

Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség
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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter # 23, July, 2013

I recently came across a photograph taken probably sometime in the 1930s of a crowd of illegal demonstrators proceeding down a street. But five gendarmes were blocking their procession. The odds may have seemed in favor of the large crowd, but these were Hungarian gendarmes. These were men who had dedicated their lives to a safe environment, protection of the community, prevention of crime, and maintaining law, order, and peace. A crowd, no matter how large, would not have deterred them from their duty and moral responsibility. They were not to be trifled with. The gendarme preferred to use peaceful means at all times to resolve situations, but they were not above using force if force was the only alternative left. Therefore the crowd, I am sure, after assessing the situation, elected not to proceed.

This past May, I was fortunate enough to visit our homeland for a few weeks. While there, I had the opportunity to visit three dear gendarme friends of mine. I cherish the moments I can spend with these my heroes. I enjoyed hearing them recount past events and talk about dear departed comrades. I consider it an honor to be in the presence of these elite servants of our nation.



I also had the opportunity to meet, although briefly, with Pál Ságvári, president of the Magyar Csendőr Bajtársi Egyesület (<http://www.magyarcsendorok.hu/>), and sadly learned what a great opposition they had met regarding their Gendarme Day wreath-laying and commemoration in February, which officials aggressively tried to block.

I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time Béla Lám, gendarme 1st Lt. Béla Lám's son. Béla gave me a written copy of his father's autobiography, which was published in an abbreviated form in 1999. We hope to have the complete autobiography on our website within

the next few months. Béla also gave us a copy of his father's and fellow inmates' flow chart of the course of world history that they compiled while prisoners at the Kazincbarcika labor camp. Béla Lám, as an introduction to the flow sheet, wrote of the inhumane treatment they received by the communists during their internment, which highlights the indomitable fortitude of the gendarmerie even under the harshest of conditions. The flow sheet is an imposing accomplishment, and gives us a glimpse of the excellent, multifaceted education that characterized gendarme officers. Our hats off to them.

I met with Mag. Nándor Simon, our faithful coworker who has been photographing the gendarmerie books, newsletters, and newspapers, page-by-page, at the major libraries in Hungary for the past four years. He then forwards these pictures to us and we turn them into "books" that can be placed on the website. He is currently completing the copying of gendarme books at the Hungarian Congressional Library. We hope to have all of that material on the website in the next few months. With this, we will have digitalized the gendarmerie books of all of the major libraries in Hungary.

I also met with Dr. József Parádi, president of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság (<http://www.szbmrtt.atw.hu/>). Dr. Parádi has greatly helped us with his professional counsel, compilation of the bibliography, and gaining access to the Hungarian libraries. We discussed the progress and future plans of our website, bibliography, and the recent publication of his book on the Hungarian Gendarmerie that I mentioned in my last newsletter.

I would like to bring to your attention the arrival of two new books in Hungary. Dr. Sándor Szakály, the well known historian with a special interest in the gendarmerie, just published "*Akik A Magyar Királyi Csendőrséget 1919 és 1945 Között Vezették*" (*Those Who Led the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie between 1919 and 1945*) and "*Trianon, Honvédség, Háború, Sport (Trianon, Military, War, Sport)*". More information on the books and on how to order them may be found in our website's *News* section.

After much consideration we have decided that a portion of the funds willed to the MKCsBK by Mihály Utczás, former gendarme captain from Australia, will be used as a tuition assistance scholarship for a young history student whose doctoral dissertation would be on the Hungarian Gendarmerie. This will be under the direction and mentorship of Professor Dr. József Parádi to assure that the tone of the dissertation remains historically truthful and free of political overtones. This will not only help a young historian in our homeland achieve his academic goals, but will also help further reveal the still repressed and slanted truth regarding the gendarmerie.

With the exception of those copies in my personal collection, all of the Gendarmerie Newspapers (*Csendőrségi Lapok*) are now on our website. We were missing the 1907 issues, which were not available in the major libraries, but our close associate and honorary staff member, Gábor Orbán, again came to our rescue by informing us that copies in a bound volume are available in the Fejér Megyei Magyar Nemzeti Document Depository. Their digitalization has now been completed and the issues added to the website. I hope to complete the rest of the *Csendőrségi Lapok* collection from my own copies by the end of this year. All the *Gendarmerie's Pocket Books (Csendőrségi Zsebkönyvek, 1887-1944)* are also present on our website in their entirety. The third major publication of the gendarmerie was the *Gendarmerie Newsletter (Bajtársi Levél)*. Currently the 1949-1989 issues are on the website, and we hope to have the complete series there in the next few weeks. Only the first two pages of the 1954 issue, and the November-December issue of 1960 are missing. If you have copies of these, please share them with us for the website.

Our library's biography section was greatly enhanced by a historically significant recent addition. Dr. Gyula Orbán of the Netherlands was a close friend of Jenő v. Karsay, who was the MKCsBK's central director in 1948-1949. Dr. Orbán assisted in the production of the gendarmerie newsletter, *Bajtársi Levél*, and the director entrusted him with maintaining the membership list for the organization. The list closely correlated with those gendarmes who were successful in escaping to the West as the Russians came into Hungary in 1945. The list consists of about 1,000 gendarme member names and addresses at the time. Dr. Orban felt that the time has come to make the list available for those who are seeking information on their lost gendarme relatives. He also has a significant correspondence file that he will make available on our website. We thank Dr. Orbán for his contribution in helping to research the lives of the gendarmes. Dr. Orbán is, coincidentally, the father of Gábor Orbán, whom I have mentioned on a number of occasions for his significant contributions in the past and present.

I would like gladly like to inform those living in the United States that your contributions **made out to MKCsBK** are now **tax-exempt**.

I would like to apologize to those who have sent us photographs to be placed on our site and do not see them there as of yet. This is a two-step process, the second step is time consuming, and our focus has been the digitalization of the books, newsletters, and newspapers as they have become available to us. Please forgive us, and be assured that the photographs will be posted in time.

Again we thankfully acknowledge all those who have made donations to help the work of the MKCsBK:

Advocate: Kálmán Beöthy

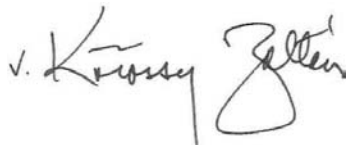
Patron: László Tokay

Supporter: -

As always, it is again my sad duty to report our recent losses: Aladár Pintér, gendarme 2nd Lt., 30. Nov. 2012, Toronto, Canada; László Temesy, gendarme, 2013, Denville, New Jersey, USA; József Szabó, gendarme, 2013, Hungary. We extend our deep condolences to the families at the loss of these heroes of our nation.

Please continue to inform us of any event or news that might be of interest to the friends of the gendarmerie.

Best regards,



Zoltán v. Körössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül!