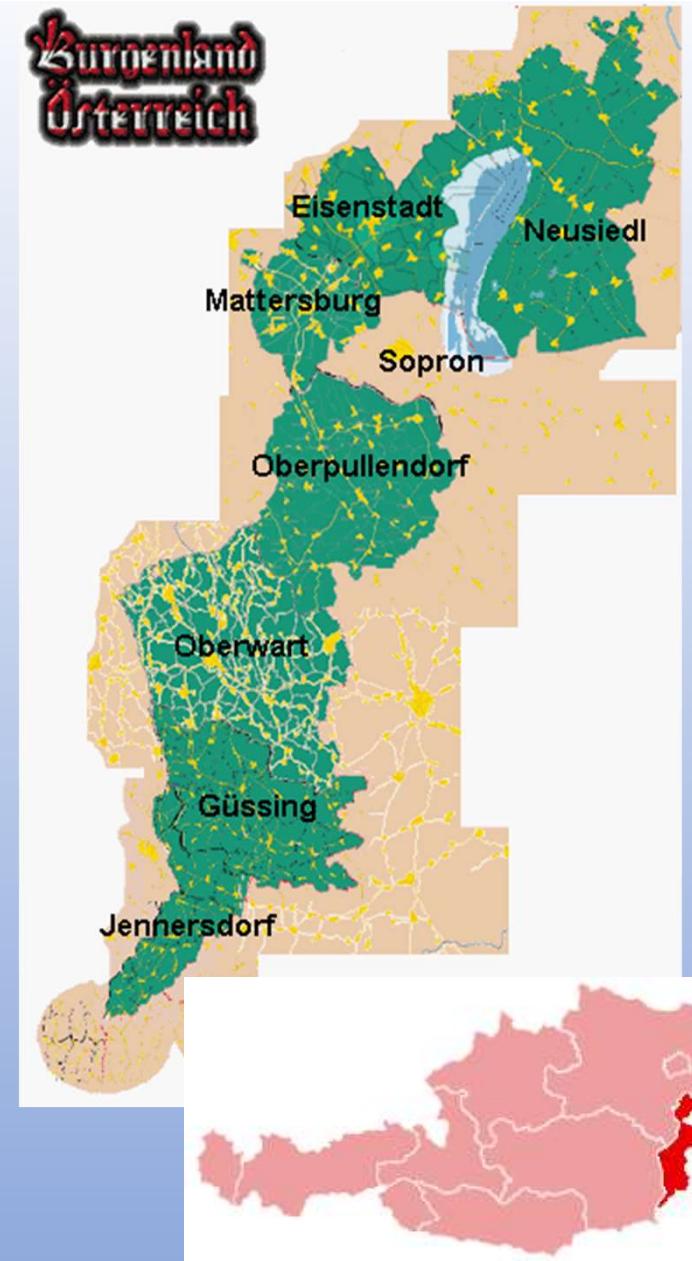
