

Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség
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Dear Friends,

MKCSBK Newsletter # 16, October, 2011

Sadly, I have to write again of the passing of two more of our former gendarmes. This has made me to reflect on how although this great body of dedicated men is passing on, their legacy will remain. This legacy has been maligned by sixty years of communist propaganda but it is our hope to change this through the availability, on our website, of original documents, personal accounts, research and books, that refute communist lies and distortions. We often receive letters thanking us for the gendarme website as a source of information not contaminated with bias, deception, and outright falsehoods. People can now research for themselves the true nature of the gendarmes. They can read of their training; their discipline; the high standards, by which they were to live not only when on duty, but in all aspects of their lives; their requirement to thoroughly know the law, which not only guided them in enforcement, but also backed them up; their oversight, which assured that they acted always within the bounds of that law; their philosophy, and their commitment. I feel we are making a difference with the over 50,000 visits to date to our website, and it is our hope that with time the truth will prevail. And then the gendarmes will be remembered for what they were, the dedicated effective defenders of peace.

On September 3rd, the final tragic chapter ended in the life of Dr. Sándor Képiró, gendarme captain. Perhaps no other gendarme was as well known as Dr. Képiró in recent times because of his protracted harassment by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in their unfounded and unsuccessful pursuit to convict him as a war criminal.



Dr. Sándor Képiró, Gendarme Captain

After receiving his doctorate degree in law, Dr. Képiró entered the gendarmerie. Upon finishing the Ludovika Military Academy and Gendarme Officer Training School, he received his commission as a 2nd Lt. on July 9, 1940. He served in a number capacities. In December of 1943, his name became embroiled in the atrocity that occurred in southern Hungary during the reclaiming of the territory. He was court-martialed as a goodwill gesture to the West, and was sentenced to ten years in prison with loss of rank, charged on the basis of the even-then-illegal “collective guilt.” A further investigation revealed he himself committed no crime (he even helped people), he was absolved of all criminal charges and returned to full active duty and former rank in June, 1944.

At the end of the war he immigrated to Argentina, but returned to Hungary in 1996 because he felt that there was no life for him outside of his homeland.

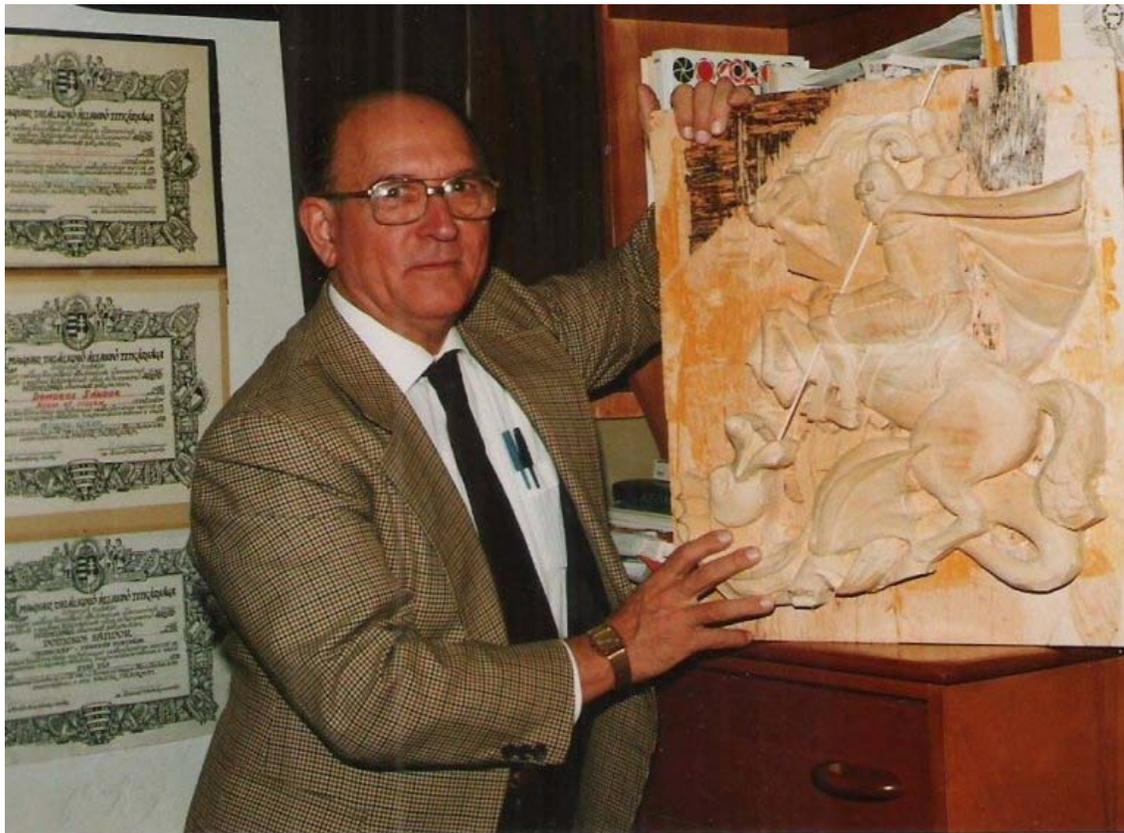
Unfortunately, he did not find the peace he sought. The Simon Wiesenthal Center in 2006 accused him of atrocities in southern Hungary. After the court acquitted him, the Center appealed the verdict and brought him to court again, subjecting the aged man to so much harassment that it no doubt shortened and greatly burdened his final years of life. The court again could not establish any guilt and declared so on July 18 of this year. The Center planned to appeal again, but could no longer hurt Dr. Képiró, for he passed away on Sep. 3rd.

