



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,

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Newsletter and APPEAL

"I looked with satisfaction at the cases that came before the Forensic Medical Board, and also which appeared in the *Gendarmerie Newspaper (Csendőrségi Lapok)*, seeing the thoughtfulness, clear thinking, and ingenuity of our nation's modest members, the gendarmes, as they serve the cause of justice in their work, often under difficult circumstances, often without the support of forensic experts, and at times even in spite of the inadequate help of these experts...The *Gendarmerie Newspaper* with its 'Instructive Investigations' articles – modestly speaking – is at least on par with similar publications abroad," wrote Dr. Balázs Kenyeres, university professor, president of the well-known European Forensic Medical Institute (Törvényszéki Orvostani Intézet) in a scholarly scientific pathology review (*Csendőrségi Lapok* XXXIV. évf. 5., 1934. March 1. P. 151).

This outstanding organization of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie was sentenced for destruction by the communist regime after WWII. It is on behalf of this organization that we labor today to present its true nature, both for their honor and for the benefit of our nation. To this end, we recently placed several volumes of collections of the above-mentioned "Instructive Investigations" (Tanulságos Nyomozások) articles from the *Gendarmerie Newspaper* into the ÓNTE (Ópusztaszer National Historical Park) Gendarme Garrison Exhibit that opened last year.

The ultimate dream of the gendarmes and their veterans' organization, our MKCsBK, was the establishment of a permanent museum in Hungary dedicated to their service. This motivated the gendarmes to donate their cherished mementos to the MKCsBK collection in Toronto, Canada, which was later transferred to Hungary in 1999. At that time, the MKCsBK hoped to place the collection in a building built for this purpose at the ÓNTE. But neither the the ÓNTE, nor the aging and decreasing number of gendarmes, were able to finance the building. Therefore, the collection has been stored in the Military Museum in Budapest – exhibited only in part, twice, since – and the donations collected were used for funding a memorial plaque in the Court of the Military Institute for gendarmes killed in action.

Now, we have the opportunity for a permanent gendarme museum, again. In my trip to Hungary in August, I talked with the ÓNTE leadership about the possibility of erecting a garrison building that would house the current interactive gendarme exhibit, as well as one or two additional rooms equipped with all the necessary features to serve as a museum for gendarme artifacts. These artifacts would be from my personal collection, contracted with ÓNTE on a 50-year loan. In that case, there would also be

a strong possibility that the Military History Institute and Museum would likewise place their currently stored gendarme artifacts on a similar loan.

The establishment of a permanent gendarme museum would not be wise under either government or private control, as neither would guarantee a continued future existence. ÓNTE, on the other hand, is a well-established, nationally significant, large corporation ("limited liability company," Kft). Both Dr. József Parádi, president of SZBMRTT, and Dr. Sándor Szakály, president of Veritas, agree with this assessment. We wish to thank them, as well as ÓNTE's president Péter Kertész and ÓNTE historian Gábor Vincze, for their support and advice in this effort.

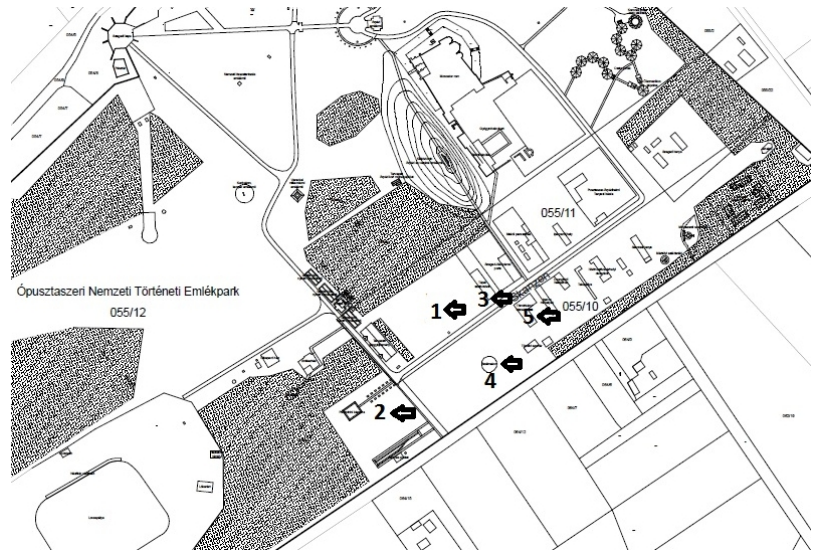
The buildings of the ÓNTE village museum (Skanzen) are reproductions of actual buildings found in Csongrád County. In our case, this means that the planned gendarme garrison building would be a copy of one of the buildings used in the past as a gendarme garrison. The ÓNTE experts have already surveyed such buildings in the County, and found one that is still roughly unaltered in its structure, so it could be replicated. The most appropriate one is in the village of Mártély, near Hódmezővásárhely, namely the Körtvélyesi (Marti) Inn, which served as a gendarme garrison from 1923-1944. The pictures below depict the building as it looks today:



A gendarme garrison building had to be located in the village center, near a post office and the town hall. Such a location at the ÓNTE is given:

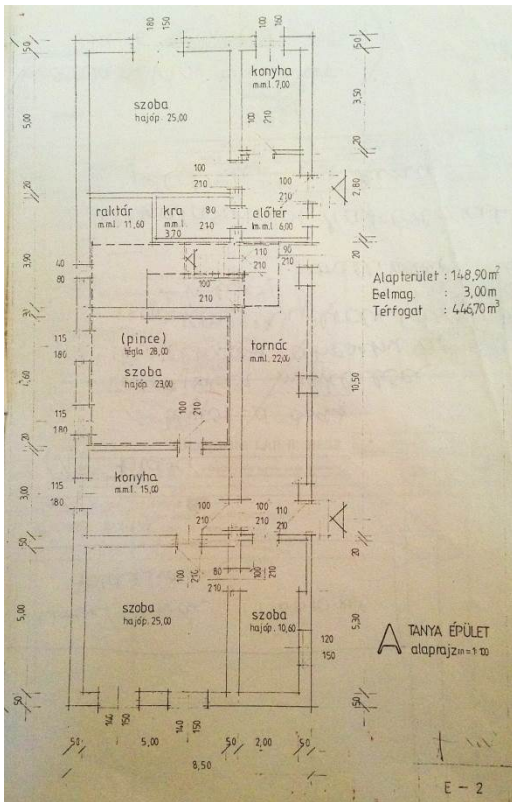


In the middle picture, showing an open field, the blue arrow points to the location where the garrison building could be built. To its left is a chapel, and to its right is a store/post office. On this side of the road, located in the middle of the picture, is a mill (its fence is visible in the forefront of the photo), and to its right, not seen in the picture, stands the town hall, in which the gendarme exhibit currently resides.



On this map of the ÓNTE, is the planned garrison building (1) between the chapel (2) and the store/post office (3), across from the mill (4) and the town hall (5).

On the left is a photo of the mill, with a portion of the town hall showing in the background, and a blueprint of the original garrison building.



The construction of the garrison building and additional supportive structures (kitchen, stable, etc.) has been estimated to cost about \$200,000 (50 million Forint). ÓNTE cannot finance such a large project. Therefore, the question now is: can the supporters of the MKCsBK raise enough additional funds to bring this dream to a reality? We might find sources of support, such as grants, in addition to individual giving. We would like to form an administrative committee for this purpose. If anyone considers the Hungarian Gendarmerie's honor to be of importance, they can now show it with their support. We therefore ask now, **please inform us how much financial support you can commit to in the next few years?**

Please, also let us know if you are willing to participate in a committee for the goal of erecting this gendarme garrison in the ÓNTE, or if you have a fundraising suggestion.

The establishment of a gendarme museum is now a strong possibility. Its realization now "only" depends on finances. As this task far surpasses my own family's abilities, your response will determine if the dream of the gendarmes will turn into reality. We are at a crossroads. It is "now or never."

Beyond this, I would also like to report on other successes. The National Széchényi Library's electronic section, the Magyar Electronic Library (MEK) has already placed over 40 of our books onto the MEK, making them available to the public. They are in the process of adding many more additional titles to the collection. With our input, they also added Dr. József Parádi's book, *A Magyar Királyi*

Csendőrség (The Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie) to the MEK, which is the first book published in Hungary since 1945 encompassing the entire length of the history of the gendarmerie, a very important book for the public and not easily available otherwise.

Public opinion also seems to be slowly changing. As an example, in Börcs, a village near Győr, they have a village museum where they are planning to add a wall plaque to commemorate the few gendarmes born in Börcs. Among these will be Lajos Kovács, gendarme staff sergeant, whose biography we recently placed on our website.

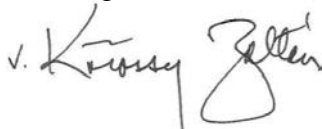
During my visit to Hungary in August, I was able to meet a number of gendarme relatives and friends. Among them was my father's best friend and the oldest living gendarme officer, 103-year-old Dr. László Maján, gendarme captain. We also visited the ÓNTE gendarme exhibit, and donated a few gendarme uniforms, some items, and about a dozen documents and maps, which were required to be displayed in all gendarme garrisons. These will add considerably to the authenticity of the room. Also, in addition to the collection of *"Instructive Investigations"* mentioned previously in the *Newsletter*, we prepared for the Exhibit a *Gendarme Workbook*, three copies of the 1927 edition of the *Servezeti és Szolgálati Szabályzat (Szut.)*, which was the gendarmes' primary reference for all rules and regulations relating to their work and conduct, and a small publication of excerpts from my correspondence with Pál Jegenyés, gendarme garrison commander, about the details of life at the garrison. These publications will be very useful to familiarize the visitors with the life and service of the gendarmes, along with the educational program ÓNTE is planning to implement for the youth.

We wish to thank Dr. Zsolt Bodnár, Péter Aradi-Beöthy, and István Nemesdaróczi for their contributions to the ÓNTE exhibit and to our work.

With great sadness I report the sudden passing of László Tokay, a worthy son of a gendarme, one of our most generous supporters, whose memory will live on in the Gendarme Exhibit in Hungary, which he wholeheartedly supported.

We wish you pleasant upcoming holidays,

Best regards,



Zoltán v. Körössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül!