ever."*

### *Echoes of the Tragic Event at Home and Abroad.*

The effect of the Premier's speech announcing the tragic news by wireless was to cast the whole country into the deepest mourning. Almost simultaneously with his speech blackedged placards appeared in the streets ordering black flags to be flown on the houses in Budapest as a sign of the nation's grief for its great son. Everywhere, in every town and village, millions sorrowfully and with weeping eyes

listened to the Premier's broadcast. Later on in the evening the inhabitants flocked out into the streets and in a few moments every copy of the special newspaper editions was sold. In country places the people hurried to the railway stations to meet the trains from Budapest bringing the evening papers. In a few hours thousands of telegrams began to arrive at the Regent's Palace, for everyone wished to send a personal message of sympathy and condolence to Admiral and Mme, Horthy. *Magyars in foreign countries also shared in the nation's grief, and national unity was never so strikingly manifest as in this wave of deepest sympathy.*

Abroad the news of Stephen Horthy's death made almost as deep an impression as in Hungary. Herr von Jagow, Germany's Minister in Budapest, was among the first to convey on behalf of the Führer a message of condolence to the Regent. Shortly afterwards Signor *Anfuso*, Italian Minister, asked for an audience in order to condole with the Regent in the name of the Italian King-Emperor and Signor Mussolini. The Papal Nuncio, Mons. *Angelo Rotta*, left a message of condolence in his own name and on behalf of his diplomatic corps with M. Stephen Uray, *chef de Cabinet*. The *Italian* radio, speaking on behalf of a people that admires bravery beyond everything else, with true Italian warmth and passion gave expression to the sympathy felt in Italy for the Hungarian nation in its crushing loss. After announcing the sad news, the *Vienna* radio stated that it would observe a day's mourning, and described with admiration *vitéz* Stephen Horthy's feats of bravery on the battle-fields, to crown all of which he had now sacrificed his life. The *Sofia* and *Zagreb* radios also announced this tragic event with much sympathy.

#### *From the Family Home in Pola to a Hero's Death.*

*vitéz* Stephen Horthy de Nagybánya was born in Pola on 9th December 1904. He was a member of the Reformed Church. He attended secondary schools in Vienna and Baden, and obtained his leaving certificate with full marks in Budapest in 1922. During the first world war he was a student

of the Imperial and Royal Naval Academy at Fiume. In 1928 he obtained a mechanical engineer's diploma at the Budapest Joseph Nádor University of Technical Sciences. His first post was in the machine factory at Csepel. Thence he went to the United States and for a year and a half studied engineering in Henry Ford's factories at Detroit and Dearbourne. On his return he worked at the M.A.V.A.G works, of which in June 1937 he became a director, advancing to general manager in October 1939. On 24th May 1940 he left the M.A.V.A.G. works and on 1st June of that year became general manager of the Hungarian State Railways. On 4th July 1941 he received the title of State Secretary from the Regent.

*vitéz* Stephen Horthy's first military training took place in 1918 at the Naval Academy in Fiume. In 1926 he volunteered for military service and was drafted into the Air Force for further training. Rising through the various ranks he became Sub-Lieutenant at the end of 1927 and was sent to join a squadron of fighting-planes. He was the first reserve officer in the Hungarian Air Force. In 1929 he attained the rank of Flight-Lieutenant and took part in several manoeuvres. He also took part in the military campaigns connected with the restoration of Upper Hungary, Subcarpathia, Northern Transylvania and Southern Hungary.

On 28th February 1940 *vitéz* Stephen Horthy de Nagybánya became engaged to Countess Helen Edelsheim Gyulai de Marosnémeth and Nádaska. The civil marriage took place on 25th April 1940, the religious ceremony on the 27th.

On 19th February 1942 he was elected Deputy-Regent by Hungarian Parliament. Two and a half months later, on 1st May, he volunteered for active service on the Eastern front. With his squadron of fighter-planes he continually took part in the battles on the Eastern front, earning special mention more than once. In the Magyar War Bulletin No. 15 issued on 8th August it was announced that the Deputy-Regent's aeroplane which had been engaged in a successful battle with the enemy had been hit in several places, but that after completing his task the Deputy-Regent and his squadron had reached their base safely.

