Glavanovics Andrea

Ifj. Horthy Miklós[1] tanúvallomása a Capri szigeti amerikai főhadiszálláson

Ifj. Horthy Miklós a következőket írta lányainak 1945. szeptember 24-én: „Röviden elmondom nektek, kitérők nélkül, mi történt velem tavaly október 15-e óta, amikor a Gestapo elfogott, szégyenszemre Budapest közepén. Majdnem eszméletlen állapotban voltam, amikor zsákba gyömöszöltek és utána repülővel Bécsen keresztül a mauthauseni koncentrációs táborba vittek. Ott én, mint politikai fogoly, hat hónapig voltam magánzárkában, a krematórium fölött és minden percben vártam, hogy kivégezzenek; éheztem és rossz bánásmódban részesültem. […] Amikor az oroszok közeledtek, a németek Dachauba vittek, majd amikor az amerikaiak előre törtek, engem tovább az innsbrucki táborba vittek. Két nappal később 150 másik politikai fogollyal együtt, […] továbbvittek minket Dél-Tirolba, ahol Himmler parancsára ki kellett volna, hogy végezzek bennünket. Nekünk hajszálon múlott, hogy sikerült megmenekülnünk. Az amerikai 5. hadsereg május 4-én szabadított ki bennünket és Capri szigetére szállítottak, ahonnan legalább szabad emberként Rómába vittek."[2]

Az amerikaiaknak tett, Capri szigetén jegyzőkönyvezett tanúvallomása is megerősíti a később lányainak írt, fent idézett levelében található információkat. A Klebelsberg-ösztöndíj támogatásával 2009-ben végeztem levéltári kutatómunkát a brit Nemzeti Levéltárban, a The National Archives-ban. Kutatásaim során bukkantam rá a War Office iratai között az alább közölt dokumentumra. A dokumentum mellett semmilyen magyarázó szöveg vagy kísérőlevél nem szerepelt. A fedőlappal együtt nyolcoldalas dokumentumot eredetileg kézzel írták vonalas papírra, jó angolsággal, és a lapok oldalán lévő lyukasztás arra utal, hogy valamilyen gyűrűs mappából származnak. A dosszié fedőlapján szerepel továbbá a PRO Prime Ministers Office bélyegző is, ami azt jelentheti, hogy vagy ott is őriznek belőle egy példányt, vagy onnan került a WO iratai közé.

A Capri szigetére szállított foglyok az amerikaiak őrizetében maradtak és várták, hogy az amerikai főhadiszállásról érkezett tisztek kihallgassák őket, és tisztázzák szerepüket a háborúban.[3] Feltételezésem szerint ifj. Horthy Miklós alábbi tanúvallomása is egy kihallgatás során készült. Tanúvallomását a végén aláírta, és az oldalakat kézjegyével szignálta.

[1] Ifj. Horthy Miklós (1907–1993).
[2] Ifj. Horthy Miklós levele lányaihoz. Róma, 1945. szeptember 24.
[3] Szilágyi–Sáringer, 2002. 132.

Forrás

STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS DE HORTHY (Junior)
(2nd son of Regent of Hungary)

Capri
31 May '45

Statement of: De HORTHY Nicholas Jr.
Hungarian Minister to Brazil till May 1942.[4]

I am the Second Son of Admiral Nicholas De HORTHY, Regent of Hungary. Until May 1942, I was Hungarian Minister to Brazil. At this time relations have broken off between Hungary and Brazil and in Oct 10 that year I returned to Hungary.[5] From the date of my return to my Country until 1 Jan. 1944 I held no official position in the Country. On 1 Jan 44 I was given an appointment of Secretary of State to my father.[6] On 19 March 44 the German Forces occupied Hungary. At this time I was residing at the Royal Palace where my father was residing in Budapest. During 1944 I made various contacts, and one was with an Agent from the Yugoslavian Government. This Agent I was informed wished to see me, but owing to the German S.S. spies it was not possible for an interview to take place at the Palace. Accordingly arrangements were made that I should meet this agent at the Villa of a friend of mine – Major BORNEMISSZA[7] – just outside the City. On the evening of 5 Oct 44 I kept the appointment but the agent failed to turn up. On 15 Oct 44 however, other arrangements were made and I visited the office of my friend in the centre, Budapest to have an interview with the Yugoslavian Agent. I went with three personal guards who remained downstairs, and I went up to the office on a floor above. The Agent and another man came in and I was handed a document which was written in Croatian and I asked BORNEMISSZA to translate it for me. The door bell rang and my friend went out to answer it. Suddenly I heard "Hands Up" shouted in German then about 10 or 12 German Gestapo men came rushing into the office.[8] All were armed either with machine pistols or revolvers I jumped up and stood against the

