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BRITISH SURVEY HANDBOOKS

General Editor: JOHN EPPSTEIN

IV
HUNGARY

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The standard works on the history and economy of Hungary have been freely used in the compilation of this small book to complement my own vivid recollections, but inadequate knowledge of that country between the two wars, and the best available official and other sources of information have been employed to illuminate the events of the last five years.

Two of the first four Handbooks in this series have been devoted to Allied countries, Belgium and Greece, two to ex-enemy countries, Rumania and Hungary. The reader will observe that exactly the same method has been employed, and that the same spirit has informed the treatment of each of them. We are not concerned so much to distribute praise or blame as to describe realities and to explain historically the causes, whose effects are seen in the part which each country has been playing in the drama of contemporary Europe, and in the internal developments of the country. If in each case the writers or compilers have erred from cold impartiality in the direction of sympathy with the common people, they and I have erred deliberately. *Non intratur in veritatem nisi per caritatem.* It is not by a censorious approach or subservience to the slogans of war-time propaganda that the real forces at work in another nation can be understood, but by a serious effort to 'get inside the minds' of its people; it is a difficult task at the best of times, but one which it is more than worth while for those to attempt whose object is the truth.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The bulk of this Handbook was written before the war in Hungary had reached its climax. It has been brought up to date, at the time of going to press, by the inclusion of the Armistice Terms and the composition and programme of the Provisional Government of Debreczen. The final reduction of the German garrison in Budapest by the Red Army is assumed: no prophecy of subsequent developments of Russian policy in this part of Europe is essayed.

JOHN EPPSTEIN

January 1945