Flight-Lieutenant *vitéz* Stephen Horthy de Nagybánya,

Deputy-Regent of Hungary died a hero's death in action on the Russian front on 20th August. His noble, creative life and his death as a brave soldier will always be a shining example to the Hungarian nation.

Telegrams of sympathy have been sent by Pope Pius XII., Herr Adolf Hitler, Leader and Chancellor of the German Empire, His Majesty Victor Emánuel, King of Italy and Emperor. His Majesty Hirohito, Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Boris, King of Bulgaria, His Majesty Gustavus, King of Sweden, General Franco, Head of the Spanish State, M. Cormanó, President of the Republic of Portugal, Signor Benito Mussolini, M. Rysto Ryti, President of the Finnish Republic, M. Izmet İnönü, President of the Turkish Republic, M. Etter, President of the Swiss Republic, Marshal Pétain, Head of the French State, M. Ante Pavelić, Head of the Croatian State, Marshal Göring, M. Laval, French Premier, M. Serrano Suner, Spanish Foreign Minister, M. Salazar, Portuguese Premier, and a large number of other foreign statesmen and diplomats. Expressions of their sympathy have also been offered by Archduke Joseph, the heads of the supreme Hungarian courts of justice, the heads of the Hungarian Churches, the counties, towns and municipalities and the social associations. The sympathy of the Capital City of Budapest has been expressed by Dr. Tivadar Homonnay, Lord Mayor.

### *The Obsequies of the Great Deceased.*

The coffin containing the mortal remains of the late Deputy-Regent, who died in the field, arrived at the Hungarian frontier, accompanied by Major-General vitéz Ladislás Szabó, on August 25th.; then in Kassa General Szabó handed over the coffin to Dr. Ladislás Radocsay, Minister for Justice, who had come to meet the train conveying the morial remains at the head of a deputation on behalf of the Hungarian Government. At Kassa Dr. Andrew Enyedi, Member of the Upper House of the Hungarian Parliament, Bishop of the Cis-Tisza Reformed Diocese, said a prayer over the coffin. The train carrying the mortal remains arrived in the Capital City of Budapest during the afternoon of Tuesday

August 25th. To receive the coffin there were present at the station: the Members of the Hungarian Cabinet, with M. Nicholas Kállay, Premier Minister, at their head, Count Bartholomew Széchenyi, President of the Upper House, Dr. Andrew Tasnády-Nagy, President of the Lower House of the Hungarian Parliament, General vitéz Francis Szombat-helyi, Chief of the National Defence Staff, the Secretaries of State, Dr. Tivadar Homonnay, Lord Mayor, M. Charles Szendy, Mayor, M. Alexander Éliássy, Commissioner of Police, and the head and the officials of the secretariate of the late Deputy-Regent. After the arrival of the train Dr. Elemér Soltész, Protestant Field Bishop, said a prayer over the coffin. The coffin was then placed on a gun-carriage, and the cortége proceeded to the Houses of Parliament, where the was laid on a catafalque in the Dome Hall. On Wednesday, August 26th. the nation coffin paid its last respects before the catafalque. On the same day, at noon, the Lower House and then the Upper House of Parliament held a memorial session. In the Lower House M. Tasnády-Nagy president, in the Upper House the Prince Primate, Cardinal Serédi, spoke words of sincere sorrow conveying their respect for the nation's Great Deceased.

The funeral ceremony took place on Thursday, August 27th., at 10 a. m., the whole Hungarian nation showing profound sympathy and sorrow. The funeral service was conducted by Dr. Ladislas Ravasz, Bishop of the Danube Diocese, who was assisted by a large body of clergy. After the funeral service was over, the coffin of the late Deputy-Regent was again placed on a gun-carriage and, accompanied by a military guard of honour, was taken to the Western Railway Terminus. The streets along which the cortége passed were lined with hundreds of thousands of mourners. The mortal remains of the Great Deceased were then taken to Kenderes by the Regent's private train (the "Turan Train"). At Kenderes, before the catafalque erected in front of the castle, Dr. Imre Révész, Bishop of the Trans-Tisza Diocese, conducted a funeral service. Then, accompanied by the tears of millions of Hungarians mourning his loss, the mortal remains of the heroic son of the Hungarian nation were laid to rest in the family vault.