

Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség
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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter # 27, July, 2014

One of the many lies promoted by the communists to this day (even a guest repeated it on a TV program just last year) was that the gendarmes came from the “oppressive” privileged upper class of society, so they naturally used their positions of authority to further abuse working class peasants. The truth is just the opposite. The vast majority of the gendarmes were recruited from among the peasants of the villages. Because of this background, they were familiar with the life, concerns, and activities of the people living in the villages and rural areas. This made them sympathetic to the struggles and pains of the peasants, and contributed to the trust and respect of their fellow villagers, making them willing to share information with them, which was critical to the high crime-solving rate and effective crime-prevention for which they were famous worldwide. Also, living in the villages and constantly patrolling their assigned area, they easily noted any strangers or noticed anything that was out of place, and could keep a vigilant eye on the trouble-makers and local gypsies. Most of them did not have a high school diploma, but they were constantly and extensively trained on the field, not only in subjects related to their work, but also in all other areas as well, to make them well-rounded and morally strong individuals, who could conduct themselves honorable and properly in any situation.

This photograph shows the Nemeth family during WWI. Their appearance clearly speaks of their poor working class status. Yet they all became useful members of society. The bare-footed little boy on the left became a gendarme (Sebestyen Nemeth), and his baby sister became the mother-in-law of another gendarme, Janos v. Hangodi – see their biographies in our *Library*).

We currently have three families in the process of writing biographies for the website on one of their gendarme relatives, but there are thousands of similar stories that



will be lost forever, as many families are still afraid to talk about their gendarme ancestors, or those ancestors already took their stories with them to the grave, because they did not talk about their past in order to protect their families from the negative consequences during the gendarme-persecuting communist regime. We currently have about thirty biographies on our website and will have substantially more as we digitize the extensive cumulative work of Gyorgy Perjesy. We wish to preserve as many of these biographical data as possible before more are lost. Therefore we encourage all who have any data, photos, and pictures of memorabilia to record those for the website, so the life, dedication, and struggle of these severely mistreated and falsely accused national heroes would become more widely known and some of the justice be restored. Please take the time and effort. They deserve to have their legacy restored and preserved for future generations.

Last year we received the document portfolio of Ferenc Beodray, gendarme Lt. Colonel, donated to us by his wife. With nearly seventy items, this is our largest collection of gendarme documentation on any one individual. This wealth of information gives a special insight into the function of the gendarmerie. We have placed this unique material onto our website in the Library's *Biography Archives*.

All the books, newspapers, and newsletters, of which we are aware and have had access to, have now been placed onto our website. Our focus has now turned to preserving the biographies of individual gendarmes, and expanding and correcting the subtitles of our extensive photographic archives. Although all of this requires a significant time investment, nevertheless it is a very gratifying endeavor. Recently a historian friend of ours told us that his research on the gendarmerie no longer requires spending long hours in the library. Now he can find all the material on our website. It's comments like this that makes it all worth while.

We thankfully acknowledge again those who have made a donation in the past three months to help in the work of the MKCsBK:

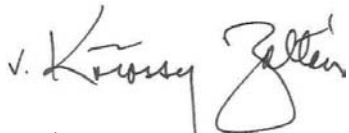
Advocate: -

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Supporter: Michael Eszes

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. Kőrössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül