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Dear Friends,

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Communist Tibor Szamuely said in Győrött on April 20, 1919, "Power is in our hands. He who wants the restoration of the old regime should unsparingly be hanged. They should be bitten in the throat. The Hungarian proletariats' victories so far have not been at a great expense. But now it will be necessary for blood to be shed. There should be no fear of blood. Blood is steel: it strengthens the proletariat's fist. Blood will make us more powerful. Blood will be shed that will lead us to a world communism. If necessary, we will eradicate the whole bourgeois class,"(from the *Magyar Hírlap* article, titled, "1919: The anatomy of terror", March 26, 2010.). This spirit ruled the "glorious" communist reign of 1919 (and of their reign after WWII). With the regime came young mobsters called "Lenin-boys" who committed serial killings with almost unimaginable cruelty. They not only shed blood, but brutally tortured their victims before murdering, like the three gendarme officers Oszkár Fery, Sándor Borhy and János Menkina. Then they desecrated the bodies, and dumped them into the Danube River on the night of July 21, 1919. The grandson of János Menkina's brother, Péter Semerédy-Schmerzing,



The interactive gendarme garrison exhibit at the National Historic Memorial Park (ÓNTE) got further enriched under the care of the new historian, Gábor Ferenc Kiss, and will have additional update by its spring re-opening.

compiled a biography of his great uncle to honor his memory. We thank him for sharing his research with us, and the biography can now be found on our website.

It is quite understandable that after this brutal communist regime, the new civil government between the world wars outlawed any communist activity that openly worked toward the abolishment of civil society. As law-enforcement was the duty of the gendarmes in the rural areas, the communists who had fled to the Soviet Union after the fall of the short-lived communist regime of 1919 naturally hated the gendarmes. So much so, that even before the outbreak of WWII, they determined that when, *not if*, they return to power in Hungary, one of their first priorities would be to do away with the gendarmerie. And they did exactly that. When the former communists returned from the Soviet Union in December of 1944, they set up their "temporary government" in Debrecen, and among their first orders was disbanding the gendarmerie and declaring them collectively guilty of activities against the peasantry and the proletariat. Accordingly, all gendarmes were pushed to the periphery of society, their personal property confiscated, their retirement rescinded, all medical care discontinued for themselves and their families, their children excluded from higher education, and the gendarmes were only allowed to do manual labor. They were under constant police surveillance, most were harassed, many tortured to force them to "confess" crimes they did not commit, some were killed, many more imprisoned or sent to work camps based on fabricated and unfounded charges.

Over 1100 dossiers of the Secret Police (ÁVÓ and ÁVH) of the communist government are found in their now-public archives, containing documentation of these persecutions. These records include the material on circa 2200 gendarmes. The records are quite disorganized, many parts rendered unreadable by being crossed out, and many are lumped together, making their research quite difficult. But historian Gábor Vincze researched 38 gendarmes' records from Csongrád and Békés counties, and compiled his work in a recently published book, making it the first of its kind. His book has been well-received, had several book-signing events, and was discussed and its author interviewed on the Kossuth Radio Station. The book makes it very clear that during the investigations and trials of gendarmes, the communist government's goal was not to discover the truth but to eliminate and degrade the gendarmes.

With the end of the communist regime in 1989, the decree of 1945 to disband the gendarmerie has been nullified, but the institution itself and the individual gendarmes have not been rehabilitated to this day. It is inexcusable that even now there is no museum in Hungary depicting the law-enforcement agency that served the country so well for 63 years. This is also a great loss to the nation, because the experiences of this world-renowned outstanding organization would be of much benefit even today. We hope that this omission has been somewhat corrected with the opening of the gendarme interactive garrison room at ÓNTE three years ago. We are hopeful that a garrison building will also be built there, which will not only house the interactive room, but also a permanent gendarme museum. The building plans have been drawn up, the various permits secured, and the site for the building approved. We are very hopeful that the government will give its approval in the near future along with a grant for the construction, which is estimated to be 68 000 000 Ft.

We have been able to cover the expenses of the exhibit and the start-up costs of the building from the many faithful and generous contributions. We are grateful and want to express our thanks for all of them, along with those who have generously contributed since our last newsletter, Péter Aradi-Beöthy and József Demeter. The total contributions to date are 6,357,567 Ft, of which 4,452,474 Ft still remains to be used for setting up the museum, once the building is erected. The artifacts will be come from my personal collection, hopefully supplemented by items from the MKCsBK museum of Toronto, which was given to the Military Museum in 2000. Again we ask that all those reading these newsletters who respect and value the service the gendarmerie provided to our homeland to continue to support

financially this very important effort, and pray for God's blessings that it will come to realization. It is not likely that we will have another such opportunity. This is the time to act. Please support this effort.

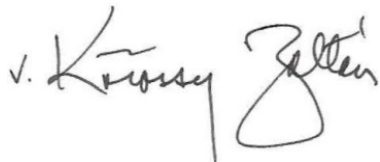
We recently came up with the idea of possibly writing a children's book with the main characters being two gendarmes on patrol. It would have a far-reaching effect in teaching the young about this part of our history. The story is ready, but we need an illustrator willing to help with our limited means. Please, let us know if you know someone who might help in this endeavor.

In the meanwhile, the website was extended with further significant material. Dr. Gergely Tóth shared with us his recordings of interviews with several gendarme officers. The relevant parts of these interviews with László André, Endre Tamáska, and Gábor Kiss from 2004 are now in our website's Museum section. Several people also contributed additional photographs for the website, and Gábor Orbán sent us several new books (Kamill Bogyay: *Magyarország földrajza*, 1928; László Besenyei Béla: *Személyleírás a bünvádi eljárások céljaira*, 1933, *A Magyar királyi IV. Csendőrkerület egyenruházati egyletének alapszabályai*, 1905. *Jegyzet a melléktörvények és rendeletek gyűjteményéből kizárólag a csendőr tanalosztályok használatára*. 1941 or 1942.) along with the biography of László Doóry (Klemm), and an article written by László Kudar in 1941. They are found in the corresponding sections of the website.

It is with sorrow that I inform you of the passing of gendarme Bálint Molnár in April in France, and Ilona Bokor, wife of the late gendarme Károly Kiss in September in Canada. May our Lord grant the families His peace.

I wish you all a joyous Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

With best regards,



Zoltán Kőrössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül