



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség
www.csendor.com
csendorseg@yahoo.com



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

Dear Friends,

MKCSBK Newsletter #31, July 2015.

“The Hungarian Gendarme stands before the whole world as an example of self-discipline to teach everyone how they should, without discontent, in the midst of difficult situations, in rain, mud, cold, or blistering heat, deal with numerous concerns and privation, yet fulfill their responsibilities” – wrote Dezső v. Mátray, Ostoros County town clerk, as found in the 1944 March issue of the *Csendőrségi Lapok*.

By God’s grace, I was able to visit Hungary this past May. One of the highlights of the trip was to meet with representatives of the Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park (Ópusztaszeri Nemzeti Történelmi Emlékpark) regarding the possibility of creating a gendarmerie exhibit there. István Préda, leader of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie Legacy Preservation Society (Magyar Királyi Csendőrség Hagyományörző Közösség-MKCSHK), initiated and organized the meeting.

APPEAL: An extraordinary opportunity has opened to us to present the Hungarian Gendarmerie before the public in its true light. The Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park can make available one of its exhibit rooms for a “gendarmerie garrison room” by this September. This would be an interactive exhibit with no authentic artifacts in use. The layout of the exhibit and the necessary information and reading material we can provide with the help of historians and experts at home, but the Park can only provide a portion of the cost of creating the furniture and various artifacts for the exhibit. Because of the enormity and importance of bringing this to fruition, we are asking our **EVERY SINGLE** member and friends of the gendarmerie to take part in supporting this effort by contributing, even if only a small token sum, if cannot afford more, to provide the necessary support needed. Your contribution is a way of showing your respect for these former guardians. For 63 years, the gendarmerie preserved law and order and provided the peace and security that helped the nation to thrive. We now have a once in a lifetime opportunity before us to serve them, to present them to the public as the true servants of the nation. Although this is not a permanent gendarmerie museum in Hungary, which is our ultimate goal. It is a major step forward. Now is the time to act!

Designated contributions from outside of Hungary may be sent to us directly, which we will then forward to Ópusztaszer. We will provide a running account of the funds in our newsletter.

One of my most cherished moments of this trip was visiting again with my dear friend Dr. László Maján, gendarme captain, who turned 100 last year (see the October 2014 newsletter). It was a joy to be able to present the memorial medal to him in person. It is always an honor for

me to visit this gentlemen, who so very much embodies all of the outstanding qualities of the gendarmerie.

During my visit, I had occasion to present our memorial medal to a number of other individuals. To those with whom I could not meet, I sent the medals by mail. These recipients are decedents of gendarmes or have significantly contributed their efforts in our mutual work. It was my pleasure to be also able to meet with several of our much appreciated co-workers, who have been so much help in our work to restore the historic truth about the gendarmerie.

Also, during our visit, we picked up from the publishers the *Magyar Csendőrség Történeti Tanulmányok (Studies on the History of the Hungarian Gendarmerie)* book mentioned in my last letter. Copies of the book have now been distributed to major libraries and centers of research both in Hungary and the surrounding separated territories, thanks in large part to Dr. Sándor Szakály's efforts. We only have a few copies left for purchase. Their cost is \$25.00 (plus postage, which is to be calculated based on your location).

We also have a few copies left for purchase of *A Magyar Királyi Csendőrség* by Dr. József Parádi, *A Magyar Csendőrség-Történetért Elismerések*, as well as all the *Csendőrségi Lapok* (official gendarmerie newspaper) on CD. They are \$25.00 apiece, which includes postage.

Our bibliography has significantly increased in the past few weeks with the addition of over a dozen, new gendarmerie-related books and documents Dr. Csaba Csapo has sent to us, for which we are grateful. These books were unknown to us until this time.

Our individual gendarme biographies now stand at fifty two. This year we have been earnestly working on the digitalization of György Perjési's monumental compilation of the lives of gendarmes onto the site. We have now completed the volume dedicated to enlisted. We have also been able to add material of interest, with the help of Lajos Takács and Gyula Orbán (in Holland), such as documentations from the early years of MKCsBK, or the lists of gendarmes to be screened and vetted after 1945, and the lists of those gendarmes to be interrogated after the failed 1956 Hungarian Revolution. We thank all our contributors.

Unfortunately, in our last newsletter we provided an erroneous contact information for the newly formed Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie Legacy Preservation Society (Magyar Királyi Csendőrség Hagyományörző Közösség-MKCSHK). The correct information is <http://www.hagyomanyorzok.22web.org>; email: preda69@t-online.hu; tel: (36) 30-419-0567 (István Préda).

In every generation, one or two individuals will stand out from amongst the crowd for their dedication, sacrifice, and willingness to endure in the face of opposition and oppression, daring to do what others would only dream of. István v. Serényi, who passed away at age 97 on March 27, 2015, was such a man.

István v. Serényi came from good stock. He was the son of a gendarme garrison commander, and it was from his father that he learned to love and devote himself to his beloved homeland. The end of WWII forced him to leave but not to forget his blessed Hungary. In the free world, he became a strong advocate of declaring before the world the oppression Hungary was suffering under the brutal tyranny of Soviet occupation and a Communist dictatorship. To bring this injustice before the free world, he walked across the width of the United States, 3000 miles, and also ran from New York to Washington, D.C., both times wearing a T-shirt with the logo "Remember Hungary" emblazoned on its front. When Russia's Nikita Khrushchev came to visit the United States shortly after the failed Hungarian Revolution of 1956, István climbed out onto the Statue of Liberty and draped the eyes of

Liberty with a black blindfold. During the course of his long life, he spoke extensively on behalf of Hungary in 46 countries. He was acknowledged for his selfless efforts by the free world, and then later by Hungary after the fall of communism. He was a true champion of



Left: István v. Serényi in 1960, running a marathon distance daily from New York to Washington, DC, to present the „Memorandum of inslaved nations” to President Nixon, in the presence of the worldwide Press.

Right: István v. Serényi stirring the high school graduate to love their country wholeheartedly and sacrificially.

liberty and freedom for Hungary. Hungary and the free world lost a great patriot with his passing. He will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to his dear wife and the Serényi family.

With sadness and sympathy toward the family I further report the passing of László Pásztor, age 93, on May 9, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

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

Advocate: Zsóka Serényi, László Tokay

Patron: Bálint Molnár

Supporter: Dalma Pallagi

We wish you all a blessed summer. With best regards

Zoltán v. Kőrössy

Central director

Híven, becsülettel, vitézül!