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Dear Friends,

*MKCsBK Newsletter # 42, April 2018*

György Goór (Australia) wrote an article in the *Vitézek Hírmondója*, 2017 April edition, titled, "The Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie, the guard of safety" (translated): "Only those could become members of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie who were disciplined, mature, strong, dutiful Hungarian men with excellent military service records. Their honorable and patriotic service aimed to preserve the nation. The people respected them and affectionately embraced them, for they were the guardians of peace, safety, and justice, and they knew no other way."

Of course, anything "honorable, patriotic, and nation-preserving" was hated by the communist regime, and therefore they set out not only to destroy the gendarmes and their families, but with their effective propaganda they also accomplished today's generation having a completely false picture of the gendarmes and their service. And since the future of any nation depends on having a clear understanding of the past, it is very important to acquaint the Hungarian nation with this outstanding, world-renowned law enforcement corps. Only then can our nation rightfully embrace this inheritance, which would benefit her even today.

That is why the primary purpose of our website is to make available to the public as much material on the gendarmerie as possible. This goal would be considerably served with a gendarmerie museum, but that currently does not exist in Hungary. Simply, there is no museum in Hungary where one can learn about the gendarmerie. The opening of the interactive gendarme room at Ópusztaszer National Historical Park in 2016 was a major step to remedy this situation, but much more would be accomplished with a garrison building, where there would be a museum of artifacts and documents along with the current interactive room. The material is already available



**Balázs Bodnár, gendarme, the grandfather of one of the great supporters of the ÓNTE building project. Béla Csátary's painting.**

for the museum, but it can only become a reality if the building is erected. Since Ópusztaszer cannot finance its construction on its own, and the state at this time would not provide the necessary funds, it is up to individuals and private groups to make it happen. The question is then, will there be enough people who are both able and willing to make a sacrifice for this cause? I emphasize that the museum would not only be important from the perspective of the former gendarmerie, but would also serve the good of the nation's future. Unfortunately, both the clear vision for the future and the willingness to sacrifice for it has been greatly undermined by fifty years of destructive indoctrination by the communist regime. Has any spark of love for the homeland and commitment to truth still survived? One measure of this will be the fate of this plan for a museum.

Previously, I wrote about our efforts to open a bank account in Hungary for the MKCsBK. The MKCsBK is a registered nonprofit organization in the USA with its own bank account into which anyone can make a deposit. Unfortunately, this arrangement is only practical for contributions made in US dollars, because donations made in Forints would result in significant bank fees, and again more fees when the money would eventually be transferred to the ÓNTE bank. An account in Hungary for contributions made in Forint would save a considerable amount by avoiding these bank fees. Unfortunately, because of the significant differences in the legal and bank regulations between the US and Hungary, a myriad of bureaucratic red tape has so far prevented the opening of the account. It seems, though, that we will be able to succeed in opening the account when we can act in person during our next visit in August. But in the meantime, it is important for us to know what help we can expect toward this project. Therefore, we are asking again for you to **notify us at this time** as to what donation you are planning to make toward the creation of the museum. We are listing donation promises on our website in the *News* section. The list is currently very short: Péter Aradi-Beöthy, Kálmán Beöthy, Dr. Zsolt Bodnár, Lajos Kovács, Dr. Sándor Szakály, Ernő Tóth, and Szabolcs Vattay. We also received a \$1000 contribution from our sister organization, the MHBK. We are grateful for all these promised or actual contributions, as well as the contributions of Éva Tarnóy and Mátyás Eszes to help with our ongoing work.

Dr. Zsolt Bodnár, a noted surgeon in Ireland, grandson of Balázs Bodnár, gendarme, has already provided generous financial assistance toward the garrison room, and now has made a significant donation for the building of the garrison museum. With that, the ÓNTE can take the first necessary steps toward the actualization of the building (permits, building plan, grant requests, etc.). He also made an offer to plan a 5 km, 10 km, and half-marathon races in the fall at the ÓNTE, as a source of generating funds for the building of the museum. We are very grateful for his enthusiastic support. In appreciation, we asked artist Béla Csatáry to create a painting of Dr. Bodnár's grandfather. (Csatáry, the "painter of the gendarmerie," has made several dozens of paintings of gendarmes, and has brought numerous gendarme families much joy with his art). The painting was based on the only remaining picture of Balázs Bodnár, which survived the communist era by being attached to the back of a wardrobe. While the gendarme father was imprisoned, his family would have lost their home and been relocated to a rural village if the Secret Police (AVO) would have found the photo.

Even the current generous donations toward the museum building still only represent a small fragment of the total cost, currently estimated between 50 and 100 million Forints (about \$200-400 thousand). While this appears to be an unsurmountable amount for us, we are hoping that God will help to generate the funds for this noble cause.

We are contemplating making a miniature reproduction of the gendarme heroes' statue, which used to stand in the yard of the gendarme officer training school on Böszörményi Street in Budapest. This statue, while it survived WWII, was destroyed by the communists afterward. The statuette would

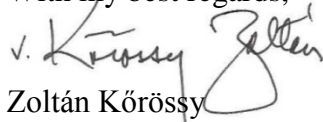
be perhaps 6 to 8 inches tall, and would be available for sale to raise funds for the gendarmerie museum. Miniatures of the statue were produced by the gendarmerie before the war, but we could not locate any of them. There is a copy of it made for the MKCsBK museum by artist, András Száraz, a gendarme living in exile. That piece is now the property of the Military Institute and Museum in Hungary, and most likely would be available to us for reproduction purposes. We would appreciate any thoughts, help, or suggestions regarding this endeavor, or any additional ideas of fund raising.

The website has continued to grow with the addition of a several biographies, paintings, photographs, and various documents. In addition to individuals frequently sending us material from their gendarme relatives, Dr. Gergely Tóth, editor of the MHBK newsletter, *Hadak útján*, regularly sends us documents he comes across during his research of the MHBK's past. The Military History Institute and Museum in Budapest has also provided us copies of material that was once a part of the MKCsBK museum. They gave us permission to place this material onto our website, including correspondence from Horthy, Hoover, Drury, etc.; a listing of gendarme casualties; and two photo albums of the previous MKCsBK and Toronto museums. We truly appreciate all the contributions, which provide an ever-expanding database to better acquaint the visitors of the website with the history and true nature of the gendarmerie. Unfortunately, there are only two of us to work on the website; never-the-less we are very grateful to God for all that He has helped us accomplish thus far.

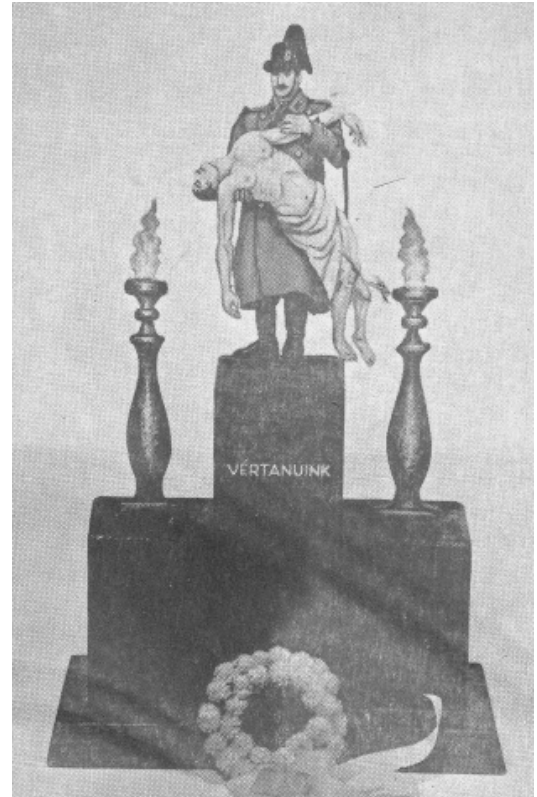
Two notable books have recently become available. József Parádi and Attila Vedo's *A polgári magyar állam karhatalmi tevékenységének szabályozása 1867-1944* was published as a part of a series by the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság. The second, *A bűnügyi nyomozás kézikönyve (Handbook of criminal investigations)*, first appeared 120 years ago as the first Hungarian criminology textbook, written by Géza Endrődy (readable through our website). This new edition has numerous commentary and footnotes added by Gyula Kovács, who self-published the book. Additional information may be found in the *News* section.

With great sadness I also report the passing of László Tárkányi, gendarme, in Budapest; the wife of Dr. Jenő v. Kovács, gendarme captain, in Szombathely; and Károly Borbás, former editor of MHBK Newsletter, in Canada. On behalf of the MKCsBK, I extend to their families my deepest sympathy.

With my best regards,



Zoltán Kőrössi  
MKCsBK Central Director



András Száraz made this miniature of the Gendarme Heroes' statue for the MKCsBK museum. It is in the collection of the Hungarian Military Museum since 2000.

*Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül*