



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

www.csendor.com

csendorseg@yahoo.com



v. Kőrössi Zoltán (központi vezető)

11227 Woodson Ave., Kensington, MD 20895, USA

Telephone: 301-946-2414

Dear Friends,

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The Magyar Királyi Csendőrség Bajtársi Közösség (MKCsBK) grew out of a small group of csendőrs, forced to the West by the advancing Soviet juggernaut, and organized by Pál Jegenyés, a former garrison commander, in Graz, Austria, in 1947. Their main goal was to keep csendőrs in contact with each other, to help newly arriving csendőrs and their families find lodging and some sort of meaningful work, and from their meager funds to send money to csendőr families in Hungary who were left without a husband or a father and had lost all means of financial income and support.

In a few decades, the MKCsBK still continued their support of the csendőr families back home, but as their newsletter, the *Bajtársi Levél*, witnessed, they evolved into a veteran organization, a forum for reminiscence and sharing their experiences before and during the war, and a source of information on the latest csendőr activities, upcoming events, announcements, and the passing away of members.

In the past ten years, the organization has dramatically changed. Most of the csendőrs have passed away. The organization is still blessed with a few remaining csendőrs, now in their 80s and 90s, but it primarily consists of second and third generation csendőr descendents and those who have a genuine interest in the history of the csendőrség itself. The *Bajtársi Levél* has now been replaced by quarterly newsletters. The focus of the MKCsBK has also changed. Our primary function now is helping to reverse the lies, slander, half-truths, and false accusations perpetrated by the communist regime for over forty years, which is sadly continued to this day by the liberally biased press, radio, TV, schools, and publications. We desire to restore the reputation and good name of the csendőrség. To this end, we operate our web site, collaborate with our friends in Hungary to digitize the Regulations relating to the csendőrség, and consider the purchase of the remnant of a csendőr school building in the hope of providing a permanent home for a future csendőr museum.

Our csendőr website at www.csendor.com was launched in 2004. It contains numerous historical articles and references, over 1,400 photographs, many links to other informative websites, and provides a forum to the publications of two organizations in Hungary: the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történelmi Tudományos Társaság and the Magyar Csendőr Bajtársi Egyesület. It has been accessed over 28,000 times in the past three years, about a 1000 times a month, recently. According to the letters I have received through the site,

it has had a major impact on those seeking to learn the truth about the csendőrs. As one of our most important additions to the web site, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Béla Rektor's seminal book, *A Magyar Királyi Csendőrség oknyomozó története*, can now be read in its entirety on our website in the Document Archives of the Library section.

Almost a year ago we started the process of digitizing the Regulations in collaboration with the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság. With this we will provide a source of irrefutable facts detailing the standards by which the csendőrség operated, and make the most important research material available for historians. Dr. Parádi József, the president of the Társaság, marks out the relevant Regulations from 1881-1945, and a coworker photocopies them from the various publications, which are now hard to find and access. About two-thirds of this complicated work is now done, and expected to be completed by June of next year, God willing. I hand-carried the so-far made copies from Hungary, and our son will transfer them onto the computer. As we are the organization directly descendent of the csendőrség, we took it upon ourselves to finance this work, which the government had failed to do so to this day.

It was to my great joy that I was able to travel to Hungary in September for a couple of weeks. Instead of sightseeing, I visited my old csendőr friends and friends of the MKCsBK. It was a pleasure to visit Dr. László Maján who served with my father, and Gyurka Perjési, who has been compiling a wealth of information on over 23,000 csendőrs for over the past thirty years. I was able to meet with Dr. Sándor Képíró, who even today is struggling against false accusations related to his csendőr past. He gave me his written statement regarding these accusations and asked me to make it available as widely as I can. Therefore I will place it into the Library of our website, under "Writings about the Csendőrség (Hungarian)." I also visited one of our csendőr widows.

I've met with Dr. József Parádi, president of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság, with whose help we are procuring the Csendőr Közlöny, and Dr. Sándor Szakály, author and authority on csendőr history. I was also able to spend some time with Dr. Csaba Lóránt, who is the world's leading authority on csendőr uniforms and equipment. He showed me some of his magnificent collection and gave me a detailed overview of csendőr uniforms, equipment, and their variations and evolution. I also enjoyed the hospitality of Ságvári Pál, president of the Magyar Csendőr Bajtársi Egyesület, and had the opportunity to attend an MCSBE board meeting to become acquainted with its members. They met at the former csendőr officers' training school on Böszörményi Street. It was a surreal experience, being at the location where my father received his csendőr training and was commissioned in 1939.

One of my good friends in Hungary, Péter Laborc, and a new acquaintance, László Dinga, took me to visit the town of Tata. The csendőrs not only had a garrison in Tata, but also a csendőr school where at any given time about 300 csendőrs were receiving training. The school was housed in a block-long one-story building on Kossuth Tér 18. Nearly all of the building has now been renovated and occupied by various businesses, except a section in the middle, which has been left empty and untouched. This structure is probably the only remaining csendőr facility in all of Hungary that has not been altered since the csendőrs left it over sixty years ago.

This may be the opportunity of a lifetime presenting itself. Péter and I discussed the possibility of buying the facility, renovating it and establishing a csendőr museum there. László Dinga knows the owner and will be inquiring as to a possible purchase price for the building. But to make this dream a reality, it requires a sizeable investment, which we do not have. We would need some big donors, or possibly someone buying it for a future museum with his naming right, or raise fund by auctioning off naming rights of certain room or walls, etc. We are open for suggestions and ideas, and any help with the financial, real estate, national and international legal issues of such a purchase, etc.



My trip also had a very unpleasant event. Péter Szöllösi, editor of the Vagabund Press in Hungary, contacted me via email this past June asking for permission to use some of the csendőr pictures from our website in a book they were planning to publish on the history of the csendőrség. I wrote that I can only support their work if the book does not in any way disparage the csendőrség. I was assured that it would not and that he would send a draft of the book to me for examination and comment before publication. The draft never came, but I found to my surprise during my visit to Hungary that the book was already published, and that it was written in the fashion typical of the communist era, replete with fabrications, distortions, innuendos, and outright lies regarding the csendőrs, blaming them even for things with which they had nothing to do, like Sandor Rozsa's case, which occurred long before the csendőrség came into existence, or the Nazis' brutal treatment of the Jews. To make things worse, the inside of the front cover of the book includes a note of appreciation to me for permitting the

use of the photographs and an invitation to look at our website, giving the abhorrent appearance that I, or the MKCsBK, support the book.

Upon returning home, I emailed the editor to express my anger and greatest displeasure about the situation and his deceit. He responded with a weak apology and asked me to let him know what are the inaccuracies in the book so they could fix them in the next edition, and offered me to write a 20-or-so pages long section about the csendőrség “as we see it,” which he would also include in the next edition. I’ve asked a csendőr captain, to read the book and highlight those areas with which he does not agree. He responded that most of the book is and outright lie, distortion, and misrepresentation; it is an outrage. So, in the light of the book’s strong bias against the csendőrs and the writers’ ignorance or lack of interest in historical accuracy, we do not wish to associate with them in the future in any form, and I will ask to retrieve my name and our material from any future issues.

It is not too early to start thinking about our Florida csendőr conference next February. We hope to have as many of our csendőrs among us as possible, and to have Dr. Csaba Lóránt as our guest speaker. I will have a date and details regarding the conference in the next newsletter.

We gratefully acknowledge and thank all those who contributed to the work of the MKCsBK, especially considering that we have no funds for either the upcoming conference, or for the digitization expenses of the Csendőrségi Közlönys, or for our mailing expenses.

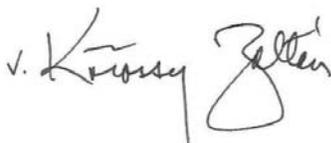
Advocate: Zoltán Kőrössy

Patron: Dr. László André, Tibor Rada

As always it is my sad duty to report our recent losses: Dr. Jeney v Király Kázmér, csendőr supply (gazdászati) second lieutenant, and Dr. István Keserű. On behalf of the MKCsBK, I extend our condolences to their families.

Please keep me informed of any events that would be of interest to our organization.

Best regards,



Zoltán v Kőrössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül