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HUSSAR

Originally the name of a soldier belonging to a corps of light cavalry raised by Matthias Corvinus, king of Hungary in 1458, to fight against the Turks. The hussar was the typical Hungarian cavalry soldier, and, in the absence of good light cavalry in the regular armies of central and western Europe, the name and character of the hussars gradually spread into Prussia, France, etc. Frederick the Great sent Maj. H.J. von Zieten to study the work of this type of cavalry in the Austrian service, and Zieten so far improved on the Austrian model that he defeated his old teacher, Gen. Baranyai in an encounter between the Prussian and Austrian hussars at Rothschild in 1741. The typical uniform of the Hungarian hussar was followed, with modifications, in other European armies. It consisted of a busby or a high cylindrical cloth cap, jacket with heavy braiding and a dolman or pelisse, a loose coat worn hanging from the left shoulder. The hussar regiments of the British army were converted from light dragoons at the following dates: 7th (1805), 10th and 15th (1806), 18th (1807, and again on revival after disbandment, 1858), 8th (1822), 11th (1840), 20th (late 2nd Bengal European Cavalry) (1860), 13th, 14th and 19th (late 1st Bengal European Cavalry) (1861). The 21st Lancers were hussars from 1862 to 1897. In 1922, on the reduction of the cavalry, the 13th and 18th, the 15th and 19th were amalgamated as the 13th/18th Hussars and 15th/19th Hussars. In 1928 the 11th were converted into an armoured car regiment, retaining their title. (The Encyclopædia Britannica Company, 14th ed. 1929 London, New York)

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The embodiment of a Hungarian Huszár (Hussar) was colonel Michael Kovács (1724-1779). Scarcely had the news of the American independence movement reached Hungary when Michael Kovács, a major of Maria Theresa's hussars approached Benjamin Franklin, the first Minister to France of the Union, in a letter written in Latin (dated Bordeaux, January 13, 1777), in which he offered his sword in defense of the freedom of the United States, writing prophetically "fidelissimus ad mortem". He was appointed colonel in command of the Pulaski Legion, becoming at the same time first director of training of the United States cavalry. Died on May 19th 1779 at Charleston fighting at the head of his troops. A life-size relief of Michael Kovács was unveiled in the Hungarian

Library of New York in 1840; a memorial plaque and memorial tree was planted in Washington Park of East Chicago in 1932; a chapel was built by his wife — née Frances Szinyei Merse — in Szinye in 1780. (Adopted from “The Hungarian Genius, listed below.)

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The typical attire of the huszárs were the tight leggings, a closely fitted jacket, boots and loose overcoat. These looks go back further in time than the reign of Matthias Corvinus. It can be found in the earliest Scythian representations and within the Sarmatian military attire. Our ancestor’s refined tastes were always expressed in their clothing also. The so called “hussar” uniforms use the braiding rather heavily; one reason for this is that the inheritors of these uniforms are unaware of the meaning of these braidings, which served to convey messages on the Hungarian uniforms. The attire of the modern western men looks back to Scythian ancestry also. (Ed.)

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KASSITES

According to the 1929 edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, the Kassites were “an Elamiteite tribe who played a considerable part in the history of Babylonia. They inhabited the north-western mountains of Elam, when Sennacherib attacked them in 702 BC They are the Cossaeans of Ptolemy, who divides Susiana between them and the Elymaeans; according to Strabo (xi. 13, 3 6) they were neighbours of the Medes. they are the Cissians of the older Greek authors who are identified with the Susians by Aeschylus (Pers. 17, 120) and Herodotus (V.49, 52). About 1780 BC they overran Babylonia and founded a dynasty there which lasted for 576 years. In the course of centuries they were absorbed into the Babylonian population; the kings adopted Semitic names and married into the royal family of Assyria. Like the other languages of the non-Semitic tribes of Elam that of the Kassites was agglutinative; a vocabulary of it has been handed down in a cuneiform tablet, as well as a list of Kassite names with their Semitic equivalents. It has no connexion with Indo-European. [See Fr. Delitzsch, Die Sprache der Kossäer (1884)]”(The Encyclopædia Britannica Company, 14th ed. 1929 London, New York)

*Their agglutinative language and several ancient Hungarian place-names containing the name of the Kassites merits further investigation. (Ed.)

See below:

Sarmatian horseman

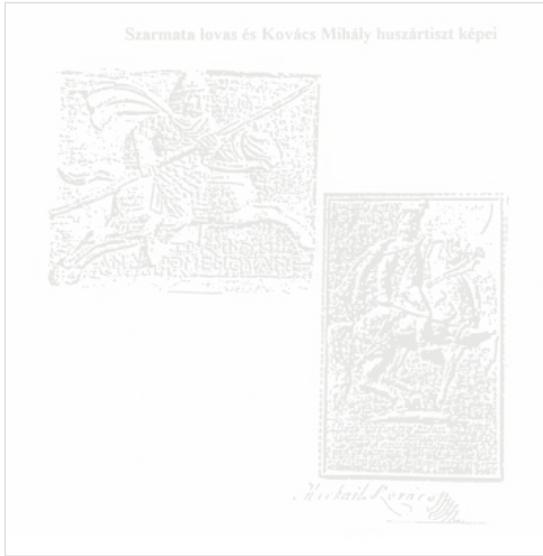
Michael Kovács in Hussar uniform

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A Magyar Népek Őstörténete, (Ancient History of the Magyars)



Left: Sarmatian horseman in the British Isles Right: Mihály Kovács in Hussar uniform