

CONFERENCE REPORT: WAR, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION, VIII.

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In 2025, the double-venue academic conference entitled “War, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Protection” was held for the eighth time (Fig. 1). This year, the conference was organized by the Ministry of Defence Military History Institute and Museum and the Dezső Laczkó Museum of Veszprém. The conference program is available [online](#) (in Hungarian).

Keywords: military history archaeology, conflict archaeology, cultural heritage protection

Military history archaeology has long been at home in Veszprém, since Csaba Veress (1933–2014), a researcher at the Dezső Laczkó Museum was a defining and pioneering figure in early Hungarian conflict archaeology whose work is evidenced by numerous academic publications, lectures, and artefacts added to public collections (Fig. 2). (For more on the work of Csaba D. Veress, see: RAINER 2019.)



Fig. 1. Invitation to the 2025 conference



Fig. 2. Wreckage of an American B-24 LIBERATOR aircraft (Felsőörs–1944). Collection of Csaba D. Veress, Laczkó Dezső Museum (7th Defense Day of Veszprém, 2025)

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The academic conference entitled “War, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Protection” has been a two-day event since 2023, with the participation of partner institutions (in 2023, the Szent István Király Museum of Székesfehérvár, and in 2024, the Árpád Museum of Ráckeve organized and implemented the conference). The focus of the November 2025 conference was the new 2025 legal regulations concerning the management of military heritage (Act LVIII of 2025 amending Act LXIV of 2001 on the protection of cultural heritage; Government Decree 142/2025./VI. 19 on the amendment of Government Decree 68/2018./IV. 9 on the rules relating to the protection of cultural heritage).

On the first conference day, 12 November held in Veszprém, following the welcome address by Brigitta Szanyi, director of the Laczkó Dezső Museum, thirteen presentations were given in four sections. The first block of presentations dealt with the Bronze Age and the Roman period. Several presentations in the second, third, and fourth sections introduced archaeological research into medieval and early modern age sieges and the interpretation of archaeological remains of city sieges (destruction layers, repairs, weapon finds). The same blocks also included reports on experimental archaeology, archaeological museology, and excavation projects. The venue of the second conference day on 13 November was the “Bálna” Center of Military Culture in Budapest. Guests were welcomed by lieutenant colonel Dr. Attila Bán, director of the Military History Museum. On this day, thirteen papers were presented in five sections, while two presentations (Attila Papp and Márk Stier) were cancelled due to illness.

The main topics of the opening session on the second day were cultural heritage protection and current issues in military history-related archaeology. The second block of the session was devoted to the complex archaeological research of the 1526 Battle of Mohács (battlefield research, military grave excavation, archaeometry) (Fig. 3).

The presentations in the third section addressed the maintenance and study of military graves related to war remembrance, as well as forensic anthropology and forensic DNA testing. The topics of the presentations in the fourth section were methodological issues of field research into World War I battlefields and aircraft wrecks. The last conference block focused on conflict archaeology research into the Attila Line and the World War II history of the city of Gödöllő.

The ninth conference in 2026 entitled War, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Protection will be organized by the MoD Military History Institute Museum and the Janus Pannonius Museum in Pécs.

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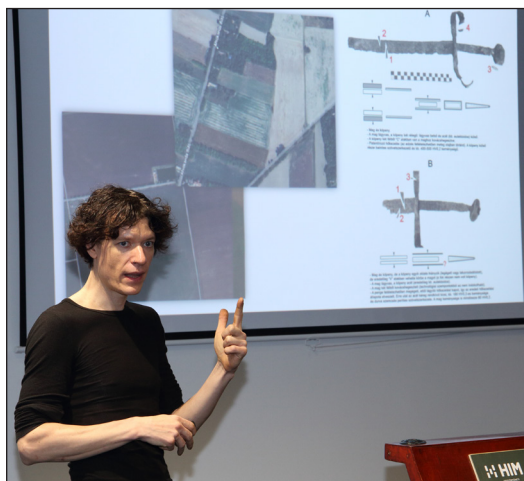


Fig. 3. Snapshot from the conference – Dr. Ádám Thiele (Budapest University of Technology and Economics) (photo: Péter Szikits, Military History Institute and Museum)