



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

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Dear Friends,

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When the change of administration took place in Hungary in 1991, among other things, the government annulled the 1945 government order that disbanded the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie (Magyar Királyi Csendőrség). But they did nothing to right the many unlawful wrongs the communist regime committed against the gendarmes, and did nothing to restore the honor of the gendarmerie.

Therefore, Dr. Gyula Kiss, central director of the MKCSBK at the time, requested in correspondence with Dr. József Antal, the new prime minister, to formally exonerate the former members of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie, to amend the unjust, unlawful treatment they'd endured and to bring final restitution. The December 11, 1991, response from the Hungarian Department of Justice stated, "The acknowledgement of the gendarmerie's service from its beginning is a historical responsibility, and hopefully it will soon be done. Beyond the legal restitution, the



The MKCSBK placed a plaque in the yard of the Hungarian Military Institute and Museum in 1999, commemorating the gendarmes who lost their lives during the World Wars. Wreaths are laid there every year, in remembrance of Gendarme Day, February 14. The Hungarian Friends of the Gendarmes Association (Magyar Csendőr Bajtársi Egyesület) organizes the annual wreath-laying ceremony in February. Many of their members participate dressed in gendarme uniforms in honor of the gendarmerie

gendarmerie's moral restitution is a national debt." (Dr. Gyula Kiss' newsletter for the former Royal Hungarian Gendarme groups and Hungarian diaspora in the publication, *Magyarság*, February 22, 1992: [Dr. Gergely Tóth's](#) collection)

Unfortunately, this hopeful acknowledged restitution was never forth coming. In fact, the defamatory degradation and propaganda continues to this day. It is for this reason we consider it our responsibility to objectively present the facts to the public. Our Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie website (www.csendor.com) is a storage, preservation, and reference center on the gendarmerie, and a permanent gendarmerie museum would also further that purpose. The possibility of bringing to fruition a permanent museum at the Ópusztaszeri Nemzeti Történeti Emlékpark is before us. The building would be an exact reproduction of a former gendarme garrison building, and it would house reproductions of period furniture and settings, copies and original photographs, documents, and artifacts.

Although the cost of constructing the garrison building can only be met via a government grant, the startup costs have become the responsibility of those who respect and honor the memory of the gendarmerie. We therefore express our appreciation to all those who have sacrificially donated funds for this cause. Since the last *Newsletter*, these include the following individuals: Péter Aradi-Beöthy, István Nemesdaróczi, Emese Kerkayné Maczky, Ilona Kostka, Kálmán Beöthy, Mrs. Béla Kürti, and Péter Lessman. The regularly updated list of donations can be found in the *News* column of our website. Our hope is that all who read this *Newsletter* will consider the legacy of the gendarmerie important enough to support this historically important endeavor. I also wish to thank Kálmán Beöthy and Ilona Kostka for their continued financial support for the continued work of the MKCsBK.

Donations in Forints can be sent directly to the ÓNTE's account (OTP H44711735005 21034271000000009), with a "csendőrepület" designation. Donations in dollars can be sent to the MKCsBK. Those wishing to be listed as donors need to submit a data-release privacy form to the ÓNTE, required by EU regulations (the form can be [downloaded](#) from the website's *News* column, or can be found attached to the [2018 July-Oct Newsletter](#)).

The surveying of the planned museum building site, plans for what is to be built, and other necessary documents were secured by December 20, 2018. Since then, the permit for a building at the heritage park has also been received. We are now waiting for the building permit itself.

In the meantime, we continue to improve the interactive gendarme room. The photographs on the walls will be properly rearranged. The room will become more authentic with the replacement of the present small table with a larger table, which was used for dining, reading, writing reports, and daily class instruction. The exhibit will contain a few important books to help visitors better understand life in the gendarme garrisons and the gendarmes daily work: *The Organization and Service Codes* (Szervezeti és szolgálati utasítások, simply called "SZUT"), many portions of which most gendarmes memorized, and which was the subject of daily instructions at the garrisons; a short book on daily life in the garrison compiled from my correspondence with a former garrison commander; and a collection of instructive investigations from the gendarmerie's newspaper, the *Csendőrségi lapok*.

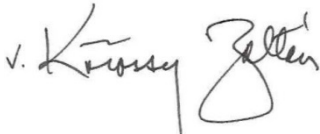
The website has continued to grow with the addition of dozens of gendarme documents as a result of Gábor Vincze's research, a historian at ÓNTE. He examined the fate of those gendarmes who lived in Hungary after 1945, including those who returned from the West or from the Soviet war camps. His findings will be published later this year in a book, partly financed by the MKCsBK.

Our knowledge on the fate of those gendarmes is very limited, as our information is solely based on the communist government's documents found in archives, which are clearly grossly slanted and

sparse. It is obvious that the guiding motive for these government investigations was not the finding of truth, but blind hate toward the previous regime, which the gendarmes so faithfully served. The documents shed light on the irregular methods of interrogations, combined with physical and mental torture and threats to gain compromising confessions. Clearly, the goal was to establish the gendarmes' guilt, often in spite of the facts, and even if it meant the destruction of honest men and their families. The political goal of the government was to establish fear among the people, which distorted these investigations to the point that even today in many instances the truth cannot be determined. Also, poor writing skills are very conspicuous in the documentations of these interrogations, which also show a significant lack of education and high level of ignorance, as well as a lack of supervision. And these were the people who brought the verdicts destroying many lives and families, with little regard to the actual facts.

I regret to inform you of the passing of Prof. Dénes Szabó, Quebec, Canada, son of Jenő Szabó, gendarme colonel, and grandson of Zoltán Pinczés, gendarme brigadier general; Géza Soti, Alberta, Canada; and Ferenc Beodray, Rocky River, Ohio. I express my condolences to the families.

With my best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "v. Körössy Zoltán". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small "v." at the beginning.

Zoltán Körössy

MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül