



yMagyar 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 # 45 January 2019.

"The history of our gendarmerie is a segment of Hungarian history full of misunderstandings and contradictions. Were people terrified of the gendarmes as the communist propaganda stated? Honest persons never feared them, rather just the opposite. Their mere presence meant security. The Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, established in 1881, achieved a tremendous success. After the previous rule of lawbreakers in the countryside, the gendarmes apprehended over 90 percent of those committing a crime. No wonder that in the 1920s and 30s, law enforcement representatives from other countries often visited Hungary to learn the secret of their success." - wrote György Pihál in the 2018 Gendarme Day issue of the *Magyar Nemzet*.

The communist regime wanted to eliminate the gendarmerie by all means, for they considered the gendarmerie an obstacle to their attaining full power. Therefore, they claimed the gendarmerie collectively guilty. Later they justified this political decision by blaming the gendarmes for the



The planned gendarme garrison building and stable at ÓNTE.

deportation of the Jews from Hungary during the German occupation, even though only about ten percent of the gendarmes, along with police and customs officers, actually participated in rounding up the Jews for deportation. Besides, the gendarmerie was purely an executive corps, without any power for decision-making, unlike the police. Yet only the gendarmerie was collectively held guilty after the war. As a result, every last one of them who remained in Hungary were persecuted under the hands of the communist, along with their families. In spite of the fall of communism, the research of the fate of gendarmes in postwar Hungary still moves slowly, because there is no financial or moral support for such research from the government, and because much of the evidence of the atrocities committed by the communist regime was destroyed by the communists (files and documents from the now available archival material are missing or portions are blacked out).

Gábor Vincze, a historian at Ópusztaszer National Historical Park (ÓNTE), is compiling the material from AVO (communist secret service police) dossiers available in archives, about the fate of gendarmes in the vicinity of Szeged after 1945. To aid in this important research, MKCsBK is extending financial support to help publish his work. The book is expected in 2019. We express special appreciation to Kálmán Beöthy, son of the former editor of the gendarmerie's newspaper, *Csendőrségi Lapok*, for his sacrificial support in this publication. Some of the material can already be found in the Biography section of our website.

With God's help, we have also gotten a step closer to the reality of a gendarme museum at ÓNTE, in Hungary. The park sent us the architect's summary of where we stand at this time (translated and paraphrased):

"Thorough research was carried out to locate a building in Csongrád County that was at one time used as a gendarme garrison. The selected building is located within Hódmezővásárhely's periphery. As it is still lived in, a reproduction of it will be built at ÓNTE. The invisible parts will be built using modern building materials, but only authentic materials (newly made or reclaimed) will be used for visible sections. It will consist of the garrison building, a stable, and an outhouse. There is a basement in the original building, but it will not be part of the construction, and the attic will not be a part of the public area. The new building will be slightly different from the current one, as later alterations will be discounted.

The original buildings are situated on a 40 x 50 meters fenced-in lot, but due to the land restriction at ÓNTE, they will be built on a smaller lot. A vegetable garden and a water well will also be part of the yard, since all garrisons necessarily had them, as they had to supply their own provisions. The main building will be 200 m², with about 150 m² of usable inside space, while the stable will be about 90 m². Also, to follow the guidelines of the Park, the two buildings will be built perpendicular to each other, while the original ones are parallel.

The building will house the current interactive gendarme exhibit, as well as a permanent museum of original gendarme uniforms and artifacts, depicting the history of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie.

It is expected that a building permit will be issued by this spring, with which we can start the process of finding grants and government support for the actual building."

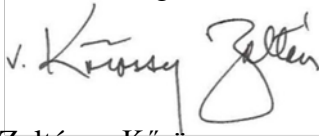
It looks as if the dream of our former gendarmes of establishing a gendarme museum in Hungary will finally become a reality. We pray for God's blessing on this endeavor, which is a part of the effort to rectify the lies smeared on the gendarmerie. Of course, this requires work and financial support. Therefore, we express our deepest gratitude to those who have supported this monumental effort. Not only those who have provided major funding, such as Kálmán Beöthy and Dr. Zsolt Bodnár, but also

every gendarme friend who has made a contribution (in alphabetical order): Péter Aradi-Beöthy, György Barátossy, Béla Csatóry, József Demeter, György Goór, Miklós Hernády, Zoltán Kassai, Emese Maczky Kerkay, Lajos Kovács, Zoltán Kőrössy, Ilona Kostka, MHBK (our sister organisation), Dr. László Orbán, Dr. István Ravasz, József Rács, Ilona Rice, Márton Seregélyes, László Sokoray, Dr. Sándor Szakály, Ernő Tóth, and Szabolcs Vattay and wife (for a complete list see the News section of our website).

A listing of contributions in forints made directly to ÓNTE are sent to us on a quarterly basis. Data protection EU laws require that only the names of those contributors who provided ÓNTE the appropriate permission form, can be shared with us. (The form was attached to our previous Hungarian Newsletter, or can be downloaded from our website). All other contributors will be listed as anonymous. Therefore, we ask you either provide ÓNTE with the form, or let us know of your contribution.

I regret to inform you of the passing of another of our members, who was a strong supporter of the MKCsBK and many other Hungarian causes, Army officer and famed merchant, Sándor Tar (April 23, 2018, Florida). In behalf of all our members, I extend our sympathy to the family.

I wish you a blessed and prosperous New Year,
With best regards,



Zoltán v. Kőrössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül!