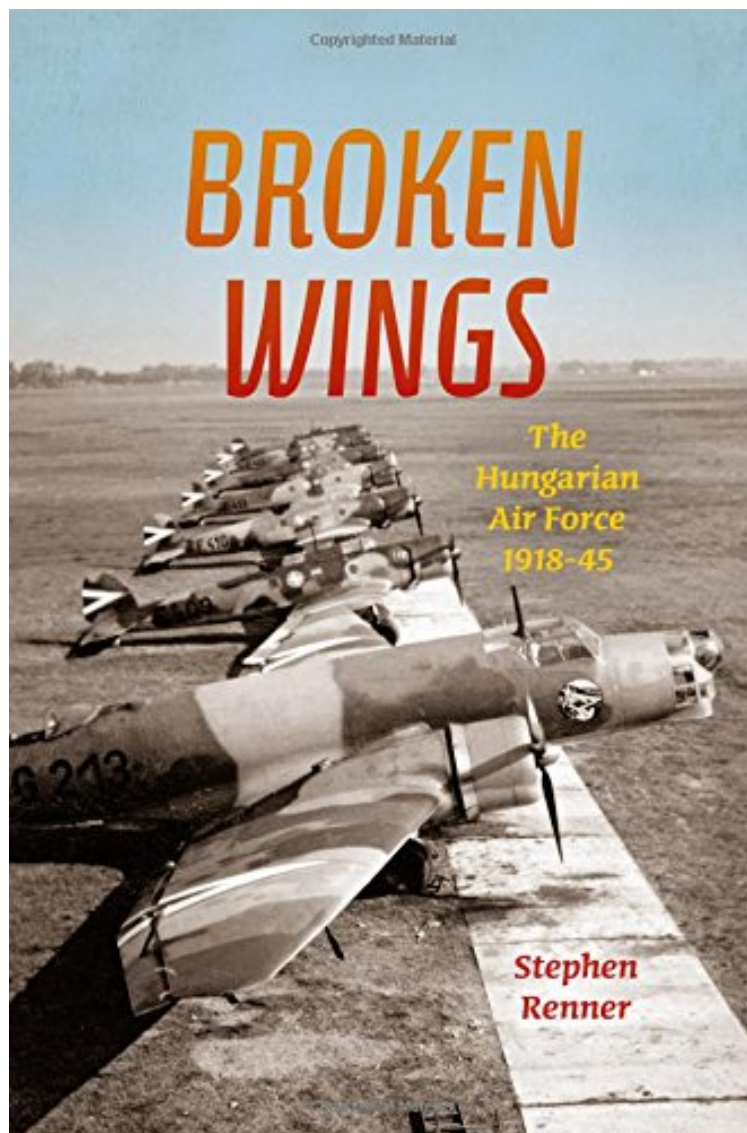


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## Broken Wings: The Hungarian Air Force, 1918-45

*Stephen L. Renner*

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**Stephen L. Renner : Broken Wings: The Hungarian Air Force, 1918-45** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Broken Wings: The Hungarian Air Force, 1918-45:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... the story of a fairly unknown air force in excellent detail, all things consideredBy Klas-Göran BaskThis book tells the story of a fairly unknown air force in excellent detail, all things considered. The bibliogrphy is a also strong point.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Hungary's air force through creation, theorizing and war. Primarily administrative history. Provides context for all this.By

lyndonbrechtI read just about anything on Hungary (personal interest, not my roots). This book is rather good but may have limited appeal. It is not a war history or a campaign history, nor does it chronicle Hungarian resistance to either the Germans or the Soviets. It's partly a study of military administration. It starts with a good review of aircraft history in the Hapsburg empire (Hungary was attached to this until 1918). Then it discusses how Hungary tried to hide the development of an air force, forbidden by the Allies in the Trianon treaty. Didn't work despite imaginative Hungarian efforts. Then the book discusses air doctrine, that is Hungarian military theorists studying theorists such as the Italian Douhet and others, on what air power might be able to do and how to do it. Hungary managed a small air force by the 1930s, based mostly on Italian imports. There was some domestic production, mostly licensed and small scale. The country was small (7 million people in something like 30,000 square miles, after very heavy losses in land and population from the peace process)) and had great difficulty financing a military. Relations with the Little Entente were tense (Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia) were tense and Hungary's military mostly was aimed at them -- they'd among them annexed large areas once ruled by Hungary). Hungary was pulled into the German orbit. The air force partly rearmed with German machines, but not very completely. Hungarian pilots acquitted themselves quite well in a brief conflict with Slovakia (independent through German policy), in the Russian war and against Allied bombers, (which started striking Hungary after the German takeover in 1944). The last chapter is the one of World War 2., which was a catastrophe for Hungary (its army destroyed at Stalingrad). Overall the book is excellent for readers interested in the topic. The book has a few interesting photos, but could use more. Some pertinent maps would help, as well. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Those who are history buffs will enjoy this well written By Norma Those who are history buffs will enjoy this well written, extensively researched book. It covers an interesting period of Aviation History about which little has previously been written. An excellent source of information.

Drawing upon a wealth of previously untranslated documents, *Broken Wings* tells how a European nation built an entire air force in secret. Carved up and banned from having a military air service after World War I, Hungary became determined to rearm itself. In the early 1920s, Allied inspectors were evaded and obstructed at every turn; great efforts were made to stockpile equipment from the Great War; and the Hungarian government promoted the development of commercial aviation, partly as a front for military flight operations. The clandestine rearmament program could not depend on manufacturing at home but instead secretly accepted whichever planes Italy and Germany would sell them. During the late 1930s, the Hungarian air force went from operating as a secret branch of the army to an independent modernizing force in its own right. Hungarian air power played a great role in a victorious border skirmish with Slovakia in 1939. The cost of the reemergence of the Hungarian air force, however, was heavy: growing Nazi influence over the country, as Germany increasingly supplied aircraft and training. Inevitably, Hungary entered the Second World War on the side of the Axis in 1941, with its air force soon dwindling in independence and effectively becoming a Luftwaffe auxiliary force. Called back home to defend Hungary from incessant Allied bombings, the Hungarian air force ended the Second World War much as they had the First? salvaging aircraft parts from downed invaders and fighting until they no longer had airfields from which to operate.

Renner's book is both interesting to read, and holds lessons applicable to the present. If you are looking for something different which is aviation-related, "*Broken Wings*," is a good choice. (Daily News) An outstanding piece of research and writing . . . This study fills a critical gap in our understanding of the development of air arms during the first half of the twentieth century. (John H. Morrow Jr. author of *The Great War: An Imperial History*) About the Author Stephen Renner is Vice Commander, 355th Fighter Wing, United States Air Force and Professor of Comparative Military Studies at the United States Air Force School of Advanced Air and Space Studies. He is a career A-10 pilot who commanded the 25th Fighter Squadron at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, and has deployed to Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.