

Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

www.csendor.com

csendorseg@yahoo.com

EIN: 45-3367980



v. Kőrössy Zoltán (központi vezető)
11227 Woodson Ave., Kensington, MD 20895, USA
Telephone: 301-946-2414

Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter # 24, October, 2013

“The rooster feather hat signifies that whoever is wearing it is representing the government’s authority for the support of order and peace, the country’s public security and wellbeing, the state and the nation’s entrusted confidence. Therefore, the rooster- feather hat brings special respect and esteem for whoever wears it. But at the same time it also requires from that person to behave in such a way, both on and off duty, as to earn that respect both personally and also for the whole corps.” (Csendőrség Zsebkönyve 1937, p. 399. -Gendarmerie Pocket Book)

On June 13, I received an email from a former gendarme’s grandson living in Hungary informing me of the passing of his 96-year-old grandfather, József Szabó. He wrote me that his grandfather had spent five years as a POW in the Russian gulags after the war, and then another three years as a political prisoner, once he was returned to Hungary, just because he was a gendarme. In spite of all this he remained proud that he was a gendarme, and as such he had been able to serve his homeland faithfully, honorably, heroically. A few days later, the grandson sent me the attached photograph of Zsolt v. Németh, honorary gendarme of the Magyar Csendőr Bajtársi Egyesület (Hungarian Gendarme Comrade Association, MCSBE). In gendarme uniform, he provided an honorary guard beside József Szabó’s grave. He also stood as a



guard at the memorial service. The family was touched, and very much appreciated the honor Mr. Németh rendered to their dear grandfather. I wish to thank and commend Mr. Németh and all the MCSBE members for the respect and thoughtful service they give to our departing heroes, and for the high esteem in which they hold the memory of the Hungarian Gendarmerie.

As I stated in my last letter, we have now completed placing all the *Gendarmerie Newsletters (Bajtársi Levél)* onto the website with the exception of a few missing pages, as well as all twenty years of Capt v. Endre Tamáska's personal gendarme newsletter, the *Bajtársi Híradó*. Furthermore, now only four more years of the official gendarme newspaper, the *Csendőrségi Lapok*, is left to add to complete the series, which we hope to finish by the end of the year. These new additions will join the existing library of the gendarmerie books we have been able to locate, the complete gendarmerie rules and regulations, pocket reference books, audio and visual material, etc. It is most inspiring to see all we have been able to locate and preserve, and to know that others have found our site helpful in their search for information about the gendarmerie.

In the photograph section of our site, we have added more information under the individual photographs as new information is made available or researched. The recently opened section of significant gendarmerie post-war correspondence has been somewhat enlarged. We hope to see this area grow with letters from the early years of the MKCSBK, which Dr. Gyula Gábor is so generously providing. With time, we hope to add to this material from my own correspondence with former gendarmes.

Some time ago, I received a copy of a 1980s film about the former Hungarian Gendarmerie and Military Museum in Toronto, Canada. In the film, Károly Kövendy, gendarme captain, who accumulated, exhibited, and maintained the artifacts, gives a short tour of the various items, about half of which were gendarmerie related. The collection was eventually sent to the Hungarian Military Historical Museum in Budapest, but unfortunately nearly all of it was placed into storage and is unavailable to the public. We posted the film on YouTube to make it available for all to view on the internet. It may be located through our website, or at the following address: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxjEF5-wNkQ>

We often receive requests for information regarding former gendarme relatives (e.g. what his rank was, where and when he served, decorations, where he is buried, etc.) as they assume, judging from our site, that we are a large organization with a large depository of gendarmerie-related documents and staff. Because of the time-consuming nature of preparing and placing material onto the site, we cannot personally take time to assist them. But we can now refer them to our site's search capability and the vast information available on the website in the various gendarmerie newspapers, reference books, and a host of other material. Anyone with enough incentive and time may now find information about nearly all the gendarmes.

I would like to bring to your attention two new important books related to the Hungarian Gendarmerie. The first is a compilation of the events, legal material, historical background, etc., regarding the war crime charges brought against Dr. Sándor Képiró, gendarme Captain, by the Simon Wiesenthal organization. Dr. Képiró had been acquitted of all charges on two previous occasions, but the Wiesenthal organization refused to relent and was preparing to appeal again when Dr. Képiró, partly due to the constant harassment by Wiesenthal's supporters, passed away. He was 97 years of age. The book entitled, *A Képiró-Ügy (The Képiró Matter)*, is written by Dr. Zsolt Zétényi, the defending attorney for Captain.

Képiró. Dr. Zétényi also successfully argued in 2006 in the Ságvári matter for the rehabilitation of László Kristóf, gendarme, who was tried and executed in 1959 by the communists.

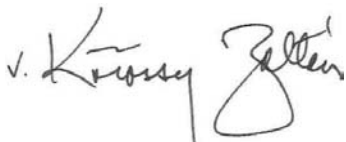
The second book is *A magyar királyi csendőrség és a szombathelyi III. csendőrkerület igaz története, 1867-1945* (*The True History of the Szombathelyi III. District of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, 1867-1945*). The author is Tibor Kocsis, a member of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelm-történeti Tudományos Társaság (SZBMRTT), who did the research for the book with his son, who tragically died before completion of the book. It was only with the encouragement and manifold help of other members of the society that the book could finally be published.

The Hungarian Gendarmerie was legally rehabilitated by the government during the early 1990s, but since then the Hungarian government has shown no interest, nor contributed any money or time, to restore the gendarmerie's image or its heritage. In fact, the negative propaganda of the past 60 years continues. No wonder the latest generations show little or no interest in the gendarmerie, and only a handful of individuals diligently work to research and preserve its legacy, such as the above mentioned SZBMRTT and the MCSBE in Hungary, and the MKCsBK (now mainly my family) in the United States. There are still great opportunities, though, such as the purchase of the available non-renovated section of the former gendarmerie school building in Tata, to establish a permanent gendarmerie museum, or the establishment of a permanent gendarmerie exhibit at the Ópusztaszeri National Park, which has been offered, if we can cover the expenses. These are not without major financial investments, and it appears that the present generation does not want to make such commitments. Lack of interest in this endeavor is also reflected in the fact that, for the first time, no contributions have been made since our last newsletter. Nevertheless, we will faithfully continue our efforts to preserve for future generations all that we can in this eleventh hour, before even what little has survived is also lost. We live in the hope that a day will come when a renewed interest will awaken. So we will go on with our work with or without support.

As always it is my sad duty to report our recent losses: Sándor Kákonyi, gendarme sergeant, 20 January 2013, Kalocsa, Hungary; József Szabó, gendarme, June 2013, Hungary; Ferenc Beodray, 10 May 2013, Rocky River, Ohio, USA; Péter Szedrő, 9 July 2013, Hungary. We extend our deep condolences to families at their great loss.

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