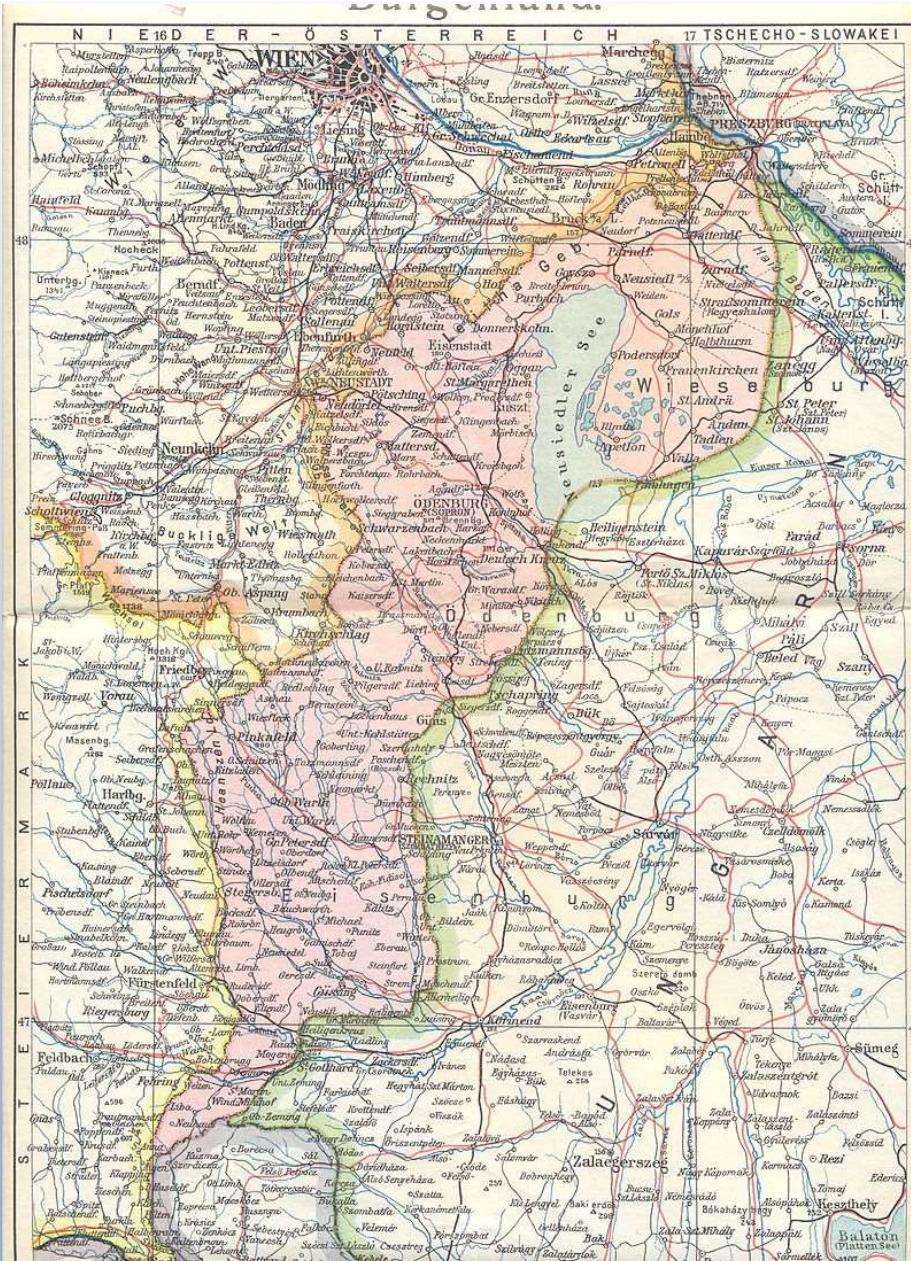


# Western Hungary 1921

TDPS

16 March 2023



# Treaty of St Germain, 1919

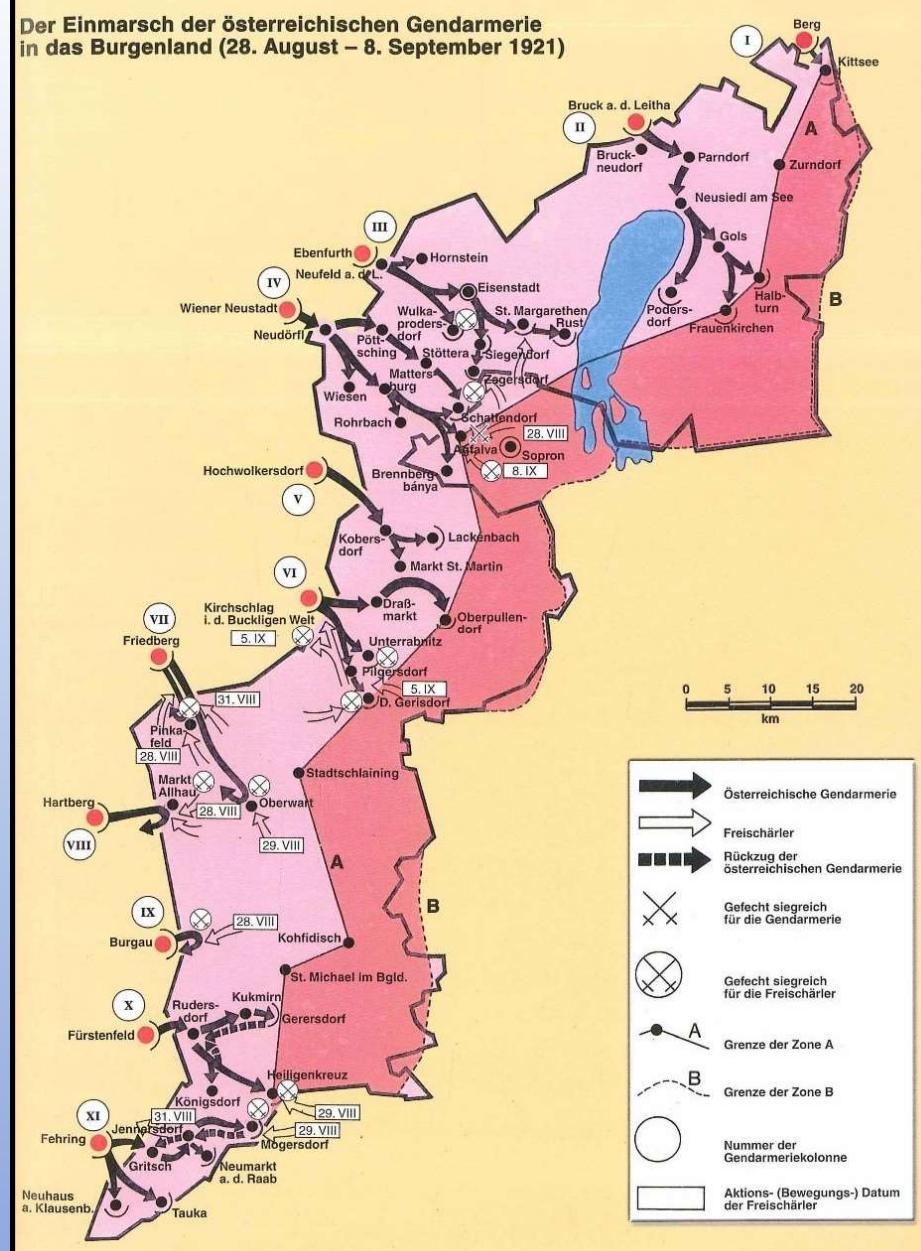
- The Treaty stated that 'Western Hungary', parts of three Hungarian Counties, would be taken over by Austria.
- The Hungarians strongly objected – it was part of Hungary for centuries
- But the local population had a large proportion of German speakers and Slavs.
- **01.08.1921:** The Entente Mission's handover plan is published, containing 39 points covering the three Western Hungary counties and their settlements.
- **18.08.1921:** The Hungarian Government prevaricates, but submits a final proposal seeking the assurances:
  - (a) that Austria agrees that of the claimed areas, at least Sopron and district, remain part of Hungary until the conclusion of dialogue,
  - (b) that Austria conveys this fact to the Council of Ambassadors,
  - (c) that public administration officials remain in their jobs in the ceded areas, and
  - (d) that Austria will agree to a decision by plebiscite of contested areas with the proviso that such areas do not come first under Austrian control.

# Treaty of St Germain, 1919

- **19.08.1921:** Date originally set by the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris for the takeover of Western Hungary by Austria.
- **20.08.1921:** The Entente Commission in Budapest announces the handover plans via posters that appear all over the country (on Hungary's National Day!). Refugees from West Hungary start arriving in Hungary, including from Sopron. Official bodies begin clearing their desks and relocating to Hungary.
- **21.08.1921:** Chief Government Commissioner Szigray tells the Sopron Military Mission that all arrangements had been made for the timely withdrawal of the appropriate Hungarian authorities without incident.

# Treaty of St Germain 1919

- **28.8.1921:** The date that Republic of Austria had planned to be the official annexation of Western Hungary, to be known as Burgenland, with its capital at Ödenburg/Sopron.
- On this day, almost 2000 gendarmerie and customs guard, divided into 11 columns, were to occupy the so-called 'line A'.
- The next day, the units were to reach 'line B', which corresponded to the Trianon border line, while the Ödenburg/Sopron area should be handed over to the state administrator by the Inter-Allied General Commission.



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# Pál Pronay

- **29.08.1921:** Fascistic Pál Pronay takes over command of the insurgent forces in Western Hungary. The Austrians are driven out of part of zone A. At Pinkafő/Pinkafeld, only 20 insurgents with the help of the Croatian population of the area beat about 200 gendarmes out of the village.
- **04.09.1921:** Pörgölény/Pilgersdorf is relieved by the insurgents. Hungarian Ambassador to Vienna Szilárd Masirevich meets Italian diplomat Augusto Biancheri to discuss Western Hungary and the disruptive role being played by Czechoslovakia. Biancheri offers to help find a solution to the problem.
- **05.09.1921:** Kirschlag, just over the Austrian border, is occupied by insurgents. Ten Austrian soldiers and 21 Hungarian insurgents lose their lives in the battle. Austrian gendarmerie retreat into Austrian territory.



The 'Mad Monarchist'

# Further attempts on Austrian takeover

- **07.09.1921:** The Austrian gendarmerie launches another attack with 500 targeting Sopron. They are confronted by 110 Hungarian insurgents armed with handguns and only one machine gun.
- **08.09.1921:** A fierce clash occurs at Ágfalva, continuing overnight, with the Hungarian side victorious after the Ostenburg Detachment arrives and the Austrians retreat, partly by train, to avoid encirclement. When the gendarmes are directed to set up defensive lines again at Nagymarton/Mattersburg, many mutiny on the basis that they were civil servants and not soldiers, and were therefore unwilling to undertake a war.

Austrian State Administrator Robert Davy became isolated in Sopron/Ödenburg and relocates his office back to Vienna.

- **09.09.1921:** The Austrians completely withdraw from all gendarmerie posts south of Eisenstadt leaving just a few occupied posts northwest of Eisenstadt. Robert Davy requests that the exhausted gendarmerie is replaced by armed forces. Austrian inhabitants of Western Hungary begin to flee westwards.

# The Endgame

- **03.10.1921:** Western Hungary comes under the jurisdiction of the Entente Powers
- **04.10.1921:** Pronay declares independence for 'Lajtabánság'.
- **13.10.1921:** Agreement reached in Italy that Hungary will clear irregular forces from Western Hungary in return for a plebiscite for Sopron and eight surrounding villages.
- **10.1921:** The political situation is complicated by former King Karl attempting to retake the throne of Hungary.
- **14-16.12.1921:** The Sopron Plebiscite takes place. The result is 65% in favour of staying in Hungary.

# Insurgent stamps – Issue 1

- **4 September 1921:** Overprinted: *Felkelő Magyarok által megszállt Nyugatmagyarország 1921.aug-szept* ('Western Hungary occupied by insurgent Hungarians'). Used in Zone 'A' towns of Alsóőr, Borostyánkő, Felsőőr, Gyanafalva, Nagyfalva, Pinkafő, Pusztaszentmihály, Radafalva, Szentlélek, and Vörösvár. 10 values.



# Insurgent stamps – Issue 1

- Prepared, but not issued



# Insurgent stamps – Issue 2

- **Issue 2: 19 September 2021:** Overprinted: *Nyugatmagyarországi felelők 1921 szept „A” ZÓNA* plus handstamped skull and crossbones. (‘We are rising in Western Hungary’.) Used in Kismarton, Franknó, Vulkapordány and Zemenye.

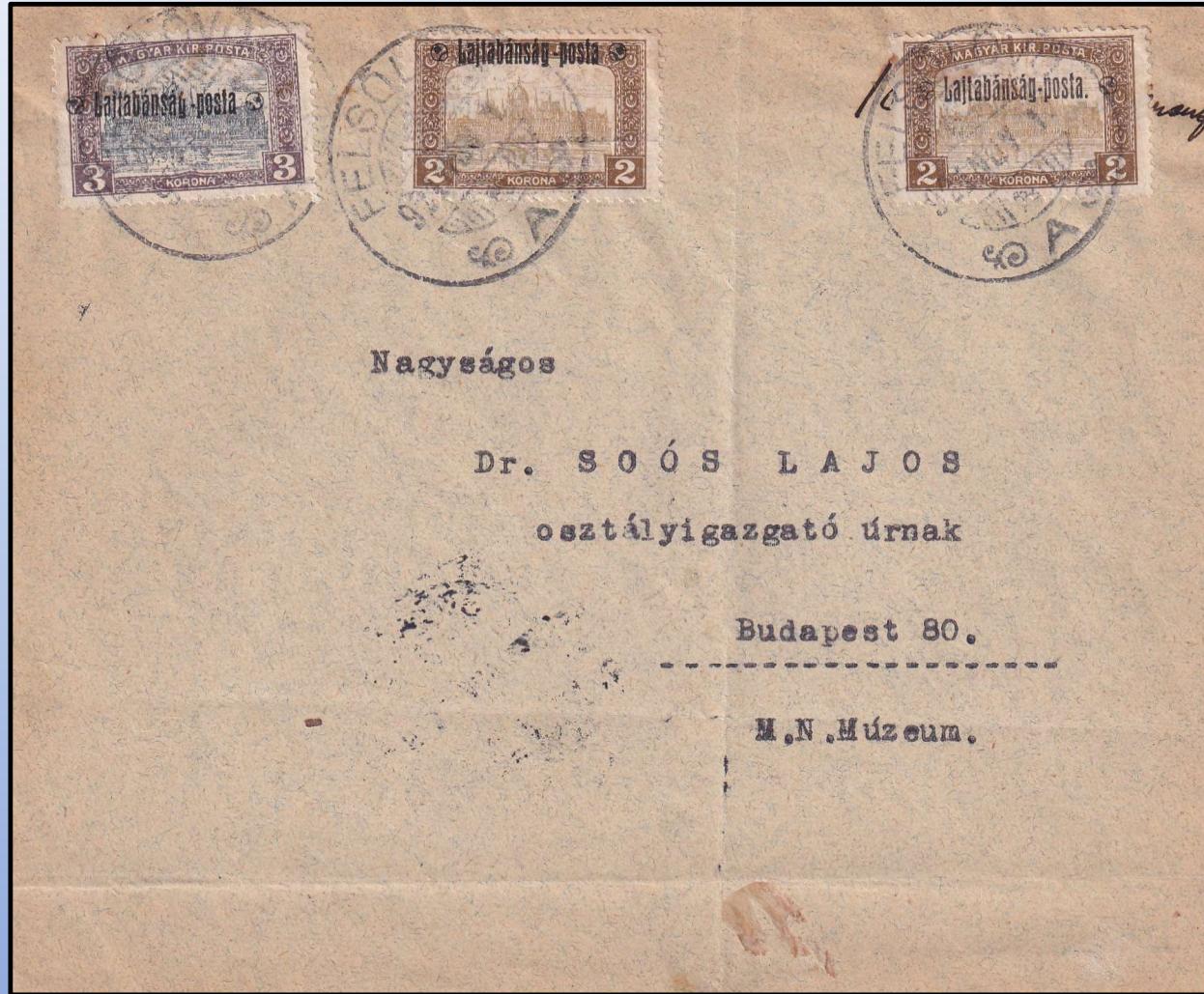


# Insurgent stamps - Issue 3

- **5 October 1921:** *Lajtabánság posta* overprint on Harvesters and Parliament issues. On the gummed side there is a 50% surcharge to support the insurrection. These appeared immediately after the declaration of the Lajtabánság independence. Known to have been widely used in most post offices under insurgent control. Thirteen values. Sold with 50% surcharge.



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 3



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 4

- 16 August 1921: Five-line overprint *Nyugatmagyarország Népe, Nem, Nem, Soha!* (“Western Hungary no, no, no, never!”) on Harvesters issues and a three-line version on Parliament issues. Said to be issued by the Gömbös group. Known to have been used in several towns in the northern part of Lajtabáság. Eleven values.



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 5

- **10 October 1921:** Three-line *Felkelő Magyarok Északi Hadserege 1921* (“Northern Army of the Insurgent Hungarians”) overprint on Harvesters and Parliament issues. Said to be for the Héjjas insurgent group. Known to have been used in Zurany/Zurndorf. Sixteen values plus three postage dues.



Forgery



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 5



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 6

- 12 October 1921: Six-line overprint and surcharge **Nyugat-Magyarország Orszvé xxx Westungarn Orgland** (Western Hungary National Defence) where xxx is the surcharge. (*Orszvé* is an abbreviation of *Országos Védelem*, *Orgland* is a German abbreviation of *Organisierter Landschutz*.) Said to be for the Friedric insurgent group. Used mainly in Kismarton/Eisenstadt. Seven values.



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 7

- 11-17 November 1921: Pictorial issue inscribed *Lajtabánság Posta*. Printed in Vienna. Stocks of the issue still at the printer were confiscated by Austrian authorities on 17 November 2021. Widely used in insurgent occupied territory. Eleven values plus five postage dues.



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 7

Postage dues



All values also printed in blue as trials

# Insurgent stamps - Issue 7

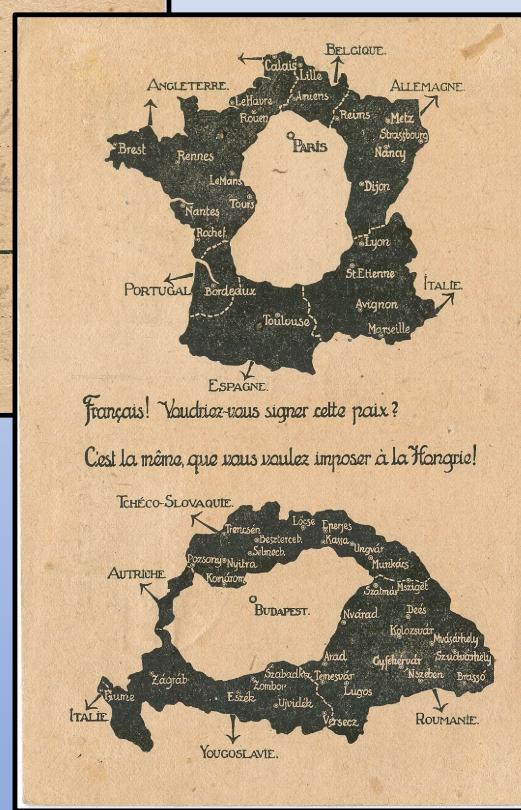


# Insurgent stamps - Issue 7

- Trial prints in different colours



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 7



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 8

- 14 December 1921: Four-line overprint reading *Soproni népszavazás 1921 dec. 14.* (Sopron plebiscite). Prepared by authorities in Lajtabánság. Never postally used – forbidden by the Entente authorities overseeing the Plebiscite. Eleven values.



# Insurgent stamps - Issue 9

- 3 December 1921? : Pictorial issue with Turul and double cross. Prepared in Vienna, but details unclear. Six values.



# Austrian issues – Private 1

- 17 October 1921: Contemporary stamps of Austria with two-line handstamped overprint **Burgenlands Befreiung** (Liberation of Burgenland). 18 values.



# Austrian issues – Private 2

- 17 October 1921: Contemporary stamps of Austria with two-line handstamped overprint ***Burgen land***. Five values overprinted in black, green or red.



# Austrian issues – a joke

- In Gyanafalva/Jennersdorf, Austrian supporters decided to make their own piece of philatelic propaganda by preparing Hungarian stamps overprinted with an Austrian coat of arms and a surcharge in Austrian currency, *Krona/Krone*. They also make fake registered covers with fake postmarks.

