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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter # 19, July 3, 2012

When I think back to my childhood in the 50s, I remember fondly the old house we lived in and the friends who used to visit us from the large Hungarian community in nearby Cleveland, Ohio. Two of my father's best friends were Dr. Béla Rektor, gendarme captain, and János Nagy, master sergeant, who was one of my father's former trusted garrison commanders. They were both devoted friends, strong in character, dependable, honest, and dedicated to their fellow gendarmes and their beloved homeland. Why was this? Because they had committed to live lives by the standards they had learned as a gendarme. This characterized all former gendarmes I have had the privilege to know. To be a gendarme was not just a job, but a way of life. Knowing the character of so many of them makes the arrogant communist lies about the atrocities the gendarmes supposedly committed near the end of war so blatantly false and absurd. This sentiment is reinforced by the truth we can learn about the gendarmes through their own publications, which are now available for all to see on our website. This paves the road to the eventual recognition of how blessed our homeland was by their service. May God bless our homeland, and may God bless the memory of the Hungarian Gendarmes!

The digitalization of the gendarme books in the National Széchényi Library and the Hungarian Military History Institute's Library in Hungary is nearing completion. The next major group of books to be digitalized are the books in



Portrait of Pál Jegenyés, master sergeant, by Bill Csatáry

my own collection, which number over 50. This work has already begun, and will be followed by the digitalization of *Csendőrségi Lapok* (gendarme newspaper), *Bajtársi levelek* (the newsletter of exiled gendarmes), and the biographical collection of 1st Lt. György Perjési. Although we will never be able to locate and digitalize all of the gendarme books found on our bibliography list due to the destruction of these books by the communist regime, what we have already accomplished is well beyond our greatest expectations when we started the process five years ago. Day after day, we stand in awe and appreciation of what God has provided. We now have over 160 books on the website. We thank all those who have played an integral part in making this material available. I extend special appreciation to Gábor Orbán, who alone scanned in over a dozen books for the website, most of which would not have been available otherwise. Thank you, Gábor!

Our website has now recorded over 55,000 visits. I thank God for the impact this vast reference source has had and will continue to have on the legacy of the Hungarian Gendarmerie.

I have had the opportunity to meet many interesting individuals over the years through the website. One of these acquaintances is Bill (Béla) Csatóry, son of a former gendarme, a retired teacher, and also an accomplished artist. He learned about the gendarmerie from our website and felt compelled to use his talent in art to serve the good memory of the gendarmes. He has already created over 20 paintings and drawings of gendarmes, so we think of him as “the csendor painter.” It is my hope, Lord willing, that someday Hungary will establish a Hungarian Csendor Museum, and then these artworks, along with other gendarme memorabilia and documents, will become part of a permanent exhibit. One of Bill’s most recent paintings is of Pál Jegenyés, master sergeant, who organized the MKCsBK in 1947, 65 years ago. To commemorate this milestone, we also added Pál Jegenyés’ biography to the website (to the Library’s Biography Archives).

In this day and age, most people turn to the internet for information on any particular topic. One of a most often consulted internet sources is the internet encyclopedia called Wikipedia. It exists in many languages, but each has original articles, that is, they are not translations from other languages. Since anyone can contribute material that meets some very basic qualifications, it has become a vast and continually updated collection of articles that no written encyclopedias can provide, but this also lends itself to an expression of personal bias and slanted information in many articles. This is the reason the Hungarian article on the gendarmerie has the usual communist anti-gendarme bias. Unfortunately, the rules of Wikipedia make it almost impossible to remove such a subjective slant of truth from an existing article, and also do not permit another article on the same topic. To circumvent this situation, we have decided to write an article in a different language and with a different topic-heading, that is, to write an English article on the MKCsBK. This article is now ready for submission to the English Wikipedia, and of course will have a segment on the history and nature of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie.

As the gendarmerie was totally silenced after WWII, the communists had total freedom both in Hungary and abroad to spread their lies about them. The only writings that told the truth, or the other side of the story, were those written in exile by the gendarmes themselves in their newsletter, called the *Bajtársi Levél*. So the accounts in these newsletters have an enormous historical importance in providing a clearer understanding of what really happened in Hungary in the mid 40s, and to correct the falsehood the communists spread about them.

Unfortunately, with the death of our last gendarme central director, Béla Viczián, the MKCsBK archives were lost, including a collection of the past issues of the *Bajtársi Levél*. I have many issues in my personal library, but many are missing. We plan to digitalize them this year, God willing, but it would be crucial to have all the issues available on the internet for the sake of truth.

Therefore, I would like to ask our members to help us locate the missing Bajtársi Levél issues, which are all the issues between 1951 and October, 1964. We need your help to either lend us these issues so we may copy them, or scan them in yourselves and send the scans us for posting on the website.

We would, of course, cover all related expenses.

We recently received a check for \$5000 bequeathed to the MKCsBK from the will of former gendarme captain István Molnár, who passed away last year. We were good friends, and he fervently supported our efforts and our work with the website. We are very grateful for his generosity and for remembering us in his will. We also gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed to the work of the MKCsBK.

Advocate: Dr. Ervin Honos

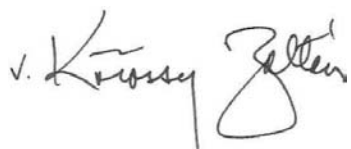
Patron: László Pásztor

Supporter: Elizabeth Domokos, Károly Subosics

As always, it is my sad duty to report our recent losses: Jenő Fűster, gendarme 1st Lt., April 9, 2012, Miskolc, Hungary; and Mihály Géczy gendarme staff sergeant, January 2012, Canada. On behalf of the MKCsBK, I extend our deepest condolences to their families.

Please keep us informed of any event or news that would be of interest to our members. We hope you have a pleasant summer.

Best regards,



Zoltán Körössy

MKCsBK Central Director

Híven, becsülettel, vitézül