Glogonj/Galagonyas : War graves from the First World War

Introduction

This article is about our search for the graves of soldiers who died in fighting in Belgrade during WW1.

Our family lost my wife's great-grandfather Bedřich Hroch there. The survivors of the family did not know, where was their relative buried.

The facts at the beginning of the search

We had two important documents. The first one was the letter dictated by the dying Bedřich Hroch to his nurse. The second one was the Death Certificate issued retrospectively in 1922; the date of death is given as October 10, 1915, the date of burial October 11, 1915.

Important information from the documents :

info	letter	Death Certificate
place of death	Galagonyás	Galagonyas, Hungary
place of burial	local cemetery Galagonyás	local cemetery Galagonyas Hungary

Important information from the letter written by the nurse Hedwig Götz :

- *"... he was shot during bombardment of Belgrade..."*
- *"... I will take care of his (Bedřich Hroch's) grave..."*

Our quest begun with these facts :

- Bedřich Hroch :

    - Was shot near Belgrade.
    - Died October 10, 1915 in Galagonyas.
    - Was buried October 11, 1915 in Galagonyas Cemetery.

- Galagonyas :

    - Must be close to the Belgrade battlefield.
    - If located on the left bank of the Danube river, probably was renamed.
    - There had to be a military hospital.
    - There had to be a cemetery.
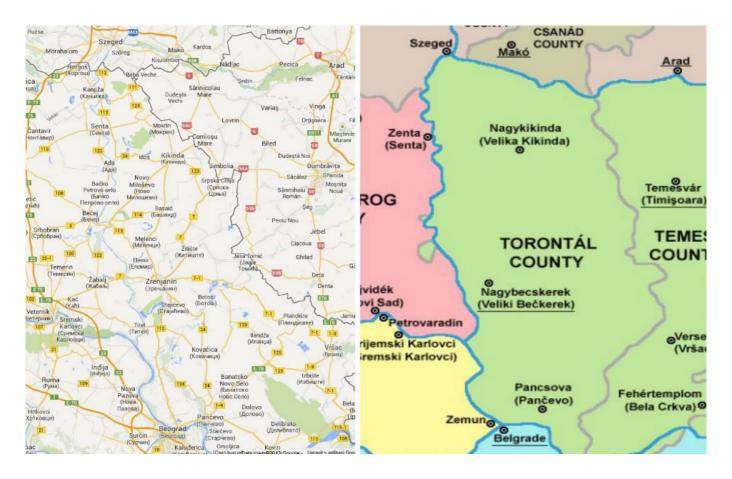   - The soldiers who died in the hospital were buried in separate graves.

The search

There are few registered military cemeteries from WW1 near the river Danube, no lists of buried soldiers available.

Vienna Military Archive – there is a list of military hospitals from WW1. One of the hospitals was numbered 6/6, located in Galagonyas (!), district Torontal. Unfortunatelly – no list of the soldiers there. The info is :

- The name of the village – Galagonyas.
- The number of the hospital – 6/6.
- The district of Galagonyas – Torontal.

District Torontal – administrative map of Hungary before WW1 confirms this district :

The District Torontal – the map of today (left) and before WW1 (right).

Galagonyas had to be somewhere inside the area "TORONTÁL COUNTY". This area includes the village of Glogonj, whose original name was Glalagonyas-! GPS of the village is N 44°59.34137', E 20°31.94328'. The following is confirmation :

- The name of the village (Serbian *glog* = Hungarian *galagony* (= English *hawthorn*)), in Torontal District.
- No other village or town with similar name.
- The distance from the battlefield of Belgrade is about 20 km.
- In Glogonj there is an abandoned Catholic cemetery. Catholics fled the village in 1945, and the cemetery is now overgrown by bushes (a small area has been restored by the descendants of the original German population).

According to our on site investigation October 10, 2015 :

- The Catholic cemetery is large.
- The Catholic cemetery is heavily overgrown and impassable.
- In the bushes in the Catholic cemetery are preserved gravestones, the dates of death till 1945.
- The Catholic cemetery has not been destroyed, but has been overgrown by vegatation.

Conclusion

There is a good chance, that somewhere in the bushes in the Catholic cemetery in Glogonj military graves survive, where soldiers who died in the WW1 military hospital Galagonyas 6/6 are buried.