



(by Sardi)

Antal Liphay

Fieldmarshall-Lieutenant
Knight of the Maria Theresia Military Order

1745 - 1800



(Coat of Arms of the Liphay de Kisfalud family)



(Insignia of Knight of the Maria Theresia Military Order)

Antal Liphay, descended from a Hungarian family of the ancient nobility, whose line went back to the second half of the 13th century, was born on February 17, 1745 in *Szécsény, Nógrád County*, was a son of *Sándor Liphay* from his marriage to *Teréz Tapolcsányi*. In 1764, *Liphay*, aged 19, joined the newly established Hungarian Guard as a second lieutenant, and in 1768 he was transferred to *Infantry Regiment Pálffy* with the same rank. At the beginning of the War of the *Bavarian Succession*, in 1778, *Liphay* was a captain and at the beginning of the Turkish wars in 1788, a major. After the surrender of the veteran *Höhle*, *Liphay* received orders to occupy the field-work at *Új Palánka* and oppose the landing and crossing of the mountains by the enemy. *Liphay* undertook the task, led two batteries outside the field-work to a range of 2,000 paces, with which he received the of cattle, sheep, salt and foodstuffs. In the following year, 1789, *Liphay* had already been promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and with his battalion defended *Új Palánka*, then *Gladowa*, and on January 6, 1790 offered the Turks the brilliant action at *Negotin*. With 2,500 men he put twice the number of enemy to retreat, the result of which was that the provisioning of *Orlova* was thwarted, and *Krajina*, which had been occupied by the enemy, was cleared of them again, and reoccupied by the Austrians. For these last feats of arms, *Liphay* was promoted to colonel by *Emperor Joseph*, who was with the army at that time. He had already earlier, in the 15th promotion (of November 15, 1788), been awarded the *Knight's Cross* of the *Military Order of Maria Theresa*, for the courage of which he had so often given proof. In 1793, *Liphay* was appointed colonel of *Infantry Regiment Reisky*, no enemy and thwarted his intentions. Later he defended the field-work at *Szoska* long and courageously, till he received orders to follow Fieldmarshall-Lieutenant *Brechainville* to *Bersecz*. On October 19, General-Major *Harrach* began his attack on the entrenchments of *Új Palánka*. *Liphay*, who knew the area well, expressed the view that due to the low level of the water at that time, the enemy would have had to moor his flat-bottomed boats. *Liphay* therefore received orders to drive away these flat-

bottomed boats, and marched off with 500 men to carry out his task. He was not mistaken, and managed his approach so fortunately that the *Janissaries* who were on the punts were cut off from a redoubt, in which the *Spahis* had thrown themselves. *Lipthay* now decided to attack the redoubt. He led the guns forward and placed himself at the head of the attack squad. He renewed the attack on the redoubt with his men three times without taking it. *Lipthay* wished to make a fourth attack with a new squad, when the enemy asked to capitulate. *Lipthay* carried out further surprise attacks with skill and courage in the next few days. On October 31, he took a flat-bottomed boat with two guns, and in the night of November 5/6, he undertook a large foraging operation as far as *Gradisca*, with some 300 men, from which he returned with a considerable quantity 13. In May 1795 he was promoted General-Major. He was then given a brigade in Italy, with which he gave new proofs of his courage, and was seriously wounded at *Castiglione* (August 5, 1796). After his recovery, he distinguished himself in the actions on the *Brenta* (November 3, 1796), and in the battle on *Monte Baldo* (January 12, 1797). He then received the command of the *Tyrol Corps* and its contingents, but had to give up the command in March 1797 because of illness. In the campaign of 1799, *Lipthay*, who had been promoted Fieldmarshall-Lieutenant in September 1798, was with the army in *Italy* once more, and commanded a division. In the action at *Verona* (March 25, 1799) he was again rendered unfit for action by a serious wound. Though he was taken to *Padua* to recover, he succumbed to the effects of his wound after long suffering on May 3, 1800, at the age of 56 years. *Antal Lipthay* is buried in the Church of *Chiesanova*, in Padua, Italy. *Emperor Francis I* signed and handed over to *Antal Lipthay's* son *Frigyes* the hereditary title of *Baron* for the outstanding merits, courage and the services rendered by *Antal Lipthay* to the Empire. (Sources: *Biographisches Lexikon des Kaiserthums Oesterreich, 1856-91, vol 15, p. 235-6; and the Lipthay family archive*)