We hope his trial awakens many to the still prevailing double standard, that fiercely punishes national-socialist Nazi atrocities even at a cost of hurting innocent people, while at the same time allowing international socialist communists, who committed at least as horrible and more numerous atrocities, to still live in peace and enjoy the wealth gained through the immeasurable suffering to others.

On July 22, another trusted friend and faithful gendarme, v. Sándor Domokos gendarme 1st Lt., passed away in Winnipeg, Canada. He was a 1943 graduate of the Ludovika Military Academy, after which he attended the Gendarme Officer Training School. He was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the summer of 1944. Because of the pressing needs of the war, he was immediately assigned to serve with the army (Honvéd). His service ended when he was taken a prisoner of war by the Russians at the end of the siege of Budapest. He managed to survive as a POW in Russia for six years, and returned to Hungary in 1951 to be immediately arrested by the AVO and imprisoned for two and a half months. After his release, his family was displaced from their home and sent to a rural area losing their house, furnishings, and possessions and he was not permitted to return to Budapest as consistent with the communists’ common treatment of all gendarmes. When the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fight ended with the return of Soviet forces, he immigrated to Canada. He was a well-respected photographer, sculptor, and prolific writer as well. He was actively involved in many Hungarian organizations, and whole-heartedly supported the cause of the MKCsBK. He was the editor of the Bajtársi Levél newsletter for many years.

I often conferred with him on matters of the gendarmerie. He was very knowledgeable, and had tremendous insight and love for his homeland. Many of his writings are in our website’s Library, and his autobiography will also be posted there in the near future.

The biographies of both of these gendarmes, along with many others, can now be found in the Biography section of the website’s Library. We are expanding this area rapidly as we gradually enter more and more material from 1st Lt. György Perjési’s lifelong collection of gendarme biographical data.



Sándor v. Domokos Gendarme 1st. Lt. with his woodcarving relief titled „St. George”

Our website now boasts over 110 original gendarme books, that can be read on the site or downloaded at will, throughout the world. Our friends in Hungary photograph these books page by page (they are too brittle to withstand photocopying), and we transform that material into an appropriate form for web use.

We have now nearly completed the digitalization of the gendarme books at the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum's Library, and, by agreement, have started work on the books in the collection of the National Széchényi Library (OSZK). We were only requested to acknowledge the Library as the source of the copied books. Through a miraculous development, the library leadership, not finding our home made quality up to the Library's standards, offered to prepare the material themselves for the Internet, using the material we photograph. With this wonderful cooperation not only does the quality of the books improve greatly, but their audience will also increase, as these properly formatted books are also posted on the OSZK's electronic library (<http://mek.oszk.hu/>). This certainly is a tremendous gift from God, and we are most grateful. They even brought up the possibility of their redoing the books we have already digitalized from the Hungarian Military History Institute and Museum's Library (if they permit). This way, the digitalization of would be accomplished by the government (with some help from us), which has been long overdue since the fall of the communist regime and the legal rehabilitation of the gendarmerie. With this help, we will be able to devote considerably more time for the above-mentioned development of the biographical section.

The umbrella organization under which the MKCsBK enjoyed tax-exempt status collapsed with the permanent disability of its director. Therefore, we pursued gaining an entity status for the MKCsBK, so checks made out to "MKCsBK" can be deposited. This became a burning issue, because gendarme Captain Mihály Utczás, who passed away in Australia, designated money to the MKCsBK in his will.

We probably will not pursue tax-exempt status again though, as it requires much more time and money both to establish and to maintain, and our yearly usual donations of a few-hundred dollars probably does not justify such an expense.

Gendarme Captain Mihály Utczás could not have imagined the huge impact his donation will have in helping to restore the dignity of the gendarmerie. It will be used toward the digitalization of the gendarmerie's written material, which in turn is the single most effective means of clearing the name of his beloved corps. I am also personally thankful, because our current donations have not been covering the cost of copying and mailing the Newsletters, so the digitization expenses have fallen directly on my family. We are most grateful for *all* donations that come from a desire to help the work of the MKCsBK on behalf of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie.

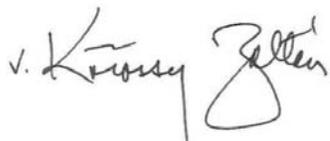
Advocate: Kálman Beöthy, Zoltán Kőrössy

Patron: László Tokay

Supporter: Mihály Géczy

Please keep us informed of any events that would be of interest to our organization. As such, I let you know that one of Hungary's most famous epic poem, *Siege of Sziget (Szigeti veszedelem)*, has been translated into English by our honorary gendarme son and webmaster, László, and it is now published and can be ordered through amazon.com, or through us with a 20% discount.

Best regards,



v. Zoltán Kőrössy

MKCsBK Central director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül