

Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közössége
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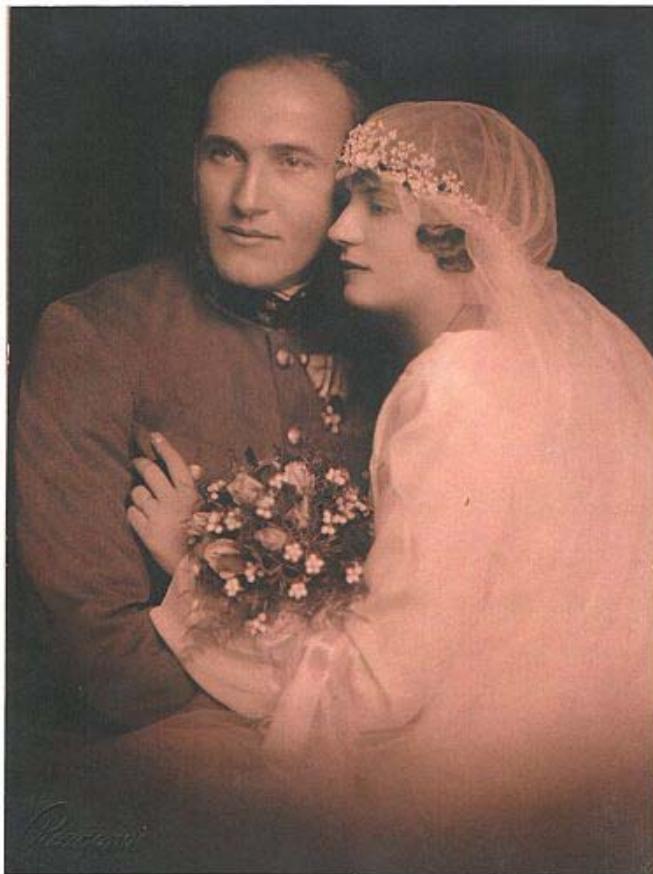


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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter # 25, January, 2014

We were recently contacted by a lady from South Africa who ran across our website on the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie, in which her grandfather had served. She was very pleased to read the truth about the Hungarian Gendarmerie and about some issues that had troubled her for many years. She was also looking for information on her grandfather, whom she had never met, as to when and where he had served, what decorations he had received, and where he was buried. Her mother had always spoken of him with great love and respect and she cherished the few documents and medals that had survived. I usually direct these types of inquirers to search our website themselves for the requested information. But this person's grandfather was v. Jenő Péterffy, whose name I'd seen in Dr. Sándor Szakály's recently published book on the leaders of the Gendarmerie, *Akik a Magyar királyi csendőrséget 1919 és 1945 között vezették*. I was pleased to find over a page of reference material on him, along with the only known photograph of him. I learned that he was a colonel in the gendarmerie, had served in many capacities, and was highly decorated. At the end of the war, he was arrested by the AVH, and he died as a result of their brutal beatings during his interrogation. This was a recurring scenario for the gendarmes who fell into the clutches of the dreadful AVH, not for any wrongdoing, but simply because they were gendarmes who loved their homeland, and faithfully served her onto death. The location of his grave was also listed. I sent this biographical information to the granddaughter, who was delighted to learn so much important information about the grandfather she never knew. In



Wedding photograph of gendarme 1st Lt. Jenő v. Péterffy, (later Colonel)

the ensuing correspondence, she sent us a number of family photos of her grandfather, along with this touching wedding photo. We now have these photos and personal information of v. Péterffy in the website's Biography Archives. These would have been lost to the rest world if not for our website that led the granddaughter to us. Since learning the location of his grave, she is now planning to go to Hungary this year to place her mother's ashes along with her grandfather's, and bring closure to this aspect of her life. We honor the memory of Col. Pérterffy and all those other gendarmes who suffered and died for our homeland.

Last month we reached two major milestones in our digitalization efforts. We've placed the last volume of the *Csendőrségi Lapok* (Gendarmerie Newspaper) onto our web site. This is a total of 34 years of the newspaper's publication, and represents over 28,000 pages of print. With just a few pages missing, we now have all five of the major publications of the Hungarian gendarmes on the website: *Zsebkönyvek*, *Csendőrségi lapok*, *Bajtársi levél*, *Egyesületi Értesítő*, and *Floridai Bajtársi Hiradó*. Also, we completed the digitalization of all the gendarmerie books found in the Hungarian Library of Congress (Országgyűlési Könyvtár). With these, our website's library provides the world's largest collection of printed materials of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie, as the gendarmerie books of the Military Institute and Museum and the National Széchenyi Museum are already on our website. This huge database provides a tremendous resource for anyone desiring to learn more about this praise-worthy corps or its individual members.

A recent event confirms the usefulness of our website even to historians. An individual in Hungary just completed his doctoral dissertation on a segment of the Hungarian Gendarmerie, and found most of his research material on our website. Out of gratitude, he scanned one book for us, whose only copy he found in a small town library (and this was that library's only gendarmerie-related book). Now, our collection is richer for it and more useful for others.

We are very thankful to God and for all those who helped make this historically very important and huge achievement a reality. In addition to the major libraries of Hungary, a few individuals also scanned some books for the website, that were not found elsewhere. We are grateful for all these additions, but especially to Gábor Orbán from the Netherlands, who selflessly scanned over 30 of his own books for our digital library, in addition to many of the previously missing pages of various books and publications.

We receive numerous emails through our web site asking for assistance regarding former gendarmes or to place photographs of a gendarme relative on our site. It is a great pleasure that now I am able to refer them to our website for a successful search. We have also been asked on numerous occasions if we are related to or affiliated with the MCSBE (Magyar Csendőr Bajtársi Egyesület) based in Hungary. First of all, let me begin by saying that we are two completely separate organizations. The MKCsBK (Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közössége) is the *only* direct descendant of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie, which served Hungary for 63 years. It was formed in Graz, Austria, in 1947, by exiled gendarmes, and the organization continued under their direction for the next 60 years. They published their newsletter, the *Bajtársi Levél*, from 1948 until 2005. The organization's central director was always a gendarme. Béla Viczián, 2nd Lt., was the last gendarme central director, who had to step down in 2007 due to his deteriorating health. Since there were no former gendarmes left capable of assuming the central leadership due to their advanced age, the still-remaining five members of the governing body asked me to take on the leadership responsibilities as the first non-gendarme director, which honor I accepted.

In 2004, with the leadership's approval, I started our Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie's website, www.csendor.com. My goal was (with a huge help from my computer-savvy family) to place all the gendarmerie's orders and regulations, books, newspapers, newsletters, photographs, and other related items onto the internet. The website serves as the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie's library and virtual museum, since a gendarme museum has yet to be established in Hungary. Our quarterly publication took the place of the previous *Bajtársi Levél*, but I changed its title to "MKCsBK Newsletter" (*Körlevél*), desiring to keep the *Bajtársi Levél* title for the publications written by the gendarmes themselves.

The Hungary-based MCSBE (Magyar Csendőr Bajtársi Egyesület) was formed in 2003. There were still-living former gendarmes among its founding members, along with gendarme descendants, historians, and interested individuals. The central director is Pál Ságvári, retired Lt. Col. of the Hungarian Honvédség. Their primary goal is to preserve the legacy of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie by representing them in gendarme uniforms before the public at officially sponsored events, and seeking the recognition of the service given by the gendarmes in the hope of improving the law-enforcement. They publish their own newsletter, titled the *Magyar Csendőr*, in which they at times reprint articles from old issues of the *Bajtársi levél*.

In 2003, the previous central director of the MKCsBK, Gábor v. Kiss, 1st Lt., considered merging the two organizations, but this was never enacted, and thus they have remained two separate organizations, sharing the respect and love of the gendarmerie, for which reason some members belong to both organizations.

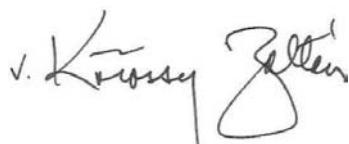
We thankfully acknowledge those who have made donations to help the work of the MKCsBK: Advocate: Kálmán Beöthy; István v. Serényi

Patron: -

Supporter: Ilona Kostka

We hope you had a blessed Christmas, and I wish you a prosperous and peaceful New Year. Please keep us informed of any event or news that might be of interest to the friends of the gendarmerie.

Best regards,



Zoltán v. Kőrössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül