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1. Formulation of the Scientific Problem

Throughout its history, mainly due to its geographical position, its geopolitical importance and political dilemmas, Hungary has been part of Europe's major wars. The territory of the state has become a theater of war on several occasions, while Hungarian soldiers have been playing their part in battles outside the country's borders for over a thousand years. As a result of the latter, since the major inherent factor of wars is death, tens of thousands of soldiers lost their lives in Hungary and also tens of thousands of Hungarian soldiers died abroad.

During the battles there was not often time or chance to place the fallen soldiers in graves in accordance with the rules of piety. Soldiers often took care about burials on the scene of the death of comrades, often far away from settlements. Many of those who knew the exact locations of war graves themselves did not return home, thus many heroes' graves sank in the tomb of oblivion. Consequently nowadays, in case of constructions, agricultural and other ground works human remains of unknown soldiers come onto surface. In such cases, the main problem is if the necessary steps to contribute to the identification and the determination of the cause of death of unearched soldiers are left behind. On many occasions, upon war graves exploration organizations which could provide the necessary expertise are omitted. If the finder of human remains reports the finding of a war grave even official persons from the crime scene, involuntarily, but can cause harm if they are not familiar with the necessary procedures. In this way, the traits can be eliminated, paying solemn tribute is no longer possible.

The improper exhumation and opening of identified heroic tomb are also problematic issues. These cases usually occur upon organizing of cemeteries or replacing people in heroic graves. In most cases, the customer of the exhumation – which is usually a government – assigns the local funeral service with the implementation procedure. The colleagues of the assigned grave digger company carry out the task by picking up the bones without any documentation and re-bury them in a designated place. Thus, a number of important data can be lost.

Similarly to other countries the collection of military relics, i.e. : Military collections have also become increasingly popular. In order to obtain the "precious treasures" passionate collectors do not only visit traders but also look for the battlefields where they rob the traces of our past by using metal detectors. It is also possible that "Military treasure hunters" are not deterred even from robbing graves. With their activities against piety they cause irretrievable damages. All of these are carried out in contravention of the law, as for example the use of metal detectors has been subject to authorization since 2015.

In each case, a common problem that occurs is the improper exploration of war graves done without any scientific methods, which can cause the elimination of important data. The problem mainly derives due to the fact that in our country graves created after the year 1711 of archaeological excavation have not yet been regulated by law. Archaeological institutions are therefore no longer propagated out of their jurisdiction, while other organizations do not have the required professional exploration, research and implementation of such cases. For this reason –with the absence of scientific research methods to be implemented prescriptive legislation - the graves in Hungary after 1711 can be considered a sort of "no man's land".

2. Hypotheses

I. The systematic research and professional exploration of war graves allow the **recording of significant information** and the identification of nationality of the person buried - and in favorable cases - its personal identification. Thus, a war grave is a **war archaeological resource group of military history**.

II. The **joint use of several disciplines** at the research and excavation of war graves ensures most the effective methods of work.

III. **Foreign organizations already employ such scientific methods**, which usually lead to success upon excavating war graves.

IV. In recent years, throughout domestic war graves excavations it has been proven that the **best results** can be ensured when researchers apply methods that have already been proved to be successful in **international practice methodologies** according to **Hungarian circumstances**. Consequently, foreign methods can be transplanted, further developed and supplemented in accordance with domestic conditions, and thus, **the Hungarian war grave researcher procedure can be created**.

3. Objectives of the Research

1. Processing of domestic and foreign scientific works on war grave research have yet to come so far. Therefore, my dissertation is a compilation of the goal, where I introduce and evaluate the biography of the literature of the analyzed topic. Based on domestic and foreign literature, I present examples regarding modern war grave research. By researching the literature review of war grave research I will gather and evaluate the effectively used methods.

2.) By using historical examples I introduce the Hungarian practice of institutionalized piety and loss record during the period between 1848 and 1945. I describe and evaluate the relevant archival materials. By using historical examples I introduce how the system works. I describe and evaluate the methods currently applied in our country's war grave research.

3. Pursuant to the understanding of the structure and operation of the Hungarian organizations dealing with foreign war grave research I am proposing to set up and to complement a national working group.

4. Considering the gained data during the processing of archival data and bibliographic materials by summarizing my experience throughout war grave excavations, I compose the relevant and exemplar methods and procedures.

4. Research Methods

Prior to writing the dissertation lengthy data collection and organization took place. Throughout researching sources on the subject, I firstly analyzed and evaluated relevant works in Hungarian language. Subsequently, I collected translated and analyzed primarily the English-language literature related to the topic. In addition – with the help of translators – I elaborated German, French, Polish and Russian works as well.

After becoming familiar with the literature, questions were raised in me, which I sent to foreign organisations dealing with war grave research in a questionnaire form. Many of the institutions responded. I also elaborated the received responses and materials, and I used these upon writing the dissertation.

Between 2008 and 2012, as an employee of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) War Graves Maintenance Organization I was professionally obsessed with coordinating the excavation of war graves. As a researcher and specific expert of the organization I took part in field researches, explorations of war graves, exhumations of mass graves, anthropological and museological studies on a number of occasions. During these occasions I made observations I recorded and analyzed data. The data recording was carried out based on a personally developed method, by using technical accessories. In some cases these procedures led to personal identification works. Within the course of my professional work, the experiences that I have collected on site was intended to be more thoroughly described in the dissertation.

Between 2008 and 2010, I had the opportunity to join the on site research activities of the Military History Institute and Museum (HM HIM) Military Archeology, Military Battlefield Research and Preservation Department. During the researches I could get a closer look at archeological military methods in practice.

As a research associate of the HM HIM I had the opportunity to convene an expert working group. I could consult with the greatest Hungarian military historians and military, weapon, uniform, and ammunition experts' views about my questions.

In order to get a deeper understanding of the procedures closely related to my topic of forensic anthropology, beyond elaborating Hungarian-language works, I also analyzed foreign literature. Several times throughout my work I had the opportunity to work and to consult with acknowledged experts from Hungarian anthropology including the director of Forensic and Research Institute as well as the anthropologists of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, the Otto Herman Museum and the Eötvös Lóránt University (ELTE).

In order to improve my anthropological knowledge in the course of a semester I expanded my knowledge of human biology throughout seminars for the identification and testing of human bones. I took a successful exam of the course unit.

Since 2012 as an associate of the National Memorial and Piety Committee, and from 2013, of the National Heritage Institute I had the opportunity on several occasions to have consultations with the most exceptional experts and funeral professionals. In a joint study we were dealing with the issue of military funeral with a doctor-psychologist expert.

The post 2012 grave research operation-related data about the Ministry of Defense was collected through making interview.

Before writing the dissertation on, partial war grave-related results were published in scientific journals and publications. The results are an important part of my dissertation.

5. Expected Scientific Results

Through the elaboration of literature materials and other documents I am summarizing the experience of war-grave research in domestic and international aspects. Along with the knowledge gained through personal experience with my collection of material, I am formulating a practical version of the organization of domestic war grave research, and I am proposing procedures and protocols to be followed in the conduct of research. Overall, I consider the composing the criteria of national war grave research as the primary expected scientific outcome of my research work.

6. The Brief Description of the Investigation Carried out by Chapter to Chapter

The performed studies were described in the 2-5. chapters of the dissertation.

In Chapter 2 - for the first time in our country and the most comprehensive way possible in an international aspect – I attempted to complete and introduce war grave research-related publications with the latest foreign and Hungarian works. On the basis of the description it has become ascertainable that the field has a significant biography. This proves that war grave research is an independent field of research, which has specific methods. Due to the systematic research and professional exploration of war graves on several occasions – among many others in a military history aspect- The systematic research and professional exploration of war graves allow the recording of significant information and the identification of nationality of the person buried - and in favorable cases - its personal identification. Thus, war graves are a war archaeological resource group of military history. Based on the literature I defined the concept and goals of war grave research end of this chapter, and I also placed it within the system of sciences.

In Chapter 3, I presented the successful methods through war grave research based on scientific disciplines. Since war graves have been created as a result of military activity and because human remains can be found there, therefore among professional discipline branches I find branches dealing with human war activities in the past, cultural artifacts, the exploration and inquiry of excavation of human remains, such as military science, history, archeology, forensic sciences and considering the application of biology to be essential during war graves research. The knowledge introduced in this chapter clearly supports the statement that upon war grave explorations and excavations the joint use of several disciplines ensures the most effective work.

