



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 # 41, January 2018

On November 4, 2017, a wooden, carved headboard (kopjafa) was dedicated in the memory of László Kristóf, gendarme sergeant, who became a victim of the communist dictatorship. In 1944, László Kristóf and Ferenc Palotás, gendarme detectives, took part in the attempt to arrest Endre Ságvári, a wanted leader of the illegal communist movement, a staunch believer in the Stalinist line. Ságvári was killed in this attempt, but not without first wounding Kistóf and mortally wounding another. For this "crime", both Kristóf and Palotás, who were innocent of any wrongdoing and did not even carry a weapon, were executed in 1959, with their bodies buried in unmarked graves. The Kádár regime wanted to link the former gendarmerie to the 1956 revolution, but without success. Nevertheless, they arrested numerous gendarmes and executed 31 of them, including some high ranking officers. Dr. Zsolt Zétenyi, who in 2006 represented Kristóf in a successful rehabilitation trial and wrote an account of the story in his book, *Ártatlanul, jeltelen sírban (Innocently in an Unmarked Grave)*, pointed out the grave injustice that many likewise suffered. They were victims of the People's Tribunal or post-'56 retributions, most of whom to this day have never been rehabilitated. This is a stain on Hungary's legal system, while the murderer Ságvári is still honored with streets and institutions bearing his name.

The [1.690/1945 M.E. order](#) abolished the gendarmerie (the complete text may be found on our website), and also stated the requirements for vetting any former gendarmes, as a prerequisite for them to get any kind of a job or receive any social benefits (like pension or healthcare). In order to be vetted, they had to have successfully opposed the Germans or the pre-war Hungarian laws and order. Of course, such behavior would have resulted in the gendarme's discipline and/or discharge



The memorial erected in the cemetery of Verőce not only remind us the martyr gendarme László Kristóf, but all the gendarme victims of the communist regime, still not rehabilitated, and still resting in unmarked graves.

from service. The order did not call for an automatic vetting of all former gendarmes, and current communists frequently use this fact to deny the post-war persecution of gendarmes. Yet, practically, the process was necessary for all those who wanted to work and to get any social benefits (the vetting process was requested even if the gendarme was already retired at the beginning of the war).

The once secret *Magyar Közlöny (Hungarian Bulletin)* recorded the results of the vetting proceedings in the 1945-1949 issues. According to these, which are now in public domain, 7400 gendarmes were vetted, but only 465 were accepted, that is, 94% were not. This type of hateful discrimination was not practiced against any other profession or layer of society, clearly showing that the communist party's goal was the total ruin of the gendarmerie. These reports also testify that a great many of the gendarmes had no choice, as they were ordered to appear before the vetting committees.

Gábor Vincze, ÓNTE historian, has been researching the documents of various archives to examine the lives of gendarmes in post-war Hungary. His research will be published in a book, but for now, he permitted us to post on our website the post-war lives of many gendarmes, their trials and unjust persecution by the communist regime (see under a new heading in the Biography Archives: "[Post-1945 Biography Addenda](#)"). He also made the above *Magyar Közlöny (Hungarian Bulletin)* issues available to us to post on the website under "[Compilations](#)" in the Biography Archives).

All of these are indications of a slow but sure paradigm shift in the way the gendarmes are perceived, and will eventually, hopefully, result in their total vindication and rehabilitation, ending the many lies that have been perpetrated against them. Unfortunately, nearly all of the gendarmes have now passed away and will not be a witness to these events.

With a very sad heart, I inform you of the passing of our last gendarme officer, my dear friend, Dr. László Maján, gendarme captain, on December 1, in Budapest. Dr. Maján was a man of noble character, one who loved his homeland dearly, a true gentleman, and a faithful gendarme. He was 103 year old. His son placed a wreath on our behalf on Dr. Maján's grave. And on October 22, 102-year-old Ferenc Gál passed away, the last gendarme of the Hamilton (Canada) branch of MKCsBK. We also with regret report the passing of Dalma Pallagi, daughter of Zoltán Ághy, gendarme colonel. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

Hardly any gendarmes remain throughout the world. Moreover, even their children have grown old. Who will consider it important to clear the good name of the gendarmes and reestablish their reputation? Dare we imagine that the youth will care enough to vindicate the reputation of the Hungarian Gendarmerie, clear their good name, and even be willing to sacrifice to establish the truth? Well, that is what we need, since the opportunity has become



**Dr. László Maján gendarme captain, as depicted by Béla Csátári, the "painter of the gendarmerie".
Our last gendarme officer passed away in December, at age 103.**

available at the Ópusztaszer National Historical Park (ÓNTE) to build a gendarme garrison building.

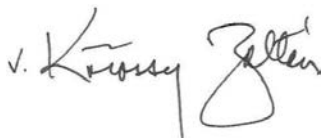
A former gendarme garrison in Csongrád County, currently known as the Körtvélyesi Csárda (Inn), would serve as the model for the building. It would house the current interactive exhibit, as well as a permanent gendarme museum. To achieve this dream, we need support. Are we willing to make the sacrifice? Those who contribute will have their names, and/or the name of a gendarme in whose name they wish to dedicate their contribution, engraved on a metal oak leaf, which will be placed on an artistic metal oak tree mounted on one of the walls of the garrison. We are currently working on opening a bank account for the purpose of receiving donations for this project. Once an account is opened, donations can be made directly to that account in Forints or other denominations (donations in USD can also be sent to the MKCsBK in the US), but even now we are accepting and asking for pledges. We will keep a running account of the pledges and donations on our website under the [News](#) section. We pray that God will honor this endeavor, but if for some reason we are not successful in the project, all donations will be returned to the donors if requested. Sadly, though, since our last *Newsletter* in which we announced the request for pledging donations, only four people have responded. They are Kálmán Beöthy, Dr. Zsolt Bodnár, Ernő Tóth and Szabolcs Vattay. We extend our appreciation to them, and hope that all will follow in their footsteps and support this great work.

It is also unfortunate that in 2017, excluding donations made to the ÓNTE gendarme garrison room, only two individuals sent any contribution for the support of the MKCsBK: Ilona Kostka and Kálmán Beöthy, to whom we extend our appreciation, as the expenses of our work otherwise fall on my family.

Nevertheless, 2017 was a successful year. We not only have an established gendarme room at Ópusztaszer, which has received many complimentary comments from visitors, but we were also presented with the huge opportunity of establishing a gendarme garrison building, which would house not only the interactive gendarme room, but also a permanent gendarme museum with authentic gendarme artifacts. These would mainly consist of my collection of 35 years, and hopefully the collection of the MKCsBK as well that was sent back to Hungary in 1999 and is currently in storage in the Military Museum. We hope with anticipation that God will bless this endeavor, as a gendarme museum in Hungary was the greatest and final desire of the gendarmes.

Over 62,300 visits have been made to our website, which undoubtedly is having a positive impact on the opinion held regarding the gendarmerie by the general public. The website continues to grow with material sent to us by gendarme families and friends, who are grateful to find a fitting place for their cherished gendarme photographs and documents. It is also gratifying to receive emails in which family members of former gendarmes inform us that they were able to find information on our site regarding their gendarme relatives.

With my best regards,



Zoltán v. Körössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül