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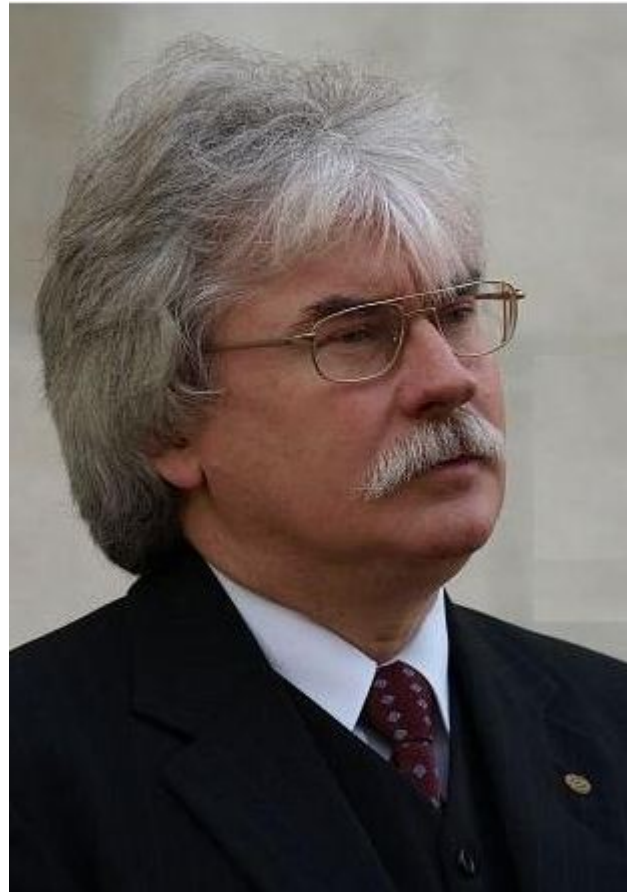
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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter #49, January 2020

István Uzdóczy Zadavec, ret. military bishop, wrote about the 1919 communist terror: "Man became the lord everywhere and in everything with all his human fallenness... That's why everything fall apart, altar and country sunk into the mud. This testified to the eternal truth that altar, country, family, valuable human existence has a different foundation...[which is] not human abilities and powers. To raise a good man, to raise him to be noble and patriotic, can only be done with a worldview that looks beyond man. In short, can only be done with God. Only if He instructs, He controls, He nurtures, He commands, He promises. And this was what the red revolution cast out from our nation's life. That's why everything became so vulgar, so terribly inhuman, so uncertain, and so chaotic..." (*Csendőrségi Lapok*, 1940. March 1, p. 137)

In the 20th Century, these two worldviews collided with each other throughout the world as well as in Hungary: one view was the communist rule of 1919 and again after 1945, and the other was the civil society between the two World Wars. A major pillar of the latter's government was the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, and it was for this reason that the communists hated them with a vengeance. Gábor Vincze, former historian at ÓNTE, was the first to research and openly write about the treatment of gendarmes at the hands of the communist secret police (AVÓ and ÁVH) after WWII, from available archival documents. These documents speak of their uneducated ignorance, bias, and the glaring



**Dr. Sándor Szakály, historian,
expert on the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie**

contradictory witness accounts. It is obvious that the witnesses were prompted or threatened to give false testimony. Some witnesses even gave testimony of incidents at which the accused could not have even been present. But all these inconsistencies did not deter the people's tribunal to bring a judgment and pronounce sentences based on these testimonies, resulting in imprisonment, brutal work camps, confiscation of home and property, withdrawing healthcare and retirement pension and all civil rights, decades of police surveillance, restriction to physical labor, and denial further education to their children. The accounts in Vincze's book clearly show that all these investigations were in line with the communist ideology to strengthen their power, rather than to find the truth.