In Chapter 4, I presented war graves research foreign organizations along with the methods they use. Upon studying the literature and methods of the topic I came to the conclusion that there are many worldwide organizations operate in most countries that make research on graves of fallen soldiers and civilian victims and these are applying, already elaborated and successful scientific methods.

Chapter 5 discusses the state of the domestic war grave research. Here, I described the conditions in the domestic cultivation of war grave research, because all the latter might have an impact on the development of national guidelines. I presented the historical background accordingly: the history of institutionalized Hungarian military tribute piety and loss record. Then, I presented the current situation of war grave research, the legal background and relevant organizations, religious, ethical, piety aspects, which would be important to consider. Thereafter, based on my experience I presented and evaluated researches carried out by the Hungarian war grave-related researches organization through scientific articles and an interview. I presented war grave –related works and activities performed by further state and non-governmental organizations, private research organizations and NGOs. Based on all these it has become ascertainable that the best result could be ensured if researchers have applied international practice methods that have already proved to be successful according to Hungarian circumstances. Consequently, Hungarian war grave procedures can be created on the basis of foreign methodologies.

7. Summarized Conclusions

In my dissertation I introduced the application of proper available scientific methods and procedures to excavate war graves by which the researcher can get several new information regarding the war grave and the passed person inside. In order to prove this I presented the relevant Hungarian and foreign literature. Throughout the understanding of the scientific literature it became clear that war grave research is a part of the military history of war archeology and war graves are considered to be a specific source group of military archeology. It also became clear that though war grave research can be scientifically classified under the science of military history, but the most effective work can be achieved by the joint application of methods of several disciplines, such as involving forensic sciences or anthropology. Following the relevant scientific literature review and the reply to a questionnaire poll it also turned out that war grave research organization exists in many countries, of which colleagues do the research with these scientific methods in an organized way. During my field researches, surveys, further investigations and observations it has been proven that the methods and procedures used by foreign institutes can be adapted in accordance with domestic conditions.

8. Recommendations

As a result of the elaboration of the dissertation I made the following suggestions, recommendations:

Proposal to set up research groups

Since war grave research is a multidisciplinary scientific trend, thus so as to coordinate it the most effectively, the coordinated work of several disciplines expert is required, i.e. work performed by an expert research team. Within the dissertation I express the ideas with regard to academic qualifications— to the compilation of the research team, in which I outlined two organizational models. Furthermore, I listed the material conditions necessary for research work.

Proposal for a procedure to be followed during the war grave research

The theoretical knowledge presented in the dissertation is a result of the practical testings of war grave research and methods, furthermore, based on other experiences gathered through the research work I composed the optimal methodology by using two different procedures.

Recommendation to amend legislation

The solution of scientific problem would be greatly assisted by legislation, which would specify that the research, and exploration of war graves can only be performed by scientific methods. I made an exact proposal on this in the dissertation.

In addition to the above, I made the following further proposals in the thesis:

- ♣ establishing information network
- ♣ new software development and application of museum presentation
- ♣ a museum introduction of war grave artefacts

9. New Scientific Results

1. By reviewing domestic and international scientific literature, I explored, collected, systematized and evaluated the scientific that allow a more efficient and effective work during domestic war grave research, and from these I have drawn conclusions regarding the objectives and methodology of the definition of war grave research.

I evaluated the structure of organizations dealing with domestic and international war grave research, which I compared to my own experiences acquired during war grave research and on this basis I proposed to the more practical and effective organization of the Hungarian war grave research working group that is able to do a comprehensive and professional work in accordance with international standards.

Upon reviewing the practice and experience of domestic war grave excavations, I proved that the effectiveness of the procedures used can be greatly increased by inserting other test methods of other disciplines. On this basis, I proposed working methods and procedures that ensure a comprehensive approach.

10.The Utilitization of the Results of Research and Recommendations

The scientific results composed in the dissertation research can be useful as educational material for scientific participants, or in some way these can be related to the researchers involved. Their work can be facilitated by the literature review; the definition of basic concepts and objectives; the introduction of procedures done by foreign organizations on war grave research; the summary of relevant historical, legal, ethical and religious background; furthermore, taking a closer look at my suggestions. With these in mind, I hope that the official

Hungarian organization dealing with war grave research can benefit from my research results, since they are primarily meant to support the work of this organization. International Publications of the results might also help the work of foreign experts.

More details about people rest in war graves, soldiers died in battles, circumstances of death may be learnt with the above-described methods and suggested procedures. In addition to the use of appropriate methods, war graves can also function as military-war archaeological resources, which can help the reconstruction of the events in military history. In addition, trends in other disciplines - such as forensic anthropology- can be also developed, such as creating a DNA database based on the bones of war heroes. Along with the application of new research findings the area of heritage protection would be also enriched. Since with the archeological excavation of military artefacts and museological studies, these would be scientifically documented for future generations as valuable cultural heritage preservation and presentation.

Since military archaeological finds would be given to future generations to conservation and these might be also scientifically presented as valuable cultural heritage preservation throughby an archaeological excavation nature and museological studies.

Application of the above also supports the national memory policy, since more effective researches can lead to more identification purposes. Through dignified reburials and solemn commemorations organized by the Ministry of Defense would create more opportunities to strengthen both Hungarian military hero cult, and national identity.

In addition, new findings could be important both from the aspect of the religions and the dignity of human body. With the application of the proper excavation several information can be defined, such as whether a soldier rests in the grave, even the ones that served in any armed forces when they died. The deceased will be given a dignified reburial, regardless of which side he was fighting for, deserves piety and religious farewell. Through the identifications of individuals -even in a centuries of perspective- the names of fallen soldiers can be returned -, in a fortunate case his family can get back a relative or might be informed about the story of his death.

In the mirror of these, on the one hand, I believe that a part of my dissertation – both in theoretical and also in practical field –from a scientific point of view, on the other hand it may also be helpful to society in a piety aspect and can assist the work of Ministry of Defense professionals.

I closed the manuscript August 31, 2016.

11. Zsolt Tóth's List of Publications Related to this Topic

1. A bukivnai tömegsír
In: Ravasz István (ed.)
Hadi múltunk kincsesháza: Avagy: eleink emlékei a HM Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeumban. 208 p.
Budapest: HM Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum, 2009. pp. 184-185.
2. Richard Osgood: The Unknown Warrior
HADTÖRTÉNELMI KÖZLEMÉNYEK 122:(3) pp. 887-889. (2009)
3. Az eljárás ismertetése hadisírok előkerülésekor
RENDESZETI SZEMLE 58:(4) pp. 147-159. (2010)
4. Tóth Zsolt, Horváth Lajos
Végtségesség: Halálos találatról a végső nyugalomig
REGIMENT: FEGYVEREK ÉS EMBEREK, HADI HISTÓRIÁK 6:(3) pp. 26-31. (2010)
5. Bukivna hősei és a M.kir. 49. honvéd gyalogezred
HONVÉDSÉGI SZEMLE 65:(1) pp. 52-58. (2011)
6. An Age of Insurgencies
In: Thijs Brocades Zaalberg, Jan Hoffenaar, Alan Lemmers (ed.)
Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: Irregular Warfare from 1800 to the Present:
XXXVI International Congress of Military History. 681 p.
Konferencia helye, ideje: Amsterdam, Hollandia, 2010.08.29-2010.09.03. Hága:
Netherlands Institute of Military History, 2011. pp. 415-423.
7. David Wharton Lloyd: Battlefield tourism
HADTÖRTÉNELMI KÖZLEMÉNYEK 124:(1) pp. 278-280. (2011)
8. A magyar tábori lelkészek szerepe és kegyeleti tevékenysége 1848/49-ben
HADTUDOMÁNYI SZEMLE 4:(1) pp. 65-70. (2011)
9. A huszártiszt hazatérése: A második vilgháborúban elesett Fáy Jenő hadnagy katonai pályafutásának és hazahozatalának története
KATONAÚJSÁG 2:(4) pp. 2-8. (2011)
10. Az 1921. évi nyugat-magyarországi (burgenlandi) felkelés és európai párhuzamai: Európai helyzetkép a "nagy háború" után
In: Németh István, Fiziker Róbert (ed.)
Ausztria a 20. században. Az „életképtelen” államtól a „boldogok szigetéig”:

Tanulmányok. Budapest: L'Harmattan, 2011. pp. 416-425.

11. Dr Weinhover Judit, Tóth Zsolt
Gyászreakció bajtársak elvesztésekor: Az elhunyt magyar katonák emlékére
HONVÉDSÉGI SZEMLE 140:(1) pp. 37-43. (2012)
12. Az aradi vértanúk sírjainak kutatása és feltárása
HADTÖRTÉNELMI KÖZLEMÉNYEK 126:(1) pp. 187-203. (2013)
13. Kelet-Közép-Európa hadisírkutatással kapcsolatos kérdései
HADTUDOMÁNY XXIII. évfolyam:(E-szám 2.) pp. 122-133. (2013)
14. Tóth Zsolt (szerk.)
Hőseink nyomában: Tanulmánykötet a hadisírok kutatásáról
Budapest: Zrínyi Kiadó, 2013. 446 p.
(ISBN:978 963 327 595 5)
15. dr Kővári Ivett, Tóth Zsolt, Polgár Balázs
A pettendi tömegsír: Egy magyarországi második világháborús tömegsír feltárása és a leletek vizsgálata
In: Tóth Zsolt (ed.)
Hőseink nyomában: Tanulmánykötet a hadisírok kutatásáról. 446 p.
Budapest: Zrínyi Kiadó, 2013. pp. 153-184.
16. A hadisírkutatás alapvető módszerei
In: Tóth Zsolt (ed.)
Hőseink nyomában: Tanulmánykötet a hadisírok kutatásáról. 446 p.
Budapest: Zrínyi Kiadó, 2013. pp. 227-236.
17. A "Nagy Háború" hősi sírjai: Kísérletek a magyar hadisírok rendezésére 1915 és 1943 között
In: Tóth Zsolt (ed.)
Hőseink nyomában: Tanulmánykötet a hadisírok kutatásáról. 446 p.
Budapest: Zrínyi Kiadó, 2013. pp. 367-382.
(ISBN:978 963 327 595 5)
Könyvrészlet/Szaktanulmány/Tudományos
18. WarGraveExcavations: Survey, Results and Suggestion
ACADEMIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH IN MILITARY SCIENCE 13:(1) pp. 71-87. (2014)
19. A hadisírfeltárás módszerei
HADTÖRTÉNELMI KÖZLEMÉNYEK 127:(2) pp. 521-538. (2014)

12. Zsolt Tóth's Professional Scientific Biography

Born in Gyöngyös 1984, 23, March. He completed the elementary school at physical education major, the secondary education at a humanities major at the Berze Nagy János Grammar School in Gyöngyös. He graduated from the Eszterházy Károly College on History major in 2006. (During his studies, he studied for one semester as scholar of the Erasmus scholarship in the Netherlands.) In 2007 he won the scholarship position offered by the Office of Cultural Heritage, due to which he became a co-worker of the Secretariat of the National Memorial Tribute Committee. In 2008, he got a researcher status at the MoD Military History Institute and Museum, at the war grave maintenance institute of the organization. His research topic selection could be also related to this time. In 2009, he was admitted to the National Defense University Graduate School of Military Science. In 2010, he represented our country as a doctorate speaker at the international conference in military history, the 36th CIHM Congress in Amsterdam.

From 2010 on - as a result of the reorganization war grave maintenance unit – he was a special expert of the Ministry of Defense, and then again from 2012 became a member of the National Memorial and Tribute Committee Secretariat, this time within the organizational unit of the Prime Minister's Office, as a government official. He obtained his final examination for Ph.D. at the graduate school in 2012.

In 2013 he was part of the restructuring of his workplace, the National Heritage Institute, the founding of the new institute where he worked as an officer in charge of the national cemetery. In the same year he took a successful civil service exam.

In 2014 the essay of a collection of studies on war grave research titled “ In the Footsteps of Heroes” was published by him. In 2016 for a few months, he was the leader of the Department Responsible for National Heritage Memorial Institute. Currently he is again in charge of the issues of the national cemetery as well as the National Memorial and Tribute Committee. He has written 15 scientific articles in his topic of research. He is married and father of two small children.

Budapest, 20.....year.....month.....day

signature

