

June

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

On June 1st, 1485, King Matyas (Matthias) took the Austrian capital, Vienna and established a Hungarian province in northern Austria.

Matyas, son of the great general, John Hunyadi, was elected King of Hungary on the 24th of January, 1458, at the age of 18. His 32-year reign marks the golden age of Hungarian history. The brilliant and strong-willed man refused to be influenced by the rich lords of the country and became a fair and just king of the people. He only followed his own counsel and that of his mother, *Elizabeth Szilagy*, widow of John Hunyadi. She was one of the great ladies of Hungarian history who have, for a thousand years, influenced the nation's fate in an unobtrusive, feminine way.



Matyas stabilized the nation's *finances* by introducing an equitable, universal system of taxation - a rarity in that century (in any century, for that matter). The burden of the budget was borne by the revenues of the royal mines and state-owned establishments. He raised the nation's social, economic and cultural standards, without placing heavy burdens on the poor peasants. His legal reforms assured equal rights for all his subjects. Promotion to the highest positions was open to any peasant who had the will and talent to improve his status.

Matyas was a true son of the *Renaissance*, a generous patron of the arts and literature. His wife, *Beatrice d'Este* brought from Italy scientists and artists who helped to make the capital, Buda one of the great centres of humanism, together with the three universities of the country. The first printed book was published in Buda in 1473, three years before bookprinting began in England.

Like his father, Matyas wanted to repel the pagan Turks from Europe, but did not wish to bleed his

beloved Magyar people to death in the process. He therefore endeavoured to gain the Crown of the Holy Roman Empire and use the military power of the Empire against the Turks.

As Hungary was not a member of the Empire, he tried to obtain the crown of one of the vassal states with the right to vote in the election of the Emperor. He did manage to gain the Crown of Bohemia and the possession of a part of Austria - both member states of the Empire. His plans seemed to be approaching their realization.

Then one day, while visiting the capital of the Hungarian province of Austria, Vienna, he fell ill and *died under somewhat suspicious circumstances at the age of 50, in 1490.*

He had no legitimate heir and his weak, quarrelling successors let his empire collapse. One generation after the triumphal conquest of Austria, the Turks destroyed Hungary's national independence at *Mohacs, in 1526.*

Fulop Laszlo, the popular portrait painter of the British and other royal families was born on the 1st of June, 1869. He settled in Britain in 1914 and spent all of his active life there.

"IT COULD NOT HAPPEN HERE..."

(Fantasy and reality)

*"No man is an island.
every man is a piece of the Continent...
any man's death diminishes me,
because I am involved in Mankind;
And therefore never send to know
for whom the bell tolls;
it tolls for thee. ."*

(John Donne)

On a hot summer day in 1914 the heir to the throne of Great Britain was assassinated by a group of terrorists. It soon became evident that the terrorists had been trained in the small country of Salvia and enjoyed the protection of the Salvian government.

The British Government made it clear that it intended to take military action against Salvia for fomenting the assassination. At the decisive Crown Council, attended by the Prime Ministers of the Dominions, the British Prime Minister stated that no great power could tolerate such a blatant insult and demanded that Salvia be destroyed and its territory annexed by the Empire. The Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Townley, pointed out that Australia had no territorial claims on Salvia and warned against any action which might lead to a general war. He reminded the British Government that Salvia was an ally

and protege of the great Afro-Asian Empire and therefore military action might lead to an intercontinental - possibly world - war. His was the only dissenting voice. The leaders of all the Dominions, including the African and Asians ones, voted for war and so the grief-stricken old king declared war on Salvia. As prophesized by Mr. Townley, the Afro-Asian Empire and its allies immediately declared war on the British Empire.

The Australian Parliament shared Mr. Townley's objection to the war, but they accepted the majority decision of the Crown Council in the spirit of true democracy and joined in the British declaration of war. The parties declared political truce to enable Mr. Townley's government to fully support the war effort. The Australian code of honour: "fairness and mateship" demanded loyalty to the commitments of the mother country however unpalatable the idea of war was to the peace-loving Australians. According to their temperament, they decided to "make a smashing good job of it" or, at least, "the best of a bad job".

For four years the Australian soldiers - conscripts and volunteers alike - fought dutifully on foreign soil, mostly under British generals whose muddled thinking and archaic strategy were responsible for countless Australian casualties. The tragic role of the Australian soldier was best illustrated in the so-called "Gallipoli expedition" when the faulty planning of the British politicians and generals landed the Australian soldiers on a well-defended enemy peninsula where they were massacred by the thousands.

Slowly, the Empire weakened. Then, besieged on all sides, her sea-lanes severed, her population starving, her armies cut off from their bases, Great Britain collapsed. Her few allies, even some of her dominions, had changed sides, only Australia remained loyal to the bitter end. When Great Britain finally decided to ask for an armistice, the Australian troops returned home, their discipline and morale unimpaired

In the meantime things had changed in Australia. One of the leaders of the Opposition, Sir Michael Kane, stated that "he had always been a friend of the Allies" (because he had spent most of the war in a neutral country.) He formed an "Australian National Committee" and demanded that the king appoint him Prime Minister. The king gave his assent by cable and then he himself abdicated because Great Britain was soon to become a republic. The first day of Sir Michael's government was marred by an ugly incident: Mr. Townley, the former Australian Prime Minister was murdered by a group of "vigilantes" who claimed that they had "executed" Townley because he was the principal war criminal, having led the nation's war efforts for four years. Sir Michael "regretted" the incident but added that "rough justice had been meted out" and that now "with the principal war-monger punished, Australia was absolved of all responsibility in the war." He had, of course, conveniently forgotten Mr. Townley's efforts to prevent the war.

The new government promptly abolished conscription and ordered the returning troops to lay down their arms and disperse. "Never again do I want to see another soldier . . ." said the newly appointed Minister of Defence. Sir Michael elaborated that "a pacifist and unarmed Australia would certainly be regarded as the friend of the victorious allies."

On learning that Australia had disbanded her defence forces, the newly formed neighbouring states -

some of them former members of the British Empire who had changed sides at the last moment - saw their opportunity to acquire much needed territory on the Australian continent. Their hastily collected troops began to occupy large areas of undefended Australia. They justified their invasion by statistics (prepared by the Australians themselves) showing that almost half of the Australian population was of non-British descent. Their demographic maps also showed that the interior was inhabited by oppressed Aborigines. So the invading neighbours came ostensibly to "liberate" these "oppressed nationalities". Soon the mineral-rich areas of Western Australia and Queensland were occupied and so were the large cities of the eastern seaboard, the home of many "oppressed nationalities".

Unable to stop the invasion, Sir Michael resigned and handed over the government to a recently formed extremist group, which claimed to represent the "oppressed workers of the world". "I leave Australia under the protection of the workers of the world" he said and retired to his country estate.

The newly declared "Universal Workers' Councils' Republic of Australia" disbanded the former public service, police and judiciary and replaced them by volunteer commandos called "Workers' and Sailors' Councils". All farming properties were nationalized under the management of these "Workers' and Sailors' Councils" - thus practically stopping all food production.

Fearful of the dangers of the Australian Revolution spreading to other nations, the victorious Allies allowed the foreign troops to occupy the rest of the Australian territory. Without resisting, the Universal Workers' Councils fled the country, which was then subjected to the invasion of the undisciplined troops of the neighbouring nations. They found Australian civilization fascinating and looted billions of dollars' worth of goods, including plumbing fixtures unknown in their own under-developed countries. After having stripped the country of everything moveable, they reluctantly obeyed the Allies' order to vacate the small central area that was to be left to the Australians. A new Australian coalition government was formed with the Allies' permission and this government was instructed to sign the Peace Treaty.

The Peace Conference of Delhi had already spent a year discussing the treaty with Great Britain and the Allied politicians were too tired to discuss in detail the case of Australia, a distant and largely unknown country. So they ignored the submissions of the Australian peace delegation and gave their verdict solely on the basis of the claims of the delegations of the so-called "succession" states, neighbours of Australia who claimed to have liberated the oppressed minorities in the Australian territories occupied by them. The leading Allied politicians quoted the well-known legal adage that "possession is nine points of the law" and drew the new frontiers according to the positions of the occupying armies.



Thus the Peace Treaty of Delhi transferred three quarters of the Australian territory and two thirds of her population to her victorious neighbours. Queensland, Western Australia and the eastern seaboard were lost and only the agricultural regions of N.S.W., Victoria and S.A. remained in landlocked Australia.

The long-suffering population of this mutilated country was to bear the sad legacy of the war. More than half a million Australians had died for King and country. The population was starving after the revolutions and invasions of the preceding years. They also had to provide for hundreds of thousands of refugees and for the huge number of unemployed industrial workers - the country had no mineral resources and no sea transport left. In addition, the country had to pay huge reparations to the victors.

Australia was more severely punished than Great Britain. The charges made against Australia by her land-hungry neighbours were: (a) that Australia had caused the war (proof: the Australians themselves had executed their Prime Minister as a war criminal), (b) Australia had oppressed her minorities (proof: the notorious "White Australia" policy), and (c) Australia was a potential troublemaker, a source of extremist subversion, as shown by the Australian revolution at the end of the war.

June the 4th, the day of the signature of the Delhi Peace Treaty became a day of national mourning in Australia, together with the commemoration of the Gallipoli disaster.

This has been a true story. Only the names have been changed, in order to bring it closer to the reader. Substitute 'Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy' for the "British Empire" and "Hungary" for 'Australia". Mr. Townley's real name was Istvan Tisza, Prime Minister of Hungary in 1914. Sir Michael Kane was called Count Michael Karolyi in Hungary. The peace treaty mentioned was signed in *Paris, at the Palace of Trianon on the 4th of June, 1920*. The rest of the story is true. That was Hungary in 1920- and that, but by the grace of God, could have been Australia.

There is, of course, more to this tragic story. For a thousand years the Hungarians admitted - sometimes even invited - into their country refugees from neighbouring war-torn countries, much the

same way Australia has been welcoming victims of tyrannies or economic disasters.

In the 15th century Hungary had a population of four and a half million - equal to the population of England at that time. Of this at least 80% were Hungarians. Three centuries and many Turkish and German invasions later Hungary had a population of only two and a half million - and only half of these were Hungarians. Still the policy of "open doors" continued and Hungary welcomed all those who sought refuge, regardless of their race or religion.

The Rumanians who first entered Hungarian Transylvania in the thirteenth century and the Ukrainians (or Ruthenes) who have been immigrating since the same century, have preserved their orthodox religion and language in Catholic Hungary. In fact it was in Hungary that books for orthodox Rumanians were first printed because in their homeland the practice of their religion was severely restricted and book-printing was unknown. The Slovaks, the only nation settled in the Carpathian Basin more or less at the same time as the Hungarians, have preserved their language, religion and national identity even in small, scattered settlements. The Serbs, once the Hungarians' brothers-in-arms in the struggle against the Turks, were first invited to settle in Hungary in the 15th century.

As they were neither forced nor expected to assimilate, these nationalities in Hungary have kept their national identity, language and customs intact for centuries.

So it came about that at the last census, in 1910, the breakdown of nationalities in Hungary showed that only a little more than half of the population was of Hungarian (Magyar) nationality.

During World War I Hungary's role was similar to that attributed to Australia in my imaginary narrative. During the war the Czech, Rumanian and Serb propagandists succeeded in convincing the Allies that Hungary had to be dismembered and her territories with mixed nationalities transferred to Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Rumania. Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia did not yet exist when the war began and Rumania, a former ally of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy was promised a large portion of Hungary for changing sides during the war - which she did.

Their wishes were granted in full, and Hungary's arguments were completely ignored at the Peace Treaty of Trianon, which transferred three quarters of Hungary's territory and two thirds of her population to the three states mentioned.

June the 4th, 1920 was the day of the signature of this Peace Treaty.

On that day the bells tolled for Hungary.

May they never toll for your country.

WHEN EAST MET WEST

According to tradition, Prince Arpad died on the 5th of June, 907 A.D. He was buried near Obuda, the ancient Roman city of Aquincum. The chapel built over his tomb was destroyed during the Turkish occupation and even its exact location has since been forgotten.

Arpad was the paramount leader of the large group of Magyars who *entered the Carpathian Basin in*

895-896 A.D. and settled there forming the state of Hungary. His direct descendants ruled Hungary until 1301 as paramount rulers or kings. This was not the first settlement of Hungarians in that region. Large Magyar contingents lived there during Attila's Hun rule (5th century A.D.) and further waves of Magyar settlers arrived at the Carpathian Basin between 500-900 A.D. Thus Arpad's "conquering" Magyars had little to "conquer" as they found mostly fellow Magyars or brother nations in the Carpathian area, which they then pacified, settled and organized with relative ease.

The Magyars or Hungarians are a composite nation, formed of several more or less related ethnic components. These racial groups amalgamated during the millennia of migrations in the western Asian and eastern European regions. The various components of the Hungarian nation came into contact, during these migrations with Mesopotamian (Sumerian), Transcaucasian, Caucasian, Iranian cultures and races, with Turkic - Turanian and Finno-Ugrian ethnic groups. Having integrated into a multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-lingual nation, they settled in the Carpathian Basin. There they became a mono-lingual, integrated, composite nation. The culture of this deep-rooted people is a synthesis of the values of the East and the West.

The Magyar or Hungarian language mirrors the composite character of the nation. Made up of elements of Ural Altai (Finno-Ugrian), Turkic, Caucasian, Mesopotamian, Sumerian and other related language components, it presents today a surprisingly well-balanced, logical, rich agglutinating structure. It has a magnificent literature. Because of its unique character, Magyar writing loses much of its flavour, when translated. This is why Hungarian literature is hardly known abroad. It is a pity though, for Magyar poetry and prose are the most cherished heirloom of Hungarians everywhere. They represent for them that mystic, unidentifiable notion which is Hungary.

On the 5th of June, 1473, Andras Hess completed the printing of the first Hungarian book in Buda. The printing began on the instructions of King Matyas who wanted to try the new method invented by the German, Gutenberg. After Germany, Italy and France, Hungary was the next country to introduce book-printing - *three years before Caxton printed the first book in England in 1476.*

It is interesting to note that the *Budapest University Printery* is the second-oldest such establishment in Europe founded in 1577.

Speaking of universities: the first Hungarian university was founded at Pecs by King Louis the Great in 1367, 20 years before the foundation of the first university in Germany, Heidelberg.

Few Hungarians realize that Hungary did occasionally beat the Western countries on fields other than Wembley Soccer Stadium...

On the 5th of June, 1864, Hungarian-born general Julius Stahel-Szamvald led the Union troops to victory in the battle of Piedmont. He was awarded the highest American decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honour for his feat.



General Stahel-Szamvald

Several thousand Hungarian-born officers and soldiers fought in the Union armies during the Civil War. These were mostly refugees, members of the former Hungarian National Army, defeated in 1849. It is interesting to note that no Hungarian-born officer is known to have served in the Confederate forces. It appears that Hungarians had acquired a marked distaste for slavery.

After the war, Stahel-Szamvald served his new country as American consul in China and Japan.

Emperor Francis Joseph and Empress Elizabeth were crowned King and Queen of Hungary on the 8th of June, 1867.

After the defeat of the Hungarian Freedom War of 1848-49, Austria first attempted to incorporate Hungary as a province of the Habsburg Empire and to assimilate the Hungarians. Soon, however, the passive resistance of the nation, the anti-Austrian feeling aroused by Kossuth and his fellow-emigres abroad and the disastrous military situation in the other parts of the Austrian empire, forced Vienna to make concessions.

Thus the so-called “*Compromise*” was made with Hungary in 1867. The Austrians restored the constitution granted to Hungary as equal partner in the dual Monarchy, under the rule of the same Habsburg emperor-king, Francis Joseph.

The Compromise granted Hungary only nominal equality with Austria. The “common” portfolios of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Defence were managed almost entirely by Austrians, the Hungarians having very little to say in the most important matters concerning the empire. This is how Hungary was, eventually, forced into *World War I* for the sake of Austria’s pride, when the heir to the throne was assassinated in 1914.

THE ARPAD QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

June 10th is the Feast of Saint Margaret of Scotland in the Catholic Calendar.

Margaret was the grand-daughter of *King Saint Stephen of Hungary*.

When Edmund the Ironside, King of the English, died in 1016, his two sons sought refuge in Hungary, in Saint Stephen’s Court. One of the boys died in Hungary, but the other, Edward, married Stephen’s daughter, *Agatha*. They had three children: a boy, Edgar; and two daughters, Christine and Margaret, who was born around 1047.

The English King, Edward the Confessor, who had no children, recalled Edward in 1054 wishing to make him his heir. The Prince went to England but died soon after his arrival there. Agatha and the three children then lived for a while in Edward the Confessor’s Court. Another prince enjoyed Edward’s hospitality at that time. This was Malcolm of Scotland, son of King Duncan, killed by Macbeth (of Shakespearean fame). He fell in love with Margaret who was then in her early teens, but history intervened and separated them: King Edward died, the Norman Duke William invaded and conquered England, and Malcolm returned to Scotland. Princess Agatha decided to return with her children to her father’s country, Hungary. However a fierce gale - and divine providence - drove their ship northwards and they landed on the shores of Scotland. Malcolm, who had become King of Scotland, welcomed his friends enthusiastically - and eventually married his childhood sweetheart, Margaret, in 1070.

Margaret was a disciple of the Benedictine teachers of the Cluny reform movement. These were the advisors of her grandfather, Saint Stephen. Her life was the epitome of Saint Benedict’s motto: “*Ora et Labora*” (“Prayer and Work”). Due to her attractive personality and superior education she soon became the leading voice in the changes which affected the social and spiritual life of Scotland. She founded churches, schools, hospitals and monasteries. King Malcolm adored his wife. Being illiterate - as many of his fellow monarchs were at the time - he left the affairs concerning education, religion and social reforms to his wife. She possessed a thorough scholastic education acquired in her grandfather’s court in Hungary.

In *Dunfermline*, the capital, Margaret had a beautiful Benedictine monastery built. In the courtyard of the cathedral stood a marble stone, called Margaret’s Stone. On this stone, the Queen received anyone

seeking justice or help. Today, this stone covers her modest tomb. She used her gentle persuasion with the leaders of the Scottish Church, gradually putting into effect the Benedictine reforms of Cluny, the great Catholic revival of the 11th century.

Malcolm and Margaret had eight children: six sons and two daughters. Three of their sons became kings of Scotland successively. One of their daughters married King Henry I of England, thus uniting the Saxon and Norman dynasties.

During the last years the royal couple lived in the Castle of *Edinburgh* where Margaret had a small chapel built as her oratory.

This is the *Saint Margaret Chapel* we know today, the official church of the Edinburgh garrison where the families of the Edinburgh Regiment have the right to marry and have their children baptised, regardless of their denomination.

Malcolm and his eldest son were killed in a battle in 1093.

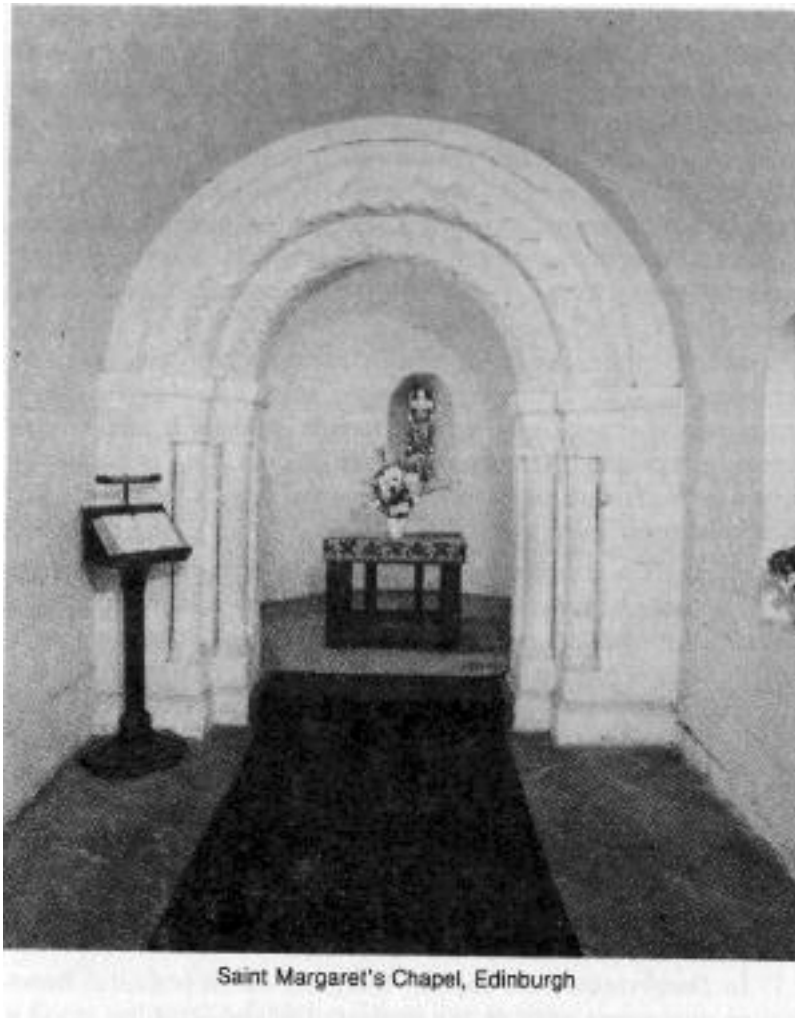
When Margaret learned of their deaths, she knelt down, said a prayer, then lay down and died. "So calm was her departure" -says her historian "that her friends only noticed after a while that her soul had passed to the land of eternal peace . . ."

She was canonized by the Pope and declared Patron Saint of Scotland. She has a unique place in the memory of the Protestant Scots too, who remember the anniversary of her death, November the 16th, as Saint Margaret's Day.

It is interesting to note that *Queen Elizabeth II* is also a descendant of the Hungarian-born Margaret. This is because her mother is of Scottish birth. The Queen also has Hungarian ancestry on her father's side: Queen Mary, George V's Queen, the present Queen's grandmother, was the grand-daughter of Princess Teck, the Hungarian Countess Rhedey. Countess Rhedey was famous for her beauty and horse-riding skill, qualities obviously inherited by the members of the Royal Family.

Margaret's descendants did not stay on one side of the Atlantic. Margaret Washington, nee Butler, George Washington's grandmother was also a distant, but direct descendant of the Scottish dynasty founded by Margaret and Malcolm.

All this amends the well-known "Mikes' Law" ("Everybody is Hungarian"). We should say: "Everybody and his ancestor are Hungarian . . ."



Saint Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh

June 11th is the day of the Blessed Gergely (Gregory), a Pauline monk, friend of King Matthias. He died in 1479.

On June 15th another Hungarian saint is remembered: the Blessed Jolanta Yolanda) who was the daughter of king Bela IV, sister of Saint Margaret and the Blessed Kinga. She married a Polish prince. After the death of her husband she retired to the Convent of Gnesen where she died in 1298.

THE LOST BROTHERS

On the 21st of June, 1236, the Hungarian monk, Julian left what he called "Greater Hungary" to return to the other Hungary - 2000 miles away. Brother Julian had discovered the Hungarians' "long lost brothers", another Magyar speaking nation and their large, prosperous country situated between the Volga and the Ural in eastern Europe.

According to the "Gestae" — the chronicles of medieval Hungary, only a part of the Magyar nation settled in the Carpathian Basin in the 9th century. The rest of the Magyars - possibly the larger part of the nation, remained in the Volga-Ural region. At the beginning of the 13th century, the learned *King Bela IV* decided to verify these reports and sent four Hungarian monks to look for the legendary "lost brothers" of the Hungarians.

The monks did reach the region and found a large, Magyar-speaking nation between the Volga River and the Ural Mountains. Because of its size and large population, they called the country "Magna Hungaria": Greater Hungary.

Only one of the four monks survived the arduous return journey, and even this monk died soon after his arrival in Hungary without being able to make a detailed report of his findings.

So Bela sent another group of four monks.

Only one of these, Julian, managed to reach the homeland of the Volga-Hungarians and he lived with the Magyar brothers for some weeks. They spoke Hungarian, formed a large powerful nation engaged in pastoral and agricultural activities, but quite capable of raising a large army when attacked. They had, in fact, already clashed with the Mongols and had repelled several invasion attempts. They were not Christians but their monotheistic religion and high moral standards were close to Christianity. This nation of several million was well known and respected in the region for their lively trade and spirit of independence.

Julian left "Magna Hungaria" in June 1236 and hastened back to Hungary with his report. Little did he know that he would be the last Hungarian ever to see the "lost brothers" of the East.

The king decided to invite the eastern Hungarians to migrate to the Carpathian Basin, and join their brothers settled there in order to form a united, great nation, capable of resisting the threatening Mongol invasion. Julian and three others set out again toward "Greater Hungary" with the King's message.

They never reached the country of the Volga-Hungarians. Hardly had they reached the south of Ukraine when they received the tragic news: the attack of the Mongol army had totally destroyed the once powerful "Greater Hungary". The Mongols had annihilated the entire nation as was their custom with people who had resisted them.

Julian returned to Hungary, accompanied by some Cumanian refugees, neighbours of the Volga-Hungarians who gave a dramatic account of the last heroic struggle and destruction of what was once the second Hungarian nation.

So the Hungarians, once again alone, faced the Mongol onslaught as the principal target of Khan

Batu, the would-be -conqueror of Europe. As we have already seen in this chronicle, the Hungarian nation did fall under the Mongol-Tartar onslaught of 1241-42.

History would have taken a different turn if the strong eastern Magyar nation had been able to join their brothers in the Carpathian Basin forming, possibly, Europe's strongest nation.

But then, as Omar Khayyam said:

*"Of all the words of Life and Dream,
The saddest are: it might have been. ."*

The Catholic Church honours the day of Saint Laszlo (Ladislas) on the 27th of June.

Saint Laszlo was *king of Hungary from 1077 to 1095*. A heroic and popular knight-king, he represented the finest virtues of medieval chivalry. He fought the eastern invaders (Cumanians, Pechenegs) - and then converted them to Christianity and resettled them in Hungary. He re-established law and order in the country after the turbulent decades under his predecessors. Laszlo paid particular attention to the eastern region of Hungary, Transylvania where he founded new towns and bishoprics. He granted special privileges to the Szekely, a Magyar ethnic group settled in the easternmost area of Transylvania.

He enjoyed immense prestige at home and abroad. His daughter - the future Saint Irene - married the Greek emperor and by his clever family politics he incorporated Croatia as an autonomous province of Hungary.

His reputation as the model of the Christian knight justifies his choice as the patron saint of the Hungarian soldier. His day, *the 27th of June has therefore been* celebrated as the day *to remember the Magyar soldiers* who died in the defence of their country during its history.

A FATEFUL DAY

On the 28th of June, 1914, the Crown Prince of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy, *Francis Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated* in Sarajevo by a member of a Slav secret society. The Austrian government wished to take stern measures against Serbia for fomenting the assassination. At the Crown Council, *Istvan, Tisza*, the Hungarian Prime Minister *objected to measures that might lead to war*, but the Austrian politicians and generals insisted on armed retaliation. So a month later, Francis Joseph declared war on Serbia, setting off a chain of events which soon involved the world in the Great War.

Hungary's unwilling participation in the War eventually led to the country's destruction by the Trianon Treaty. Over half million Magyars died, three quarters of the country were lost in order to avenge the death of the Austrian archduke who, incidentally hated the Hungarians.

Twenty-seven years later, on the same day, 28th of June 1941, Hungary found herself at war with Soviet Russia.

When Germany attacked the Soviet Union on the 22nd of June, 1941, Hungary declared her intention to remain non-belligerent. Italy, Finland, Rumania, Slovakia and Croatia, however, followed Germany in declaring war on the Soviet Union at once. A few days after the launching of the German offensive, the Hungarian city, Kassa was bombed, allegedly by Soviet planes. On the 28th of June, the Hungarian Prime Minister, *Laszlo Bardossy*, declared that, as a result of this hostile act, "*a state of war existed between Hungary and the Soviet Union.*"

Bardossy made this statement without consulting the Parliament or obtaining explicit instructions from the Regent. The Hungarian Constitution reserved the right of the declaration of war to the Regent, after the Parliament had given its consent. Before the People's Court, in 1945, Bardossy insisted that Hungary did not declare war - it was Russia's hostile act which created a state of war between the two countries.

A British historian, Professor C.A. Macartney, suggests a typically "Magyar" reason for Bardossy's behaviour: the Prime Minister knew that Hungary would not be allowed to remain neutral in the centre of the German supply lines. He therefore "arranged" Hungary's entry into war but made certain that, if things "went wrong" all responsibility should fall on him alone and not on the Regent or members of the Parliament. Things "did go wrong" - and after the War Bardossy faced the People's Court in Budapest with great courage and accepted full responsibility for everything.

He accepted his death sentence as a sacrifice for his nation.