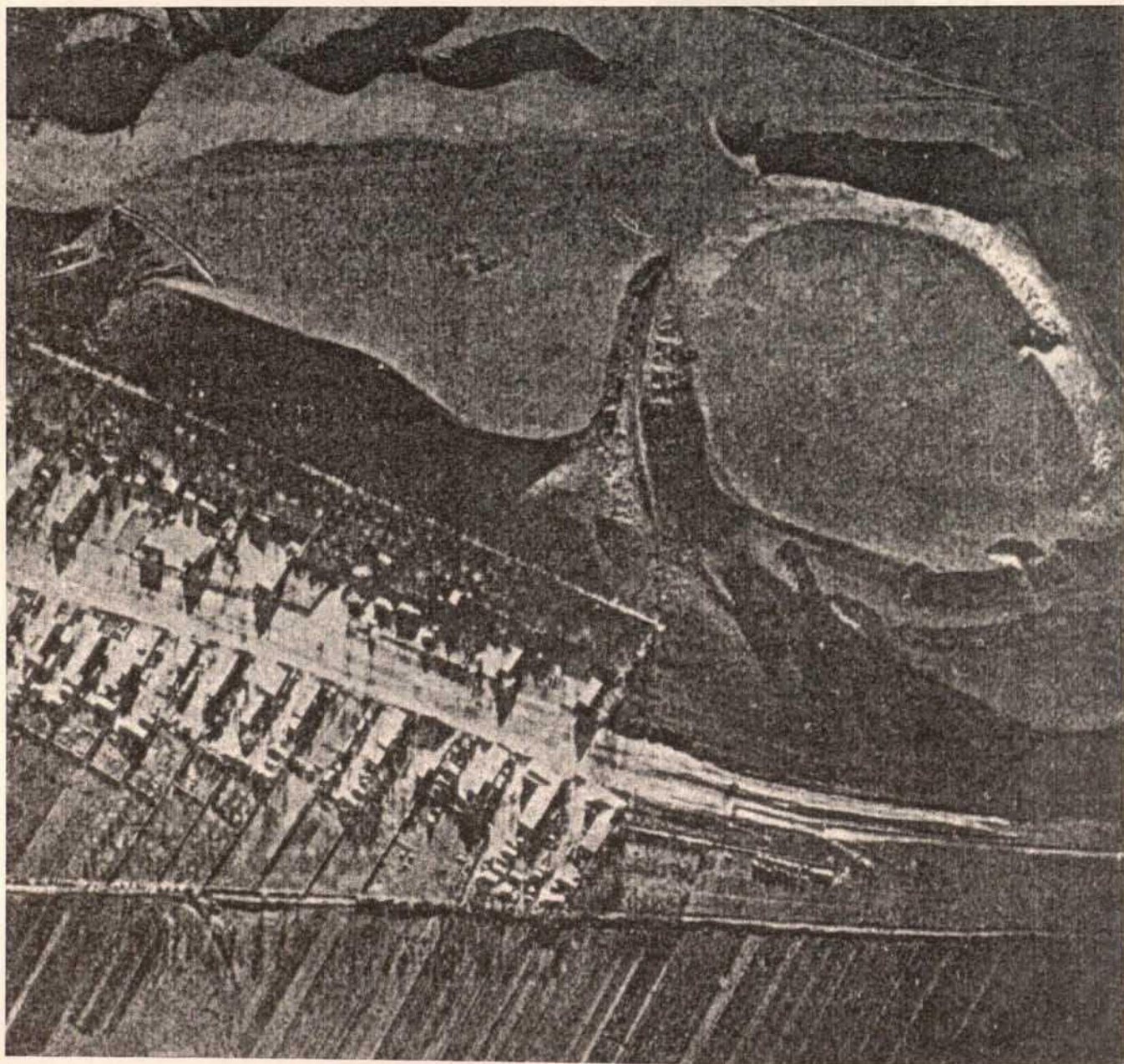


## Archaeological Aerial Propection in Hungary: a Landscape Vanishes ...

Thanks to a seven-year lasting cooperation between France and Hungary, I had the opportunity to fly approximately 80 hours over Hungary. These aerial propections were mainly directed by Mr. René Goguey, who is a pilot as well as aerial archaeologist, of the Aerial Archaeology in Burgundy, France. The material is now archived in the Laboratory for Rauminformatik at the Archaeological Institute in Budapest, which was established because of emergency diggings on the highway M3. The collection includes not only images from René Goguey, but also from us and several foreign scientists as well as old copies from other Hungarian institutions.

Fig. 1. Vál-Pogányvár prehistoric fortification (Photo was taken By S. Neogrády, April 1934)



We recognized in the beginning that the possibilities of aerial archaeological photography do differ very much depending on the geographical and agricultural situation nowadays. Hungary has very many habitats for aerial photography, especially at landscapes which were not affected too much by agriculture. The images can be interpreted not only from an archaeological point of view, but also from a standpoint of Holocene geology. While flying above Hungary, one gets a very good impression not only of the landscape but also of the landscape's transformation. The results are alarming. Changes which are obvious from 80 hours in the air are strengthened by the impression we get while comparing aerial images from this time. The documents prove, that aerial habitats vanish and more important, a dramatic transformation of the landscape takes place. We have to take leave not only from the habitants but the whole landscape.

Fig. 2. The same fortification in June, 1998 (Photo was taken by the author); is it possible to protect the site and its environment for the next 64 years?

