

TIBOR MOLNÁR: THE DEAD HEROES OF GREAT WAR  
IN THE REGION ALONG THE TISZA IN BÁCSKA (1914–1918) –  
SUMMARY

As a result of Austro-Hungarian Compromise in 1867, the dualistic Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was formed. The military forces, which constituted one of the main strengthening powers, were also reformed. Between 1868 and 1912 a series of laws were passed settling the situation of the armed forces: military service was compulsory for each citizen either as enlisted soldiers or as reserves.

The military staff were completed on a regional basis: people obliged to fulfil their military duty came from a given region, speaking a common language serving in the same unit: it was important because the country was multinational. The official language of the common army was German, whereas that of the national armed forces was Hungarian and Croatian. The army was divided into the following branches: infantry, cavalry and artillery. Before the outbreak of WW1 the military forces of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy were made up of the following braches:

- Imperial and Royal (common) Army and Navy,
- the Hungarian Royal Army and its Austrian counterpart, the so called k. k. Landwehr,
- the Hungarian Royal Uprising and its Austrian counterpart, the so called k. k. Landsturm.

In 1910 the region along the River Tisza in Bácska had 120,000 inhabitants and those on military duty who came from here mainly served in two infantry detachments – in k.u.k. Infantry Regiment (from Szabadka) 86, and in Hungarian Royal Regiment 6 (from Szabadka).

The Austro-Hungarian troops were sent against Serbia on 12 August 1914. In the Russian war theatre, in Galicia, the fight was started on 18 August 1914. After Italy entered the war in May 1915, a new 600-km long frontline was opened from Switzerland to the Adriatic Sea. Fighting went on until November 1918, when the Great War was concluded by signing the Armistice.

The war claimed staggering number of lives: according to the official documents, during the war 10 million soldiers were killed. The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy lost 1.5 million soldiers, and 661,000 were from Hungary.

On the bases of researches, from the Tisza region in Bácska 3,616 persons lost their lives in the war: from Ada (Ada) 416, from Bácsföldvár (Bačko Gradište) 160, from Horgos (Horgoš) 185, from Magyarakanizsa (Kanjiža) 766, From Mohol (Mol) 268, from Óbecse (Bečej) 389, from Péterréve (Bačko Petrovo Selo) 234 and from Zenta (Senta) 1.009 – most of them became the victims of the fierce combats of 1915/1916. The cause of their deaths mostly were injuries whiches were made by firearms, polearms or explosion. In a lot of cases the soldiers were killed by different illness, typhus or cholera, but many of them died of tuberculosis which was caused by the hardships and want of supplies on the front.

The men from the Tisza region in Bácska who died were in „their prime age”: a third of them were aged 21–30, and a quarter were 31–40 years old. The greatest part of them, depending on the settlement they came from, amounted to 49–77% – lived from agriculture: mostly farmeres without land or with small land. One part of them in civil life worked in the area of industry or trade, or worked as employees: their proportion among the dead heroes, depending on the settlement, added up to 8–19%. Among the dead heroes 54 people fell in the category of intellectuals: teachers, lawyers, university and other students.

Inasmuch as in the region mostly people of the Roman Catholic religion lived, so most dead heroes – 83% – were from them, 13,2% were Orthodox, Israelitic 2,15%.

The people from Bácska who died in the Great War are buried in far-away cemeteries, this book is an attempt to keep their memory for the posterity at least virtually.