[4] A kormányzó másodszülött fia, ifj. Horthy Miklós 1942 októberében tért haza Brazíliából, ahol rendkívüli követ és meghatalmazott miniszter minőségben tartózkodott 1939 és 1942 között.

[5] Brazília az amerikai államok külügyminisztereinek III. konferenciája határozatai értelmében megszakította a diplomáciai kapcsolatokat a tengelyhatalmakkal, Magyarország pedig szolidaritásból 1942. május 2-án Brazíliával. Ifj. Horthy Miklós 1942. szeptember 16-án indult haza Rio de Janeiróból. In: Szilágyi–Sáringer, 2002. 37–50.

[6] Ifj. Horthy Miklós a kormányzó melletti ún. kiugrási irodában tevékenykedett. Kinevezési okmányait 1943. december 31-én kapta meg. In: Szilágyi–Sáringer, 2002. 118.

[7] Bornemissza (Schmidt) Félix, vitéz (1895–1969). A Nemzeti és Szabad Kikötő igazgatója; 1944. október 15-én ifj. Horthy Miklóssal együtt fogták el és hurcolták Mauthausenbe Eskü téri (az Erzsébet híd pesti hídfőjétől északra található korábbi tér elnevezése, ma Március 15. tér) hivatalából. In: Horthy, 1990. 304., 397.

[8] 1944. október 15-én, a kiugrási kísérlet napjának reggelén a hírhedt Skorzeny-kommandó rabolta el ifj. Horthy Miklóst, hogy később ezzel megzsarolják a kormányzót. Gergely–Izsák, 2000. 221.

wall and drew out my pistol. I then realized that resistance would be of no avail and they then unarmed me. I was then held and my hands handcuffed behind me. One man then began to beat me over the head with a rubber truncheon and gave me about 8 severe blows, which badly hit my head and shouting "HORTY SWINE". Blood streamed over my face. I struggled violently against them but they continued to beat me – no doubt enjoying this and to make me unconscious so I should not shout for help. They then took a large sack and pulled it down over my head and shoulders.[9] I was carried out of the office and downstairs by fire of the Gestapo. *Major BORNEMISSZA was also arrested.[10] On the way down I heard a few shots but naturally could not see anything. I was put into the back of a waiting lorry and the sack was removed. I was held down on the floor. A big crowd had gathered and were being held back by the Gestapo and S.S. I called for help but nobody came to my assistance. The lorry then drove through the city turned and twisted no doubt to make it impossible for me to recognise the route. After about 20 minutes we arrived at a field outside the city where there was a German J.U. 52[11] transport plane waiting with engines running. Major BORNEMISSZA and myself were put on the plane, which after manouvering came onto a landing strip and then took off. After a trip of about an hour the plane landed at VIENNA Airport. We were taken away in another lorry and after await of an hour or so outside a Villa in VIENNA we were taken to the Concentration Camp at MAUTHAUSEN[12] near LINZ. By this time one of the Gestapo had stolen my wallet with my money and papers. It appeared that they had been prepared for my beating as the man had gauze to swab my wounds, and put bandages around my head.

On arrival at MAUTHAUSEN I was put in cell No 1. next to the S.S. Guards office and BORNEMISSZA in cell No 5.

I was kept at this Camp six month till 15 April 45. About 10 days later I was interrogated in an office of the Prison by a man – I do not know. But he came from Budapest- he was in civilian clothes and may be from the Gestapo. The interrogation continued for two days and my statement was typed out. During the interview I was shown a newspaper in which it stated that my father the REGENT had negotiated for Armistice with Russia and a new NAZI Government was being formed.

Apart from this interrogation I was kept in solitary confinement in my cell the remainder of the time. On some days I was allowed out for 20 minutes walk in the evening, after dark, always accompanied by two Gestapo men who were kept specially there to look after me. I was treated by the S.S. Guards and Kalfactore[13] as an ordinary prisoner. After sometime in this solitary confinement I became

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[9] Otto Skorzeny úgy emlékszik, hogy szőnyegbe csavarva vitték el egy teherautón. In: Szilágyi–Sáringer, 2002. 129.

[10] [Ezt a csillaggal jelölt mondatot a lap margójára írták függőlegesen, beszúrásként erre a helyre.]

[11] Junkers 52: német személy- és teherszállító repülőgéptípus.

[12] A mauthauseni koncentrációs táborban olyan fontos foglyokat őriztek, akikről úgy gondolták, hogy később túszként felhasználhatják, pl. Kállay Miklós volt miniszterelnököt is. In: Szilágyi–Sáringer, 2002. 131.

[13] Német kifejezés, jelentése: segélyszolgálatra rendelt fogvatartott.

accustomed to hearing various noises and sounds and was able to interpret their meaning.

On several occasions I heard prisoners whom from their language were Russian and some German, being interrogated in an alcove of the passage outside. There were always blows to be heard and groans from the victims.

About the end of Jan. or beginning of February 45 I came to realise that there were some American and perhaps also English prisoners in the cells. I never saw them but I often heard their voices.

I remember that two or three times some of the prisoners were interrogated in the S.S. Guardroom next to my cell. The interrogations were always late at night from about 11 pm till 2 or 3 in the morning. I used to try to listen to what was going on. Someone told me- I'm not sure who – that the interrogator came specially from Berlin. On some of these occasions I'm sure that the prisoners were tortured. I did not hear beatings but from the sounds I'm sure that they were being tortured in some other way as I heard suppressed cries of pain.

Once I heard one in a crying voice say: "I don't know – how could I know." His voice was broken, and he appeared to be in pain. On these occasions I heard the voice of the Commandant so I'm sure he was present. I have the impression from what I was able to overhear at the interrogations and from other little pieces of information, that these prisoners were members of the Air Force.

In March 1945 one evening I heard a number of people in the prison yard outside my cell. I could hear them moving about and from the different languages I heard spoken they appeared to be a mixture of German, Hungarian, Russian or Slavs. They remanded [Sic. remained] there all that night and the next morning when my guards were not watching, I was able for a brief period to get up to my small cell window and look out. There were a large number of prisoners in the yard all dressed in striped prison uniform. They remained the whole of that day and night. In the evening I could hear noises and again and looked out of my window and saw that they were jumping up and down on the spot to keep warm - the weather was bitterly cold and they looked frozen as their clothes were only thin prison uniforms. The following morning, about 10 am the Guards went into the yard and I heard one shout in German "120" (apparently the number of prisoners), I was again able to look out and saw that all the prisoners were being undressed and were standing naked in the bitter cold. Shortly afterwards they were taken away. About two hours later three or four camp prisoners collected up the uniforms and shoes etc and put them in sacks and carried them away. There appeared to be no urgency in this – and I had the impression that the 120 prisoners had not gone for a bath as if they had their clothes would have been required much sooner – but they had gone elsewhere to be executed.

*I know from a friend of mine who had been a prisoner in MAUTHAUSEN, previous to my arrest, that there was a gas chamber in the bathhouse.[14]

I heard no shots – but this was just the impression that the whole incident gave me.

During March and the beginning of April 1945 I saw and heard two other similar incidents as this. On one occasion there were about 70 prisoners and on

[14] [A csillaggal jelölt részt ugyancsak a lap margójára írták függőleges beszúrásként erre a helyre.]

the other about 50 prisoner [Sic prisoners]. The second incident I think concerned S.S. prisoners.

From what I heard and saw at the prison particularly when I was allowed to take my exercise after dark in the yard outside with my Gestapo Guard, I'm sure that below the Prison was situated the crematorium. My reason for this are as follow.

On occasions I heard the telephone in the S.S. Guardroom next to my cell ring. When it was announced by the Guard I often heard him go outside his door and shout apparently downstairs "Crematorium" and someone would come up and answer the phone. I was however never able to hear the conversation over the phone.

When I have been out for my exercise I have noticed that directly below my cell was a window of a cellar. I was able to look quickly through this window and saw rows and rows of caskets as used for putting ashes of bodies after cremation. I have also seen smoke belching and flames coming out of chimneys at the opposite side of the Prison Block. Near this side was a doorway with steps leading down. One evening when it was dark and I was exercising I saw a prisoner pulling a small cart with a coffin on it through the yard. He went to the doorway of the Crematorium and unloaded. Shortly afterwards I saw him come again with another coffin. I have also smelt a terrible smell of bodies and burning flesh. One day when I looked out of my cell window I saw a lorry pulled up outside directly outside my cell. A man had a casket in his hands and was shaking ashes and bones into the lorry which was then deep with ashes and bones. As he finished a casket he was handed another by his mate who was near the cellar window. This emptying of caskets went on for several days and I know that at least five or six lorry loads of ashes and bones were removed. As each casket was about 9" diameter and about 12" high,[15] and presumably contained the remains of one body each the bones and ashes taken away must have amounted to some thousands of bodies.

I remember on the day I was removed from MAUTHAUSEN 15 April 45, I heard the Commandant in the yard outside say to some prisoners "You will all be shot" – a little later "we will examine the cases and the guilty ones will be shot." I did not see who the prisoners were.

On this day I with two other political prisoners, was transported to DACHAU. I stayed here only ten days and therefore cannot give any information about this Camp. On the tenth day the political prisoners from DACHAU were taken to INNSBRUCK and then onwards to NIEDERDORF. We were in custody of the S.S. who it is believed had instructions to execute all of us, but from the events later, we came safely into the hands of the American Army.[16]

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[15] Az angol inch mértékegység jelölése. 1 inch = 2,54 cm.

[16] „A magyar foglyok visszaemlékezése szerint az olasz partizánok és az amerikai csapatok május 4-én szabadították fel őket. Május elején a kétszáz embert az amerikai hadsereg dzsipeken Veronába szállította, onnan repülőgépen Nápolyba, ahonnan torpedórombolók fedélzetén Capriba és Anacapriba érkeztek." 1945. augusztus végén Capri szigetéről a magyarok és az osztrákok Rómába kerültek. Ifj. Horthy Miklóst 1945. augusztus 28-án helyezték szabadlábra. In: Szilágyi–Sáringer, 2002. 132.

Personalities at MAUTHAUSEN[17]

?	STANDARTENFÜHRER[18] – Commandant at MAUTHAUSEN. Age about 50, 5'11",[19] very well built, upright, good looking, grey-blue eyes, clean shaven, normal features, harsh loud voice, native of BAVARIA.[20]
(E) NIEDERMAIR	OBERSCHARFÜRER[21] In charge of Prison. Age about 24. 5'9", slim, black hair, clean shaven, dark eyes, thin legs, thin face, married to a girl in MAUTHAUSEN. Had bullet in his body near heart. Very brutal and a bully.
? (Nickname "BOKSCH")	UNTERSCHARFÜHRER[22] Age 24 years, 5'7"- 8", slim, dark brown hair, dark eyes, clean shaven, married. Czechoslavician. [Sic Czechoslovakian]
?	RUTTENFÜHRER[23] Age 48, looked younger, 5'6", slim build, fair thin hair.

I have read over the above statement – I can understand the English language – It is correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Nicholas de Horthy jr.

Statement taken down, signature witnessed by Captain N.E. Middleton DAPM 78 Sec[24] HB AFHQ[25], in 31 May 45.

[17] A személyek leírását adja, abban az esetben, ha a nevet nem tudta, kérdőjellel jelzi a forrás.
[18] SS rendfokozat, kb. ezredes, az Oberst katonai rangnak felel meg, 1000–3000 embert vezényelt.
[19] Angol foot (láb) és inch (hüvelyk) mértékegységek jelölése. 1 foot = 12 inches = 30,48 cm, 1 inch = 2,54 cm.
[20] Bajorország
[21] SS rendfokozat, megfelel a német katonai Unterfeldwebel, őrmester rangnak.
[22] SS rendfokozat, a német katonai altiszt rangnak felel meg a hadseregben.
[23] Helyesen valószínűleg Gruppenführer, a hadseregben Generalleutnant, vezérezredes.
[24] Section, angol-amerikai katonai rövidítés, egység a hadseregben: jelentése szakasz.
[25] American Forces Headquarters.

Rövidítések és irodalomjegyzék

1. Forrás

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