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Dear friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter #33, 2016 January

“I am convinced the Hungarian Gendarmerie was the best and most trustworthy law enforcement agency in the world, and if the Lord helps us and we are able to return to our homeland, we will have a great need for them.” Adm. Miklos v. Horthy, former regent and supreme military commander of Hungary, wrote this in a personal letter on May 9, 1953. And yet, this supreme organization was relentlessly persecuted during the communist era; its legacy and good name was and continues to be denigrated to the point that even today it is to one’s disadvantage to show respect for them. Our endeavor is to make available the gendarmerie’s personal accounts, books and documents, destroyed and/or suppressed during the communist reign, that reflect the truth about them.

We are pleased that a growing number of individuals are contacting us regarding their gendarme relative and providing us with information, biographies, and photographs. We now have 53 [full biographies](#), and fragments of information on [49 additional gendarmes](#). These may all be found in the Biography Archives on our website. I would like to highlight the work of Zsigmond Méhes, who has been faithfully collecting information on local gendarmes from families and archives.

From many of my acquired photographs of



**One of the least liked duties of the gendarmes was to accompany the tax-collectors, to provide for their safety. But we don’t hear much of the deep sympathy the gendarmes felt toward the poor villagers, as they themselves came from that background. It was a common occurrence that individual gendarmes paid from their own money the taxes of some of the poorest people to prevent the seizure of those families’ meager personal property. They also often supported poor children in various ways. This picture was taken in one of the garrisons, when they provided a Christmas meal for the poorest children of their villages.**

gendarmes, we may only know the name or location or place of service of an individual. In these situations, we place these data as a caption to the picture in the [photo archives](#) section of the website. We now have almost 3,000 photographs on the website.

We have recently invested a considerable amount of time to update the photograph section of our website. First of all, we have expanded many of the categories with photographs that had been sent to us by our members, or procured elsewhere, that have languished in our collection but never made it to the site, because of the time-consuming process of posting. We apologize for these delays. We have looked at all of our photographs to make necessary corrections and provide all the information that we had for them. We have improved the quality of many of the pictures, where possible. Finally, we have added a new category for all of the drawing and painting illustrations in all the issues of the Csenedőrségi Lapok, the official gendarmerie newspaper. This was a major endeavor, but well worth the results. We also added a few more recent paintings by our resident gendarmerie artist, Bill Csatáry. Thank you again, Bill.

We are making significant headway in bringing to fruition the gendarmerie room at Opusztaszer. The negotiations are finalized and we are in the process of exchanging signed contracts. Our contract states that the room will be open to the public by June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2016, but not later than the end of the year. The room will be a permanent display until 2030. No changes will be made to the display without the consent of the MKCsBK. The Szemere Bertalan Hungarian Law-Enforcement Historical Society experts, Dr. József Parádi, Dr. Sándor Szakály, and Sándor Zeidler, will act on our behalf as consultants to the exhibit to assure an accurate, objective depiction of the Hungarian Gendarmerie. We will provide copies of all documents and pictures to be used in the display. No original uniforms or artifacts will be a part of the exhibit, since the display will be an interactive one. This means that visitors entering the room would actually be able to walk up to the dressed mannequins and touch them.

A total of fourteen individuals to date have made financial contributions towards the display, with a combined total of almost 700,000 forint. I also wish to report that a large sum, in the amount of one million forint, has been donated from an unspecified source. This donation was transferred by the SZBMRTT under a separate contract with Opusztaszer. By contract, all funds donated will be used to cover the expenses of the display. This will be the first long-lasting/permanent gendarmerie display since 1945. We are now waiting to receive the signed contracts in the mail.

We are not only interested in the amounts of funds raised to cover costs, but that a large number of individuals make a sacrifice of at least a small donation. This would be a witness to the nation that this undertaking has broad support, which shows respect and honor for the gendarmerie even today. We send out nearly 300 copies of our newsletter without any membership or subscription fees. Surely we can all make a donation if for only \$5.00. I used the word "sacrifice" intentionally because the gendarmes sacrificed all for us. Can we not now also make a sacrifice on their behalf? Each donation is a vote for the gendarmerie. He who cannot make such a small sacrifice should not call himself a friend of the gendarmerie. NOW is the time to vote.

The prospect of this gendarmerie room, a museum of sorts, almost seems as if just a dream. I am thrilled by the thought that a long-overdue display in Hungary will at long last acknowledge and honor the Hungarian Gendarmerie, which made such a vital contribution in providing the stability and security necessary to revitalize Hungary in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. I can only thank God that He is making this possible. Perhaps we will someday even see a permanent Hungarian Gendarmerie museum in Hungary.

There is an ongoing Hungarian auction website on the internet, [www.vatera.hu](http://www.vatera.hu). I often look at this site, searching for anything “csendőr” related. A member of ours recently brought to my attention an interesting item there: someone was auctioning off one of our recently conferred MKCsBK commemorative medals. My first thought was that someone was not very respectful of their gendarme heritage. But then I noticed that the medal was all silver, not gold in color, and there was no red backing. I called Sándor Zeidler, who provided our medals, and he told us that it was probably a defective piece that someone at the production site took to sell later. I am relieved to know this. The only unanswered question is, where did they find the correct ribbon for the medal?

We are ever grateful for all those who remember us by helping to provide funds for the continuation of the work of the MKCsBK.

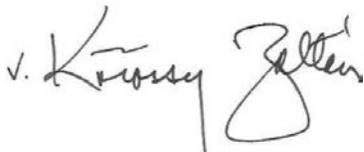
Advocate: Kálmán Beöthy, Mrs. István Serényi, Roselyn Mandalik

Patron: -

Supporter: -

As always, it is my sad duty to report the loss of another of our gendarmes: János Fráter, 1st. Lt., January, 2016, Győr, Hungary. I am thankful that he was at least aware that a gendarme room was in progress at Opusztaszer. We extend our deep condolences to his family.

It is my hope that all had a joyous and blessed Christmas and will have a peaceful New Year. Looking ahead to the fruition of a gendarmerie room at Opusztaszer, I wish you all the best.



Zoltán v. Kőrössy  
Central Director

*Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül*