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Dear Friends,

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“The gendarme was proud of his distinguished call, which served not only as his living, but was looked upon as a privilege and a way of life. He felt honored to be a member of a corps that only accepted those with high moral character, and was held in esteem and respected by all of society. He loved his call and his corps, to which he dedicated his life, and desired to further the respect and esteem of it with all he did and said, ‘faithfully, honorably and valiantly,’ according to his oath, in order to protect the citizens who were entrusted to his care.” - Gábor v. Kiss: *Híven, becsülettel, vitézül!*, 2006, Florida, USA, p. 11.

By contrast, communist propaganda sought to discredit and defame the good name of the gendarmerie that served to preserve order and protect civil society, which the communists so hated. After the war, the communists not only disbanded the gendarmerie and persecuted its members individually, but also aggressively destroyed gendarme books, newspapers, documents, photos, and literature. And they focused their evaluation of the gendarmerie solely on the time period of German occupation, ignoring their faithful service in the previous 63 years. Lies, half-truths and unsubstantiated opinions are still the order of the day for liberal socialist writers. In 1990, the government rescinded the 1945 decree that disbanded the gendarmerie, and the Antall regime promised the rehabilitation and restitution of the gendarmes, but the political storms in Hungary thwarted these plans to this day.

As the best way to learn the truth about the gendarmerie is to look at their own publications, we have sought to digitalize as many of the original writings as we can find and make them available on the internet through our website. With God’s help, now we have over 450

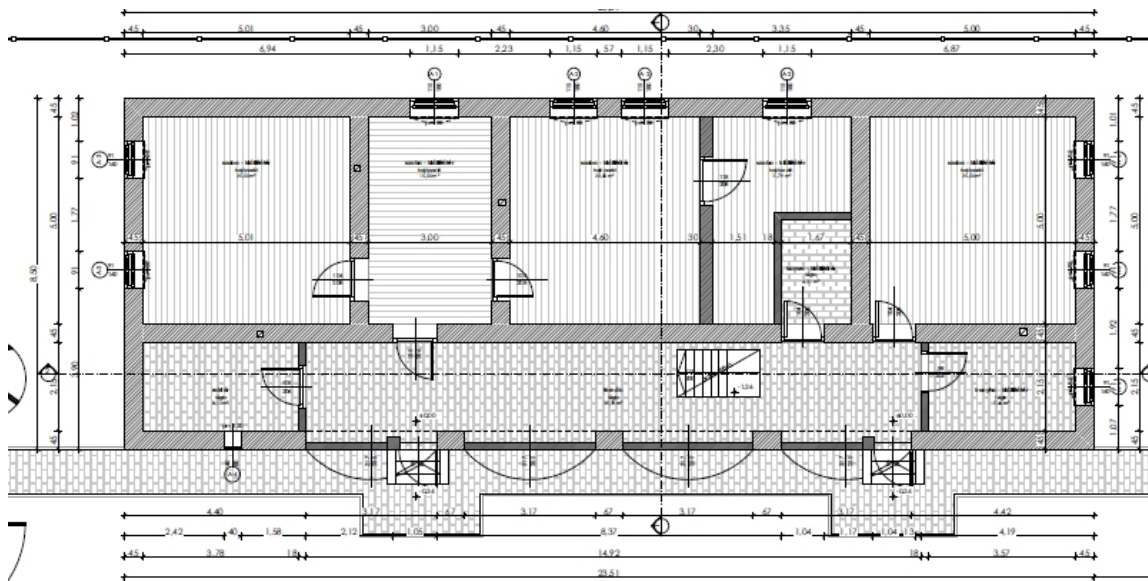


Aerial photo of ÓNTE. The white arrow points to the planned future location of the gendarme building. (Google map)

volumes available to anyone interested to view, read, or download free of charge, making it now the largest source of books and information on the gendarmerie in the world. The Hungarian Military Institute and Museum in Budapest, as well as the Hungarian National Széchenyi Library, made many of our digitalized books available to their readers, giving these books a wider exposure to the public

Another major step toward acquainting the public with the truth about the gendarmerie is to establish a museum. The Skanzen at the Ópusztaszer National Heritage Museum (Ópusztaszeri Nemzeti Történelmi Emlékpark (ÓNTE)), depicts rural Hungarian life in the early 20th century. As the gendarme garrison was very much a part of that Hungarian rural scene, an interactive gendarme exhibit was added in 2016. This is the first permanent gendarme museum in Hungary since the end of WWII. The exhibit was recently upgraded to make it more informative and authentic.

There has also been major progress toward constructing the building, which would eventually contain both the present interactive gendarme exhibit, and a museum where original artifacts, documents, paintings, etc., would be placed. The building would be an exact reproduction of a former gendarme garrison, that is currently used as a tavern and is a part of the Palé farm, in the outskirt of Hódmezővásárhely. It was used as a gendarme garrison from 1923 to 1944. The above aerial photo shows the intended location on the grounds of ÓNTE. The detailed evaluation of the original building, as well as the [blueprints for the new building](#) are complete, along with the technical and financial plans (a part of it see below). The Kistelek town government issued the building permit as of July 6 of this year. Now we are only waiting for the Hungarian government's approval (which is a part-owner of ÓNTE), and the contingent financial grants for the building. The arrival of this permit and grant is uncertain, as all political endeavors, but we are very hopeful.



The MKCsBK provided the start-up funds for the building. But the actual construction cost will be about 68 million forints. We would not be able to raise such a large amount through individual donations and therefore hope to receive the funds through a grant from the government. Nevertheless, we continue to rely on donations from our members for the furnishing of the building to expand the current exhibit and to accommodate the original artifacts in a museum. We therefore ask again that those who consider the preservation of the legacy of the Hungarian Gendarmerie and helping familiarize the public of their service important, would continue their financial support, and those who have not as yet contributed to this important historical endeavor would do so now.

The museum's actual material will come from my personal collection, hopefully rounded out with the material MKCsBK members collected in the museum in Toronto, Canada, which was transferred to Hungary in 2000, and is currently stored in the Hungarian Military Museum. It was the dream of the gendarmes, as they gathered their cherished relics, that someday these items would be returned to Hungary to be put on permanent display. I wish to honor their request, and I hope the Military Museum will do the same.

Since our last newsletter, the following individuals made contributions: Kálmán Beöthy, Péter Lessman, Zoltán Körössy, József Rács, Mr. & Mrs. Szabolcs v. Vattay, and two anonymous contributors (of 20,000 and 100,000 forints). The names of individuals who sent donations directly to ÓNTÉ cannot be disclosed, unless an EU-required release form has been completed by the donor. Without this form, they can only be listed as anonymous. This form was attached to the October 2018 Hungarian Newsletter, or can be [downloaded](#) from the website under [Hírek](#) (News) or requested directly from us.

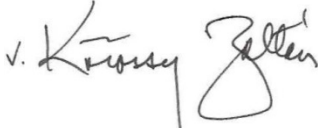
It speaks volumes of the character of the gendarmes, that many of their children have become valuable pillars of their communities. For example, Márton Seregélyes, son of a master sergeant and [garrison commander](#), was recently awarded the Knights' Cross of the Order of Merit by the President of Hungary for his substantial volunteer work within the Hungarian communities of Hamilton, Canada, and for his contributions to the Hungarian Scouts and the Hungarian Church in Hamilton. We are proud of him, and wholeheartedly congratulate him for this accomplishment. At the same time, it is sad to contemplate how many such excellent people the Hungarian communists robbed our nation of by destroying or exiling gendarme families.

The Hungarian nation is becoming increasingly aware of the sacrifices made by the gendarmes as they faithfully served our nation. Many communities have elected to commemorate with plaques and monuments the gendarmes who gave their lives in the line of duty, or who suffered and died by the hands of the brutal communists. In a recent *Newsletter* of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság (Dr. József Parádi, president), historian Gábor Hodos lists all of these commemorations. With their permission, [his article](#) is posted on our website, as well.

I would also like bring to your attention Victor A. Falk's book, *Fire, Iron and Blood*, which looks at the battles of WWII in which Hungarians fought. He won the 1982 Árpád Academy's (Cleveland Magyar Egyesület) gold medal. The book is available by contacting the author at 1640 Columbia Rd., Westlake, Ohio 44145.

I regret to inform you of the passing of Mátyás Eszes, a faithful supporter of the MKCsBK and other Hungarian causes. I wish to extend our deep regrets to the members of his family.

With best regards,



Zoltán Körössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül!