

KÁZMÉR, LÁSZLÓ

kazmerlaca@gmail.com

PhD Student (University of Debrecen, Doctorate School of History and Ethnography)

The Hungarian 2nd Army in the Hungarian World Newsreel (1942–1943)



ABSTRACT

In this thesis, I will use audiovisual media sources to examine how media history can contribute to the knowledge of the military history of the Hungarian 2nd Army in World War II. In the period under review, this source material is provided by the Hungarian World Newsreel, the only Hungarian historical document of its kind. As the subject is much larger than I could fit into a single paper, I have to leave out a number of things out of necessity and concentrate on the specific historical questions I am formulating. After two small chapters of an introductory nature, the first of two more extensive sections presents a quantitative analysis of the main source corpus. In the second main part, I will examine two relatively short periods in the life of the army, using visual image analysis and military science. Only the departure and arrival home can be covered here. Finally, I will summarise the answers to the questions posed in the introduction.

KEYWORDS

World War II, military and media history, propaganda, military science, newsreel, hungarian 2nd army

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THE HUNGARIAN 2ND ARMY IN THE HUNGARIAN WORLD NEWSREEL (1942-1943)

In this study I will attempt to show the media representation of the Hungarian 2nd Army on the Eastern Front. The media representations subjected to quantitative and visual appearance analysis are the sections of the Hungarian World Newsreel published between May 1942 and June 1943. For the quantitative analysis, I examined all the newsreels that dealt with the Hungarian 2nd Army. For the detailed visual analysis, I have selected the film newsreels that show the visual representation of departure and return. The limits of this study do not allow me to go into more detail about the fighting or the time spent at the front, so I have omitted them from the visual examination. The source material has been preserved in its entirety and is freely available on filmhiradokonline.hu.¹ In carrying out this research, I sought to answer the following questions. What do the visual tell us about the army's departure and return? What can the audiovisual source contribute to the understanding of the historical event? What was highlighted and what was not discussed in the newsreel?

In this study, I will first describe the historical event that triggered the production of the newsreels. I do this only very briefly, as it is not the purpose of the paper to describe the events of public history, but the English-language publication justifies the outline of the event. In the second section, I will present the newsreels that are the main source corpus of the research, and carry out a quantitative analysis of them. In the third part, I explain the patterns in the visual representation of each news item, and finally I summarise the results of the research. Several works by Balázs Sipos² and Janka Barkóczi³ have helped me in my study of media representation.

¹ <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/index.php#home> Last visited: 12 November 2022.

² Among others: SÍPOS 2004.; SÍPOS 2011.

³ BARKÓCZI 2017.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

I summarise the historical event based on the research of Péter Szabó⁴ and Ignác Romsics⁵:

Hungary entered the Second World War on 27 July 1941. Hungary deployed its most modern military organisation, the Fast Corps, to the Eastern Front later that year and brought it home before the end of the year.⁶ In the summer of 1942, the German command embarked on a major offensive operation, for which they wanted to make greater use of the Axis armies. Between 11 April and 27 July 1942, the Royal Hungarian Army sent its 2nd Army of nearly 207,000 men into the Eastern Front.⁷ Where they had to secure the frontline, stretched more than 200 km south of Voronezh along the Don River.⁸ The public mood was already not good going into the war, and was similar or worse when the army was sent out.⁹

Towards the end of the year, the Red Army not only stopped the Axis forces, but launched its counterattack at Stalingrad on 19 November.¹⁰ On 12 and 14 January 1943 the Soviet attack started on the front defended by the Hungarians. Faced with a large overwhelming force, a large part of the army could only hold out for a few days. From 17 January, parts of the army made a general retreat.¹¹ On 22 January, the German High Command decided to withdraw the disabled remnants of the army from the front line for reorganisation.¹² The III Hungarian Corps was still in position at the Don River as rearguard near the end of January.¹³ As a result, starving and frozen soldiers were still arriving at the assembly area some 500 km to the west, weeks after the breakthrough.¹⁴ It soon became clear that the scale of the losses meant that it was no longer possible to reorganise the army, so on 7 April it was decided to extraction what was left of the army. The repatriation was carried out between 24 April and 30 May of 1943.¹⁵ Fearing a possible bitter reception, the repatriation was done covertly. The trains arrived into the stations at night and the survivors were quarantined in barracks for three weeks.¹⁶

The total losses of the Hungarian 2nd Army are difficult to determine, as the mechanism of the retreat makes it impossible to say how many men were killed in action, frozen to death or taken prisoner of war, that is why there were many who were reported missing. Estimated casualties reached 42,000 and prisoners of war 26,000. The wounded and sick numbered 28,000. And the number of remaining troops was 108,000.¹⁷ All in all, half of the personnel, 70% of the

⁴ See more details: SZABÓ 2019.

⁵ See more details: ROMSICS 2010.

⁶ ANDAHÁZI SZEGHY 2016. 136–145.

⁷ SZABÓ 2019. 80–82.; ROMSICS 2010. 257.

⁸ SZABÓ 2019. 161–163.

⁹ ROMSICS 2010. 258.

¹⁰ SZABÓ 2019. 369–371.

¹¹ SZABÓ 2019. 465–473.

¹² SZABÓ 2019. 493.

¹³ SZABÓ 2019. 515–517.

¹⁴ SZABÓ 2019. 553.

¹⁵ SZABÓ 2019. 561.

¹⁶ SZABÓ 2019. 562.

¹⁷ SZABÓ 2019. 656.

military equipment and 100% of the heavy weapons were lost, so it is justified to consider the 2nd army destroyed. There was no official Hungarian information about the losses of the Hungarian forces, people only learned about them from the Hungarian-language broadcasts of radio stations in London and Moscow. However, hundreds of thousands of people were mourning or caring for family members who had come back home from the war, injured and devastated. The number of people who had the opportunity to talk to them later on could be millions.¹⁸

PRESENTATION AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN SOURCE CORPUS

The film newsreels were produced by the *Magyar Film Iroda Részvénytársaság* (in English: Hungarian Film Office Joint Stock Company), founded on 1 November 1923. Like many other organisations, it was also in the interest of the *Magyar Távirati Iroda* (in English: Hungarian Telegraphic Office), which was a way of asserting state influence.¹⁹ From its inception, it was part of the government propaganda centre, as Miklós Kozma, head of the Hungarian Telegraphic Office, puts it, „... if something is reported from a competent or official place, we are only a mouthpiece, so we cannot be held responsible.”²⁰ In Hungary, it was compulsory to show newsreels in cinemas before feature films from 1926.²¹ The next major development was the acquisition of a German-system sound film recorder in 1932. From then on, film newsreels were called Hungarian World Newsreels. There were many cinemas in the country, far more than the number of copies of each newsreel that could be produced. As a result, the newsreel for this week was still being shown in cinemas in remote rural areas 20-22 weeks later. The organisation, made up of professional cameramen, received public funding for its work. With the financial resources they received, they were able to use state-of-the-art techniques.²² The motivation and thirst for knowledge of the creators, as well as the secure financial backing, provided a good starting point for exemplary work.²³

During the period in question, film newsreels were already being published on a weekly basis. There are 6-8 news in each newsreel. Each news item could last from one minute to 4-5 minutes. An exception to this is the second longest film newsreel of the Horthy period, made on the occasion of the death of the deputy governor and lasting over 18 minutes. This should be specifically taken into account in the analysis. Media history is an important factor for our topic. It is that the thinking of the time still believed in the omnipotence of the media. This means that media leaders and managers believed that their publications had a powerful influence on public opinion.²⁴ Therefore, media sources should be interpreted in the same way, even if they present a constructed picture of reality.

¹⁸ ROMSICS 2010. 258.

¹⁹ ORMOS 2000. 103.

²⁰ PIRITYI 1996. 66.

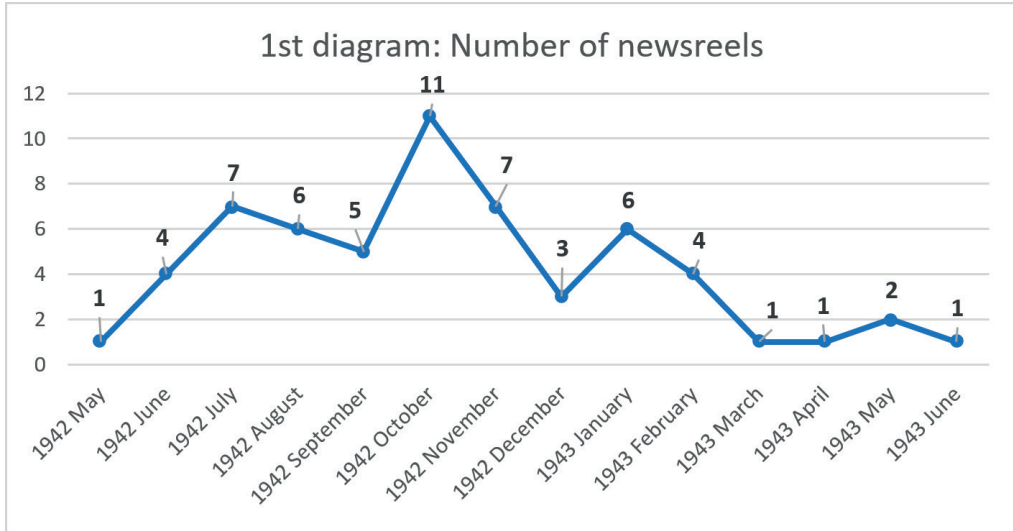
²¹ Ministry of the Interior Regulation 98.104/1930 BM and 109.570/1930 BM In BARKÓCZI 2017. 23.

²² BARKÓCZI 2017. 8.

²³ BARKÓCZI 2017. 9.

²⁴ „Projectile theory” „Two-step impact model” In McQUAIL 2015. 552–555.

I start the analysis with a quantitative analysis. Between May 1942 and June 1943, a total of 459 news items appeared in the 61 newsreels, 59 of which dealt with the Hungarian 2nd Army. That's 13%, which means that just over one in ten news items was about the military. However, this was not distributed proportionally over the period under review. But it showed a significant disproportionality, as shown in the first diagram.²⁵

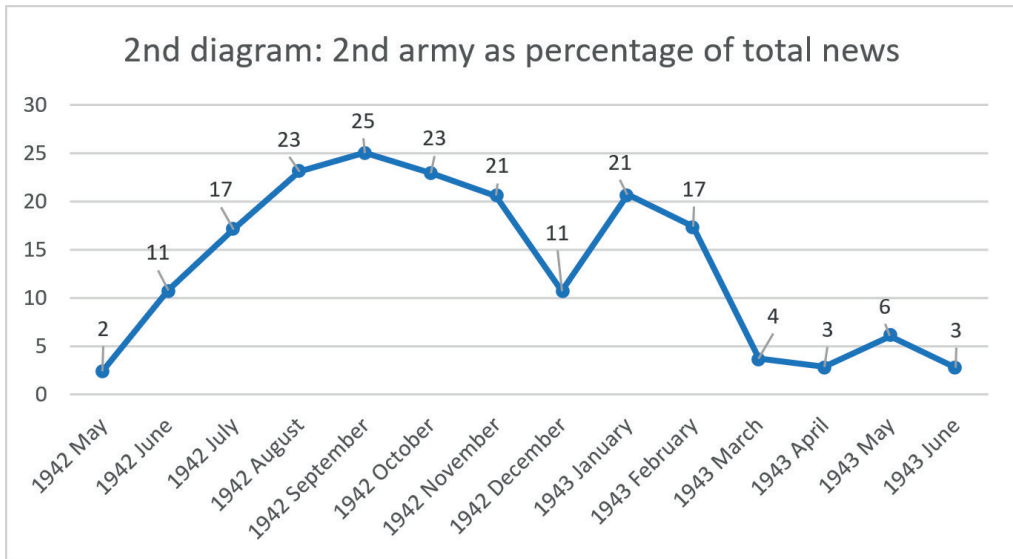


This shows that in the summer and autumn of 1942, the army was the subject of more news, and then, as winter set in, attention declined. After the destruction of the army, the number of news stories dropped significantly. From March 1943 onwards, there were only one or two news items a month about the army. The peak of interest was in the autumn of 1942, when the news of the battles of August and September was brought home. This suggests that there is a parallel between the decline in the organisation of the army and media attention. The 2nd diagram²⁶ shows the percentage of the total 469 news items that dealt with the 2nd Army in each month. This is different from the first diagram in that it does not show the September 1942 decline in representation. This is because there were fewer news items about the 2nd Army, but the total number of news items was also much lower, and each item was longer than the average. However, the drop in December was also seen here, which means that there was indeed less coverage of the military and not a drop in the total number of news items as in September. The decline was due to the fact that there were no major combat events in the army area at the time and the airtime was filled with news from other fronts.²⁷ What also shows is that in March 1943 there was a significant drop in the number

²⁵ The diagram was created by the author.

²⁶ The diagram was created by the author.

²⁷ In 2020, the author wrote his Master's thesis on this topic entitled „The Hungarian World Newsreel in the Second World War”. In December 1942, news of Axis troops appeared in Hungary to a similar extent as in June 1942, when the offensive (Operation Blau) began. From August to November 1942, there were barely 1-3 news items a month from the other army of Axis nations. The thesis is written at the Institute of History, Faculty of Humanities, Debrecen University, original title in Hungarian: „A Magyar Világhíradó a második világháborúban.” <https://dea.lib.unideb.hu/items/cfe9c2e8-a02a-4a5b-8ab4-3b1ca0474b13>



of news items. Only in May was there a little more news, but this was due to the fact that a large part of the Hungarian 2nd Army, including the commander of the army, had returned home. The setback was the result of the defeated army concentrating in the assembly districts and reorganising.

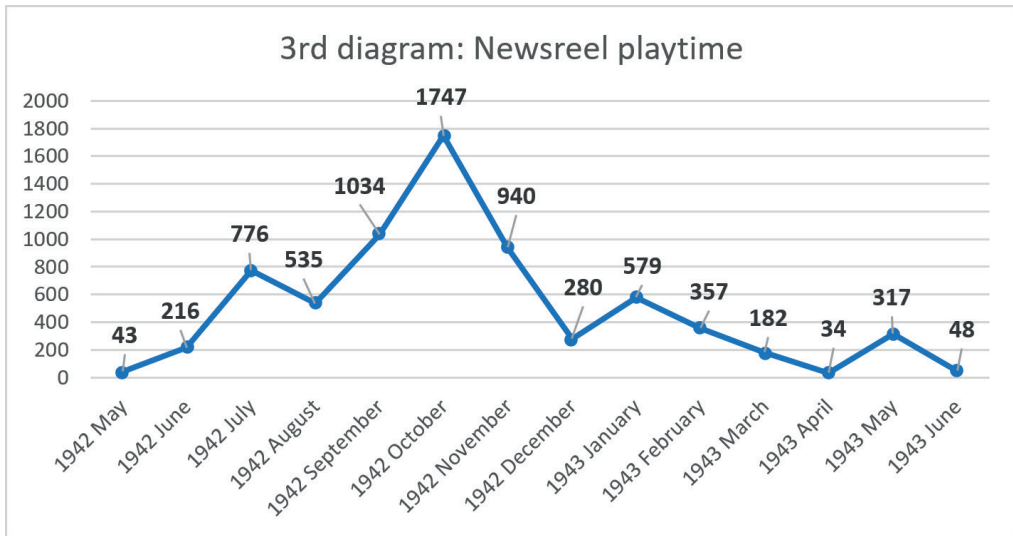
The above observations can be better confirmed by examining the change in news duration (playing time) after the change in the number and proportion of news items. A total of 33985 seconds (9 hours and 26 minutes) of news were published during the period under review, of which 7088 seconds (less than 2 hours and 2 minutes) were devoted to the 2nd Army. This is nearly 21%, showing that war news was on average longer than non-war news. Because their number of news was only 13%, but their duration was 21%. So, on average, news on the military is longer than news on other topics. Their distribution is shown in diagram number 3,²⁸ where it is immediately apparent that the lines are almost similar to those in diagram number 1. Significant differences are only seen in the month of September. This means that although fewer news items were published, the news items were longer in time. In May 1942, there was only one 43-second news item showing the training of the army. From then on, the number of publications increased. The first small decline was observed in August. This can be attributed to the death, on 20 August 1942, of 1st Lieutenant István Horthy, Deputy Governor of the Kingdom of Hungary, who was the elder son of Governor Miklós Horthy.²⁹

In his honour, the editors produced a newsreel of more than 18 minutes,³⁰ in which his life and funeral were presented, reducing the amount of airtime available for other topics. In September and October, there was an increase in the number of news items due to the coverage of the bridgehead battles. It also shows that by December, broadcasting time had dropped significantly.

²⁸ The diagram was created by the author.

²⁹ There was an Air brigade in the Hungarian 2nd Army, one of the members of which was István Horthy, deputy governor, with the rank of 1st lieutenant. Shortly after take-off, his fighter of the type „Héja” crashed due to a technical fault near the village of Ilovka. (location in Russian: Ильянка coordinates: 50° 42' 0" N, 38° 37' 0" E)

³⁰ Hungarian World Newsreel-966th (In the further references: HWN-serial number). <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4759>



The smaller increase in January, however, must be attributed to news of a winter battle. And in the months of March and April, the amount of news about the army dropped almost completely, despite the fact that more than 100,000 PAX³¹ were still on the Eastern Front. And the slight increase in May was in the news because of the coverage of the welcome-back celebrations. In examining the justification for playing time, we also need to look at their ratio to the total amount of news time. Thus, the fourth diagram³² shows what percentage of the total airtime shown in a given month was about the 2nd Army. This diagram shows how much attention has been paid to the topic at a given time. These show that half the news reports during bridgehead battles were about this. This is possible because the rest of the news lasted less than a minute. However, the news about the army lasted 3-5 minutes. One example was the Hungarian World Newsreel, numbered 967,³³ which reported on the trip of Hungarian film actors and actresses to Germany, but only in 29 seconds, while the news about the fighting along the Don River was shown in 272 seconds (~ 4.5 minutes). The declines already seen in the previous diagram are also evident here. However, this diagram shows best how much the 2nd Army disappeared from the news in April 1943. It appeared in only one percent of the total news volume.

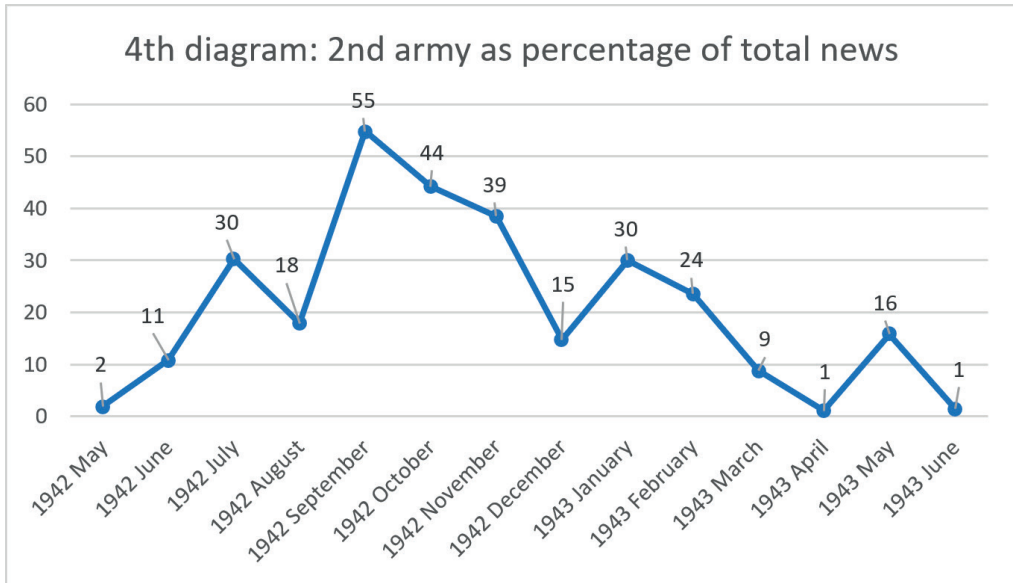
Overall, the following conclusions can be drawn from the quantitative analysis. A correlation is observed between the analysis of the number of news items and the analysis of the duration of news items. As time progressed and the army was increasingly deployed to the Eastern Front, the media coverage increased. The first drop was observed in August, but this was more due to the death of the Lieutenant Governor at the front in August and the weekly slot of 7-9 minutes being filled by a memorial programme of over 18 minutes.³⁴ The largest proportion of the 2nd Army in cinema

³¹ PAX is a military jargon for persons.

³² The diagram was created by the author.

³³ HWN-967th: <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/index.php#home>

³⁴ Author's comment: This news was the second longest of the era. The longest newsreel was screened in June 1943 on the occasion of Miklós Horthy's 75th birthday, which was 26 minutes and 28 seconds long. HWN-1008th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/index.php#home>



was during the bridgehead battles. At the time, half the newsreels were devoted to the army. From then on, however, it gradually declined. In December, it reached a low point, which was marked by the unfavourable development of the World War (the Red Army launched its counter-offensive on 19 November 1942, destroying several Axis armies). In addition, the Hungarian front was relatively quiet. The Soviet offensive against the Hungarians began on 12 and 14 January. As a result, the spotlight returned to it to a greater extent in January and February. The more the country's leadership became aware of the extent of the defeat, the less the army was in the news. At the same time, it should also be noted that the remnants of the army were increasingly distanced from the events and battles of the front. Already in March, there was a significant drop in their news coverage, despite the fact that the population at home was extremely interested in what was happening to their relatives. You can find more evidence of this in the daily press.³⁵ The army's last major media appearance took place in May 1943, when footage of their repatriation celebrations was shown.

VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE DEPARTING AND RETURNING ARMY

The 2nd Army debuted in cinemas in May 1942. In the short newsreel, which lasted just 43 seconds, it was reported that the soldiers carried out an offensive exercise in front of high-ranking civilians and military personnel from home and abroad.³⁶ In the exercise, infantry soldiers

³⁵ The national newspapers published news telling the public not to contact the Hungarian Embassy in neutral Sweden because they could not help them. Such news was, for example, the article on page 5 of the „8 Órai Újság” of 30 January 1943, or the article on page 6 of the National Socialist newspaper „Magyarság” of 29 January 1943.

³⁶ HWN-950th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4631>

reinforced with tanks demonstrated an attack in a completely open area. In the shots were Panzer 38(t) tanks of Czechoslovak manufacture, 108 of which were taken to the Don river.³⁷ The newsreel basically concentrated on two branches of the armed forces: infantry and armors. Other branches of the armed were barely dealt with, with only a short scene showing radio-signals soldiers doing radio distribution. The latter belonged to the engineer-technical branches of the armed forces according to the 1939 Regulations of Combat Tactical.³⁸ These branches of the armed forces was so mainly because the nature of the exercise was that of a demonstration, where the most spectacular moments were to be shown. The news fits into the representation of the tasks of the preparatory period, as it showed a final exercise where they demonstrated the skills they had been practising until then. Although they had to conduct less offensive and more defensive operations in the frontline fights. It cannot be said, however, that there would have been little point in practising offensive operations, since offensive tasks must also be carried out during active defensive fighting. As shown in the pictures, the attack with armour gave the infantry enough strength to carry out the task. Although the Regulations of Combat Tactics attribute only „a certain amount of thrust”³⁹ to tanks, the infantry were to bear the brunt of the attack and decide the battles.⁴⁰ The bridgehead battles, however, clearly demonstrated the correctness of the demonstration practice and the obsolescence of the rules. The newsreel proves that they have practiced modern armed combat manoeuvres.

The next event relates to redeployment, with seven news items presented. The first one appeared in the 954th newsreel⁴¹ in June 1942. They introduced the war correspondent company that went out with the army to front with the task of documenting events with newsreel footage. Two typical events can be seen in the redeployment footage. One is the farewell ceremony itself and the other is the loading and departure of the train. The first scene was the ceremonial parade, which consisted of the speech of honour and the parade of soldiers. The last scene consisted of the loading of the train and the last embrace of the relatives. These main scenes were repeated in other news programmes. One of these was the news 955th, in which the Red Cross nurses⁴² and the units of Kecskemét⁴³ were presented. The news item 958th showed the farewell celebrations of the units of the capital,⁴⁴ while the news item 959th showed the farewell celebrations of the units of the city of Kassa.⁴⁵ The latter had special significance because the farewell speech was delivered by Prime Minister Miklós Kállay, and among the redeployed was his son, who was an officer. Another thing that can be said about farewell celebrations is that they usually took place in a public square or in a large open area where the whole unit could be seen.

Through newsreels, the historian can gain insights that written or even photographic sources cannot provide. These are mainly due to the appearance of movements, changes in position and location, and non-verbal communication. Of course, even verbal communication can be heard in

³⁷ SZABÓ 2019. 56.

³⁸ Regulations of Combat Tactical 69. list mark, 32–33.

³⁹ Regulations of Combat Tactical 67/b list mark, 29.

⁴⁰ Regulations of Combat Tactical 64 list mark, 25.

⁴¹ 6th new of HWN-954th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4662>

⁴² 4th new of HWN-955th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4669>

⁴³ 7th new of HWN-955th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4672>

⁴⁴ 5th new of HWN-958th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4698>

⁴⁵ 9th new of HWN-959th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4710>

sound films, which is of particular importance because the text documents that accompany them are authenticated. Especially the continuous passages, where you can hear the speaker's intonation, facial expressions and body movements. Such was the case in the 959th newsreel, in which the Prime Minister spoke from the rostrum in the protocol part of the speech. A little later, while the soldiers were boarding the train, he was already standing with his hands in his pockets, chatting cheerfully with some officers and his wife. In the next scene we see the farewells and the departure of the train. A typical image is the sight of soldiers waving enthusiastically from a moving train. Also, we can see among the relatives remaining at the station, the waving and last glances, and the sad expressions on the faces of women and girls. All this in just a few seconds of video footage. We do not see the big historical events, but individual people and the small acts of their lives. The scenes of separation are similar everywhere, which expands the short scene into a social phenomenon.

To make up for war losses, 980 officers and 33400 soldiers were sent to the front before the onset of winter.⁴⁶ As in the past, their case was the subject of a fancy ceremony. As in previous cases, they also had a fancy ceremony, as evidenced by two newsreels. One of them was reported in November 1942 in the 977th newsreel,⁴⁷ the other in early 1943 in the 986th newsreel.⁴⁸ Similar scenes to the previous ones can also be found in these. These include soldiers on parade and loading the train, as well as emotional scenes. For example, in the first newsreel, people run up to the marching soldiers to hand them small objects as a parting gift. But the second newsreel is a little different. Soldiers at the train station keep jumping around like children and tapping a chimney sweep, who, according to New Year superstition, brings them good luck. The narrative text says that they do this, but it is the moving image that really captures the moment when 18-20 uniformed adult men try to tip a sooty chimney sweep. There is a cultural, ethnographic and historical anthropological meaning to what happened. What makes the scene a bit strange is that the soldiers are standing in the background while their comrades are looking for their fortune. We also have to ask ourselves what a chimney sweep was doing next to the tracks. There's an almost conspicuous amount of fun in this film newsreel. Many people are smiling, there's a lot of joy, despite the fact that they're going to the front. Even in the separation from relatives, there is no trace of sadness. In fact, there is hardly any family members saying goodbye. What is truly revealing is the scene that takes place between 48 and 55 seconds in the newscast. In the scene, the soldier is not the centre of attention, but a fashionably dressed lady who puts a small decoration on the soldier's hat, giving him a small memento. It is also interesting that they part with a kiss on the cheek rather than a kiss on the mouth. So it was not a goodbye to a girlfriend, fiancée or wife. The military unit is not identifiable, so it does not fit in with the list of farewell newsreels. The whole film focuses on the joyous departure to the front rather than the intimate moment of parting and farewell as in previous news reports on the subject. Overall, the focus here is on propagandistic abstraction rather than the presentation of the event.

After the fighting, there was little film coverage of the 2nd Army. In March 1943, Newsreel No. 995⁴⁹ reported on the repatriation and treatment of wounded soldiers. The three-minute news report featured the train carrying the wounded wounded carry train, the disinfection

⁴⁶ SZABÓ 2019. 170.

⁴⁷ 6th new of HWN-977th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4839>

⁴⁸ 6th new of HWN-986th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4900>

⁴⁹ 1st new of HWN-995th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=4955>

station, medical care, the wound dressings section, bathing group, meals and the charity packages handed over by the camp chaplain. They explain that this is to prevent the spread of epidemics brought home from the front. This video was necessary because it was not only the wounded soldiers who were disinfected, but also the others. The only difference was that they were quarantined for three weeks in the barracks instead of the hospital. For understandable reasons, these soldiers had to be kept in isolation as they could have got infections or diseases of many kinds at the front line. A good example of this is the recollection of First Lieutenant István Körmendy, who recounts how, despite the daily headcount control, sometimes a hundred people escaped from the barracks in the evening.⁵⁰

In April there was only one news item about the army. This is in news item 1001st,⁵¹ in which it was reported that Colonel-General Gustáv Jány, Commander of the Army, had been ceremoniously awarded the Knight's Cross of the German Iron Cross by German General Kitzinger on behalf of Hitler. In fact, in the two news items that followed, the media talked about it. In the newsreel 1002nd,⁵² it reports on his arrival home and his ceremonial welcome, and in 1004th⁵³ he visits the Red Cross Main office to thank the medical staff, without whom many soldiers would have died in battle.

The last newsreel on the subject began to be shown in cinemas in June 1943. In the 1006th newsreel,⁵⁴ the repatriation ceremony of the soldiers of Nagykanizsa was presented. The event took place in the public space of the city. The soldiers lined up in formation, hoisted the city's national flag, commemorated at the military monument and then marched in procession past the city's dignitaries and the assembled people. As with the redeployment, there was a festive atmosphere here. The footage shows controlled military expressions and formal gestures, in which individual expressions are lost. They did not show the same free activities as during rail loading. There, they were able to move relatively freely between the trains and their relatives. This is one of the difficulties of military media representations. For it is not possible to draw clear conclusions about non-verbal communication from the bound forms of movement. On the other hand, the quality of the execution of the set movement forms may already be indicative of the military's organisation and drilling. Among other things, it is possible to observe whether the soldiers had enough time to prepare or whether they took that task seriously enough. The audiovisual sources discussed in the present study give the impression that the welcome-back ceremony was more orderly, i.e. more practised, than the redeployment ceremony. It should be pointed out that they defined themselves by the name „A DON VÉDŐI”⁵⁵. This is the inscription on the wreath ribbon. It is not easy to find a context in which this term can be understood. The Don River does not need to be protected, as it is a natural phenomenon. If the Don River is understood as a political border or as a military front, then the defenders were Soviet soldiers on the other bank of the Don, as Axis troops went to seize territory from the Soviet Union. If they meant soldiers and what they did, the term would have been more accurate to say „defenders of the homeland” or „defenders of

⁵⁰ First Lieutenant ISTVÁN KÖRMENDY 30.

⁵¹ 8th new of HWN-1001st <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=5002>

⁵² 4th new of HWN-1002nd <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=5007>

⁵³ 6th new of HWN-1004th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=5023>

⁵⁴ 5th new of HWN-1006th <https://filmhiradokonline.hu/watch.php?id=5040>

⁵⁵ in English translation: „Defenders Of The Don” In: 5th new of HWN-1006th, 29–30. sec

the family". In his speech, the Prime Minister said that the reason for going so far away from the country was that „... the safer the future of your parents' homes, your children, your fellow Hungarians will be.”⁵⁶ The term has been used to demean the army's sacrifice, as it merely testifies that they went to a river to defend it. The makers of the ribbon saw no other meaning or higher heroic value in that. This already has ideology-historical implications.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

I begin the summary of the research with the results of the quantitative analysis. It showed that newsreels are worth to be analysed according to the number of items, their duration and their proportion. This suggests that at times of military successes (such as the redeployment of the troops, the bridgehead battles and organisation of defence), media coverage was still high. However, when the weather turned bad and winter set in (bringing with it a lack of logistical supplies and deteriorating health conditions for soldiers), the media coverage decreased. At the same time (in November), it was already clear that the German offensive was not going to achieve its goal. The two negative effects led to a sharp drop in media coverage. On top of this decline, there was a temporary increase only because of the events of January, but as soon as the tragic reports reached-home, news about the army almost disappeared from the newsreels. For the most part, only *Gustáv Jány* was in the news as the epitome of heroism, which is indicative of an elitist media representation and society.

In the analysis of each item of news, we learn of the bitter moments of parting and reunion, which are deeply personal. We learnt that kissing on lip was a common way of expressing love between those in close contact. From the common soldier to the army commander. As far as military history is concerned, it can certainly be said that soldiers' family ties play a prominent role in their values. This was not only evident in their interactions with their relatives, but was also emphasised by the Prime Minister in his speech.

The analysed parts of news item 986th contain a blatant amount of propaganda elements. Propaganda reports were practically linked throughout the news, just like the 1006th news. However, in the latter, it did not work so well. To analyse the media representation of soldiers, it is necessary to take into account the realisation of controlled forms of movement, because they represent bound movements. A good analysis should be preceded by a study of the Formal Movement Regulations.

In particular, it should be mentioned that the exercise presented proves that in the offensive operation the infantry was to be combined with tanks and that this was practiced regularly. When it came to the demonstration exercise, it was considered the most spectacular and worthy of being presented to an international audience. Although this type of exercise was not carried out by the whole army, but only by sub-units of the armoured division.⁵⁷

As a rule, the cinematographic representation of the soldiers was intended to show their orderly expression and thus discipline, but it omitted the depiction of human losses. The representation of the shady side of the war was all about showing the high standard of care given for the evacuated wounded.

⁵⁶ 9th new of HWN-959th, 28–38. sec

⁵⁷ SZABÓ 2019. 77–79.

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