

FOCUSED FIREPOWER

A WWII Wargame for Heroes

Hungarian Infantry Company

Hitler's Jackals

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“If you want to join the banquet, you’ll have to help first in the kitchen.” - Hitler’s warning to Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, 23 August 1938

The Aftermath of The Great War was to have far reaching effects, not just for Germany but for her European neighbours and, indeed, the world. The Empire of Austro-Hungary had effectively ceased to exist, her monarchy had collapsed and she had lost much of her territory to Romania, Poland, Serbia, Italy and the new Nation States of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Within Hungary there was growing poverty and open discord caused not only by the Great Depression and defeat in The Great War but also by a massive influx of refugees from lands lost to the Allies during said war (lands that were shortly to be lost permanently under the “Treaty of Trianon” which formally freed the non-Magyar nationalities from Hungarian rule but also trapped considerable numbers of Magyars, Hungary’s native ethnic population, beyond Hungary’s borders and stripped Hungary of valuable natural resources, the treaty and its consequences would dominate Hungarian political culture and public life in the interwar years, to the Hungarians it was both unjust and a national humiliation).

Perhaps the bitterest privation was that of the huge loss of lands to Romania (the greater part of Bukovina, the Banat and a large part of Transylvania). This was unacceptable to Hungary and would ultimately open old wounds and lead to fresh hatred between the two nations (although both were destined to fight under the Axis banner and were ostensibly allies, both had a historical and cultural hatred for each other and their armies were to turn and fight amongst themselves at any given opportunity causing great problems for the German High Command who were forced to keep them apart as much as possible. There was over 200 ‘incidents’ between the two countries during the years 1941 and 1944) Ultimately, there would be a climactic reckoning between them when Romania, (fighting alongside the Soviets after going over to the Allied side in 1944), fought not only in Transylvania but on Hungarian soil itself proper culminating in the Siege of Budapest in 1944/45.

Nature abhors a vacuum and Hungary’s dual monarchy was replaced by a democratic republic which was itself in turn supplanted by Bela Kun’s so called “Hungarian Soviet Republic”, a communist regime. A failed anti-communist coup attempt led to reprisals known collectively as the “Red Terror”.

Admiral Miklos Horthy, a staunch conservative formed a “National Army” to fight the communists, however it never saw action and the “Hungarian Soviet Republic” fell instead to an invasion by joint Czech/Romanian forces, Horthy’s army only marching on Budapest after the Romanians had withdrawn.

In turn this led to events known as the “White Terror” where Horthy’s men took their revenge upon Communists, socialists and Jews. The extent to which Horthy was responsible for those events is still a matter of debate among historians yet it seems highly likely that he orchestrated such occurrences in a bid to galvanise power.

In 1920, Hungary was a kingdom without a King and Horthy would be declared Regent (effectively he was Head of State and held the powers of the King) and rule for the next twenty five years until Germany herself deposed him in 1945, this would be a time of turmoil and strife for Hungary which would ultimately turn to horror as she found herself caught up in the bloodiest war the world has yet known.

By the 1930’s Hungary was a seed bed ripe for the insidious promises of Fascism, she already had a deep rooted fear of Bolshevism (and, tragically, of the Jewish people) from her experiences under the Jewish communist Bela Kun and his accompanying “Red Terror” and thus there was a strong leaning towards the right correlative with the emergence of a multitude of Nazi groups keen to take advantage of the changing climate and stir up unrest in the pursuit of their aims.

Notable amongst those groups was the extreme right wing Arrow Cross movement led by Major Ferenc Szalasi, a former General Staff officer much enamoured of Nazism (even going so far as to undertake a ‘study tour’ of Nazi Germany).

Shocked by the growing violence the authorities stamped down hard on the Arrow Cross and other such movements, Szalasi was arrested and thrown into jail. Indeed, despite their collusion with the Nazi regime, Horthy and his government are possibly better described as “conservative authoritarian rather than “fascist”, (which perhaps makes it harder for us to forgive them their part in both the war and the Holocaust.)

Shocked by the growing violence the authorities stamped down hard on the Arrow Cross and other such movements, Szalasi was arrested and thrown into jail. The far right, sensing a serious threat to its existence, banded together and matters only grew worse, foreign newspapers reported the serious assault and murder of many who opposed the far right and Nazism, whilst Germany reacted in fury over the treatment of her supporters.

Hungary was in a state of turmoil, plans to overthrow the existing social and political order were unearthed (with plans for the internment and expulsion of Socialist, liberals and Jews).

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With the German invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg in 1940 it was clear to the Hungarians what a real threat the Nazis presented to the peace of Europe, and, as the most exposed of the Danubian nations (lacking both wide rivers, dense forests or mountains), to themselves, Hungary would be a gift to Hitler's tank divisions, additionally, it was clear that should Hitler subsequently decide to turn east he would most certainly look to the Balkan countries for such materials as would be required to further his war efforts (oil from Romania and Bauxite from Hungary).

Yet, behind this atmosphere of fear skulked something else; a desire, a strong obsession to regain lost territory, above all Transylvania (gifted to Romania after The Great War) and Vojvodina (merged into north west Yugoslavia). For Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, this was a matter of deep personal interest for he was himself from Transylvania and had been dispossessed of land by the "Treaty of Trianon", he hated the Romanians with a passion.

So, Hungary courted the Nazis, a square in Budapest was named after Adolf Hitler, while Admiral Horthy established a close relationship with the Fuhrer even sending him Birthday greetings.

Horthy's servility was soon to extend to military muscle, both establishing himself as a heroic Magyar (entering Frontier towns on a white horse ahead of his troops to the jubilant cries of the Magyar populations) and granting free passage to the German military through Hungarian territory (effectively granting them free reign to operate in Romania).

Slowly, German influence over Hungary was growing, land concessions were granted to German oil interests, Hitler was increasing the pressure on Hungary to formally acknowledge its subservience to the axis, Hungary was slowly but inexorably drifting towards her fate.

The rift between Hungary and Romania was only to grow wider as a result of the "Vienna Awards", (two arbitrary awards of land gifted to Hungary by a joint Italian/German committee established to adjudicate in the hope of preventing an internal war in Eastern Europe between Central European States with minority difficulties) an attempt to keep the two pro German governments of Romania and Hungary under control. The awards approved Hungary's seizure of territories lost to the "Treaty of Trianon". Hungary regained 12,000 square miles of Czech territory (whose population was 80% Magyar) and the northern (with its small Hungarian majority) half of Transylvania itself, Hungary thus regained not only much territory (with its accompanying natural resources) but also much of her dispossessed Magyar population. As perhaps could be expected, the Romanians boiled with resentment.

Additionally, Hungary was not idle, in a move of brazen opportunism she annexed the non ethnically Magyar Ruthenia and invaded and captured Southern Slovenia on account of the ¼ of a million Hungarian Magyars still living there, there were some clashes with Czech Slovak forces, Hungary was flexing her muscles.

There was to be no turning back now, her only friend was Germany and thus on 20th November 1940 Hungary officially threw her hand in with Germany when she signed a protocol binding her to the Tripartite Pact of the Axis powers. Hungary's fate was now implacably bound to that of the Axis. However, Hungary was to be little more than a poor relation, the tone of Ribbentrop's speech before the ceremony should have left them in no doubt of this "The Axis had condescended to accept Hungary".

The fatal die was cast on June 27th 1941 when, following Hitler's lead Hungary formally declared war upon the Soviet Union and became a full Axis partner to Germany and Italy. The final catalyst for the decision however is said to have arrived when the Hungarian city of Kassa was bombed, allegedly by Russian aircraft, however there still remains some debate as to whether or not this was the case, some proponents put forward the conclusion that Kassa was actually bombed by German aircraft in a cynical bid to draw Hungary into the war (and indeed there are conflicting eye witness reports, some stating that the planes were German bearing Russian insignia). Regardless of who was to blame, the consequences would be far reaching as Hungary was pulled irretrievably into the Axis forces.

Regardless, by 1944 the writing was on the wall, the Red army was the wolf at the door pressing hard against Hungary's borders, Admiral Horthy was intent on surrender when Hitler took action to neutralise him and regain control over Hungary. Conscious of Horthy's intentions to surrender, Hitler summoned him to a conference in Klessheim to pressure him into greater support of the war effort and the Nazi's vile policies.

The conference was a deception. As Horthy returned home on March 19th 1944 the Wehrmacht invaded and occupied Hungary. Horthy was destined to remain Regent but the real power was to lie in the hands of the Nazi's emissary in Budapest Edmund Veesenmayer.

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By August however, the Nazis were distracted by their failing war efforts, Romania turned on Hitler and his confederates going over to the side of the Allies and fighting alongside the Russians Horthy again saw a chance to withdraw Hungary from the war and began to consider plans for surrendering to the hated Russians, On October 11th the Russians and Horthy came to terms and on October 15th Horthy made a radio broadcast proclaiming that the German Government had forced Hungary into the war, Germany was on the brink of defeat and that in an attempt to safeguard Hungary's honour he was intent on concluding a military armistice with their former enemies.

Hitler again anticipated Horthy's move and in a bid to counter it and keep Hungary in the war instigated Operation Panzerfaust sending infamous commando Otto Skorzeny to Budapest where he kidnapped Horthy's son and took him to Mauthausen concentration camp to serve as a hostage and keep Horthy in line.

Admiral Horthy himself was placed in custody and with his son's life hanging in the balance was forced to sign a document officially abdicating his office and placing Ferenc Szalasi and the Arrow Cross in charge of the country. Fully aware that this was a ploy to put the stamp of his authority on a Nazi-sponsored Arrow Cross coup Horthy signed regardless, it was a straight exchange for his son's life.

Aided by the SS, the Arrow Cross Party leadership moved quickly to take command of the Hungarian armed forces, and stop the surrender. Hungary now began the descent into chaos, the Nazi policy of persecution went on unabated.

For Hungary however there was to be no respite, by December 1944 the Soviet Forces (amongst them the hated Rumanians who would go on to occupy the city) were besieging the city of Budapest, the Arrow Cross leadership cowardly retreated and by February the city had surrendered to the Russian invaders.

Hungary lay crushed under the heel of the hated communists and was to gain nothing from her alliance with the Axis, the lands granted her under the "Vienna Awards" were forfeit, the awards declared null and void, over 300,000 of her soldiers languished in Soviet prisoner of war camps, she was occupied by her enemies and over 40 years a years of Soviet oppression lay before her.

Hungarian Special Rules

Fear and Loathing

Historically there was a (mutual) hatred between Hungary and Rumania, this had only been exacerbated by the Treaty of Trianon and the subsequent loss of land to Rumania. Such was the hatred between Hungary and Rumania that the German High Command was forced to keep their forces apart at the front lest they fight each other (and clashes, especially over the borders, were common) instead of the enemy.

This is reflected in game terms thus;

Whenever any part of a Hungarian force comes within 18" of any Rumanian forces it is considered to become enraged and must attack the nearest Rumanian unit at the first opportunity. The Hungarians may take no other action save to direct all their efforts towards engaging and defeating the hated Rumanians.

All affected Hungarian will be considered to be "fanatic" (in addition to their standard designation) for the Duration of any such combats and will only be free of hatred (and be free to act normally) when the hated enemy has been defeated (or forced to retreat/retreated more than 18" away from their current position).

The only exception to this rule is if the Hungarian assets in question are at risk of assault from enemy units or any enemy units are closer to the Hungarians than the despised Rumanians.

Kampfgruppe Tactics

The Hungarian forces of World War Two were forced to rely a great deal upon a varied range of weapons and equipment often pressing them into service together as "ad-hoc" battle groups, as such the Hungarians gain the benefits of the "Kampfgruppe Tactics" special rule.

1 - Hungarian elements may always make use of the 'Floating ORBAT Rule' without cost penalty.

2 - Hungarian Forces may re-roll failed reserve rolls on the turn they are ordered to appear.

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Hungarian Equipment

Huzagol 35M (M1935) Rifle:

The Huzagol 35M was the standard 8mm bolt action battle rifle of the Hungarian armed forces of World War 2. Based directly upon the Steyr-Mannlicher M1895, it was a reliable and sound weapon that fired one of the most powerful rifle rounds of the war.

Huzagol 43M (M1943) Rifle:

The Huzagol 43M was the Hungarian version of the German Gewehr 98/40 rifle, itself a German adaptation of the Hungarian 35M rifle. It is essentially a standard Gewehr 98/40 designed to take a Hungarian bayonet and to fire the Hungarian 8mm rifle round.

Gepisztoly 39M SMG:

M1931 Solothurn LMG:

ZB.37 Machine Gun (MMG):

Schwarzlose M1907 (HMG): Water-Cooled, Slow Firing

The Schwarzlose Model 07/12 was an elderly design that nonetheless was to serve with both the German, Austrian, Italian and Hungarian armies throughout The Second World War. The Schwarzlose was one of the heaviest weapons that ever used the delayed blowback system and one of the more successful. Utilising a rather unusual mechanism that relied partly on inertia and partly on a toggle mechanism (the Maxim machine gun also used a toggle lock), it was this very toggle mechanism that created the delayed action of the machine gun, even so, extraction of the cartridges remained violent and the original design included an oil pump intended to remedy this via lubrication of the cartridges, later models abandoned this pump and the breechblock was made even heavier in order to provide more resistance and slow the extraction of cartridges.

Clearly an elderly design, nonetheless, the Schwarzlose was to serve with both the German, Austrian, Italian and Hungarian armies throughout The Second World War.

81mm Mortar:

Pak 35/36ATG:

Standard equipment key:

Pistols - Frommer Stop 7.65mm pistol

Rifles - Huzagol M1935 8mm Rifle

SMGs - Gepisztoly 39M SMG

Varied Equipment

Hungary was to make great use of a wide range of equipment (both captured and purchased) from many different nations, and as such may purchase and utilize any and all vehicles and weaponry as designated by the Morale Monitor.

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Company HQ:

Infantry Company HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Major/Captain (CO)	Pistol	
3 Senior Sergeants (NCO)	Rifle	
2 Riflemen	Rifle	
Options:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCO/Officer may replace rifle with a Gepisztoly 39M SMG for – pts - From 1943 May replace M1935 rifle for Huzagol M1943 Rifle for – pts - From 1943 Gepisztoly 39M SMG is replaced with Gepisztoly 43M - May be motorized by adding one driver with rifle and one medium truck (or field car) for -- pts 		

Infantry Platoon - 4 per Company

Platoon HQ:

Platoon HQ - 1 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
2 Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
2 Troopers (Gun Crew)	Pistols, Manning M1931 Solothurn LMG	
3 Riflemen	Rifle	
Options:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCO/Officer may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts - May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts - May be motorized by adding one driver with rifle and one medium truck (or field car) for -- pts 		

Infantry Sections:

Rifle Squad - 3 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
2 Troopers (Gun Crew)	Pistols, Manning M1931 Solothurn LMG	
5 Riflemen	Rifle	
Options:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts - May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts - May be motorized by adding driver with rifle and one medium truck to every three rifle squads for -- pts 		

Hungarian Infantry Company Support

Light Machine Platoon

Light Machine Gun Platoon:

LMG Platoon HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
1 Rifleman	Rifle	
Options:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lieutenant & Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts - May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts - May be motorized by adding one driver with rifle and one medium truck for -- pts 		

LMG Squad - 3 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Pistol	
4 x Gunner & Loader	Pistols, Manning M1931 Solothurn LMG	
Options:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts - May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts - May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck to each LMG squad for -- pts 		

Medium Machine Platoon

Medium Machine Gun Platoon:

MMG Platoon HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
Options:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCO/Officer may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts - May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts - May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck (or field car) for -- pts 		

MMG Squad - 4 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
2 x Gunner & 2 Loaders	1 Pistol, 2 Rifles, Manning ZB.37 Machine Gun	
Options:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts - May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts - May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck for -- pts 		

Hungarian Infantry Company Support

Heavy Machine Platoon

Heavy Machine Gun Platoon:

HMG Platoon HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
Options:		
- NCO/Officer may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck (or field car) for -- pts		

HMG Squad - 4 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
2 x Gunner & 2 Loaders	1 Pistol, 2 Rifles, Manning Schwarzlose M1907	
Options:		
- Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck for -- pts		

Light Mortar Platoon

Light Mortar Platoon:

Light Mortar Platoon HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
1 Rifleman	Rifle	
Options:		
- NCO/Officer may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck (or field car) for -- pts		

Light Mortar Squad - 3 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Pistol	
2 x Gunner & 2 Loaders	1 Pistol, 2 Rifles, Manning Light Mortar (?)	
Options:		
- Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck for -- pts		

Hungarian Infantry Company Support

Mortar Platoon

Mortar Platoon:

Mortar HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
Options:		
- NCO/Officer may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck (or field car) for -- pts		

Mortar Squad - 2 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
2 x 6 Gunners	2 Pistols, 4 Rifles, Manning 81mm Mortar	
Options:		
- Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck for -- pts		

Anti-Tank Platoon

Anti-tank Platoon:

AT Platoon HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
Options:		
- NCO/Officer may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck (or field car) for -- pts		

AT Squad - 2 per Platoon	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
2 Drivers	Rifle, Horse & Limber	
2 x 6 Gunners	2 Pistols, 4 Rifles, Manning Pak 35/36ATG	
Options:		
- Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by replacing each Horse & Limber with a light truck for --pts each		
- A/T guns may be upgraded to Pak 40 for – pts		
- A/T guns may be upgraded to Captured Russian ----- for – pt s		

Hungarian Infantry Company Support

Divisional Anti-Tank Platoon

Divisional Anti-tank Platoon:

Divisional AT Platoon HQ - 1 per Company	Pts:	UMV:
Lieutenant (CO)	Pistol	
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
Options:		
- NCO/Officer may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by adding 1 driver with rifle and medium truck (or field car) for -- pts		

Divisional AT Squad	Pts:	UMV:
Corporal (NCO)	Rifle	
3 Drivers	Rifle, Horse & Limber	
3 x 6 Gunners	2 Pistols, 4 Rifles, Manning Pak 40 ATG	
Options:		
- Corporal may replace rifle with an M1939 Kiraly SMG for – pts		
- May upgrade rifle to Huzagol 43M Rifle for - pts		
- May be motorized by replacing each Horse & Limber with a light truck for --pts each		