

OBERLEUTNANT IN DER RESERVE ALBERT BUJANOVICS

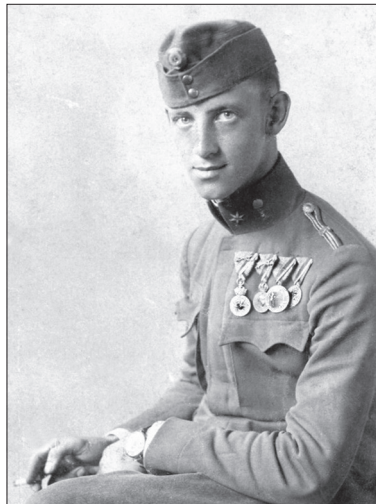
BY JURAJ ČERVENKA

In the small village Uzovce, near the town Sabinov in the east of Slovakia, there is a shabby, ramshackle and partially overgrown mausoleum set between trees. However, it is a truly remarkable building – it was the resting place of an Austro-Hungarian military aviation officer – Oberleutnant in der Reserve Albert Bujanovics. This Austro-Hungarian national, of the bombing unit, Flik 101G died 100 years ago, 19 March 1918, the consequence of severe injuries suffered in a flying accident.

ALBERT BUJANOVICS WAS BORN in Uzovce during 1895. He was from a noble family which had its roots in the territory of present-day Croatia. The Bujanovics family acquired extensive properties in various areas of Hungarian part of the Habsburg Empire. Albert's grandfather, Alexander Bujanovics (1837 – 1918), was a member of parliament and one of the most renowned economic experts in Hungary. The father of the young airman, Gyula Bujanovics (1862 – 1946), was also a member of parliament and during the First World War he also held the post of Šariš County governor.

Albert Bujanovics was a Roman Catholic and graduated from high school. One of the military documents from the First World War states that he spoke Hungarian, German, French, and Slovenian. The document is, however, from April 1917, i.e. from the time when Leutnant Bujanovics was still at the front, in present-day Romania, and therefore it is probable that there is an error, and that the recorder, Hauptmann Johann Ventura, had the Slovak language in mind. Another archive document states that Bujanovics also spoke Polish. The documents regarding the airman often mention the noble title von Agtelek. The Hungarian historian Veronika Szeghy-Gayer states that, in 1783, Emperor Joseph II confirmed noble rank for the Bujanovics dynasty, whose members could also then use the title von Agtelek.

Albert Bujanovics joined the 5th Hussars Honved Regiment at Košice in 1913 and stayed with the unit after the outbreak of the First World War. From 1 September 1915 he had the rank



Photographed here as a Leutnant, Albert Bujanovics served with Flik 40, Flik 28, Flik 53D and Fluggeschwader I, or Flik 101G.

: Juraj Červenka

Leutnant in der Reserve; between April and September 1916 he was on a leave due to the ongoing agricultural works and as he was probably fascinated by the technical innovations of his times, flying machines included, he joined the imperial and royal aviation troops K.u.k. Luftfahrtruppen on 1 November 1916. Then he started to study at the aviation school for officers in Wiener Neustadt.

ABOVE THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

In April and May 1917, Leutnant in der Reserve Albert Bujanovics served as the member of Flik 40 (Fliegerkompagnie 40) and had the function of an observer. The air unit was located in a forested and hilly region, on the aerodrome at Besztercze (today's city Bistrița in northern Romania). The native of today's eastern Slovakia took part in 11 operational flights, mostly

observation of territory kept under the control of the hostile Russian army and direction of artillery fire by wireless.

He took off on his first operational mission (a wireless flight) on 3 April and was sitting in the back of the two-seater Hansa-Brandenburg C.I. 67.25, and in two and-a-quarter

Escutcheon of Bujanovics family. : Archive of Veronika Szeghy-Gayer



The Bujanovics family c.1912, young Albert stands far left.

: Archive of Veronika Szeghy-Gayer