Unfortunately, these published false testimonies continue to besmirch the good name of some gendarmes. For example, a witness during the György Bánföldi trial claimed that at the Törökszentmiklósi ghetto, János Hangodi, gendarme master sergeant, was present as Jews were being tortured to force them to reveal the location of their hidden valuables, when in fact it had been shown that Hangodi, at risk to himself, helped some Jews escape from an internment camp. One of these, Lili Krammer, daughter of Dr. Dezső Krammer pediatrician, later was a witness on behalf of Hangodi at his trial, where Hangodi's own gendarmes also testified that Hangodi admonished his men to treat the Jews humanely because "their own Jews" were among them. It is indeed sad that the communists punished the innocent instead of the false witnesses. The revelations of these trials, while they point out how unjust the communist regime was, might also reopen some wounds. We extend our appreciation to all family members of former gendarmes for the sacrificial, patriotic service of their service members, and we honor these men for the example they are to us.

One of the historians most knowledgeable about the history of the gendarmerie and, as a consequence, one of those who did the most to publicize their true history, is Dr. Sándor Szakály (Prof. Dr. habil DSc, director of Veritas Történetkutató Intézet, member of the Hungarian Science Academy, board member of the Hungarian Law Enforcement Historical Society). He is not only highly valued and respected by the former gendarmes and the MKCsBK, but he also received three high national and international recognitions in 2019 (from the Hungarian government, from the public, and from the Organization for the Historical Study of Central Europe). We wish and pray for God's blessings on his life and work, so he may continue to serve our nation for many more years to come.

Although slowly, headway is gradually being made in the recognition of Hungary's gendarmerie and of their internationally acknowledged outstanding service to Hungary. Increasingly, individuals are seeking to learn more about them, as testified by the thousands of visits to our website. Among these we wish to acknowledge Béla Kürti, whose private gendarmerie artifact collection will be on exhibit at the Museum in Dévaványa (Széchenyi u. 8.). Dr. József Parádi, president of the SZBMRTT will give a short introductory historical presentation on the Hungarian Gendarmerie at the opening of the exhibit on February 15, 2020, at 2:00 PM. The "Remembering The Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie" exhibit will contain uniforms, firearms, equipment, documents, and books. It will be open through the end of March. In acknowledgement of Béla Kürti's efforts, the MKCsBK Gendarmerie Merit Cross will be presented to him in our behalf by Dr. József Parádi at the opening ceremony.

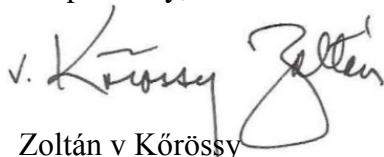
Dr. Gergely Tóth, editor of the MHBK's *Hadak Útján* and researcher of the Hungarian diaspora, often sends us excerpts about the gendarmerie from various publications, for which we are very grateful. In his most recent offering we read about gendarme captain Károly Kövendy's 1973 book about the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, which was being promoted in an issue of the *Hadak Utján*. This clipping can also found along with the book on our website.

Recently, a package arrived from England from an anonymous sender. The package contained some personal letters and photographs of a recently deceased gendarme, József Szakály (no relation to Dr. Sándor Szakály). It also included a 164 page typewritten textbook. Although the book is undoubtedly a gendarmerie textbook, there is no indication as to when, where, or who published the book. In perusing the book, I was struck by the fact that gendarme candidates, many of whom had only a few years of formal education, were responsible for learning material of such depth and breadth. In light of this, I was saddened by the realization that Hungary was robbed of such valuable men because of their persecution by the communist regime. This text is also a vivid proof that the persecution by the communists was totally political and had nothing to do with crimes against the nation. The text makes it very clear that the gendarmerie's complex and difficult task was to serve the peace and security of the people. The communists even today present the gendarmerie as the deporting, oppressive, violent arm of the ruling bourgeoisie class. But if someone truly wants to know what the gendarmes were like and how they served during their 63 years, they need only to read this text book, and must read it before making any negative comments about this organization. The book may be found in our website's Library.

We thankfully acknowledge those who have contributed to the work of the MKCsBK and to the hopeful establishment of a gendarmerie museum at Ópusztaszer: v. János Hangodi, Ilona Kostka, Éva Tarnóy, and two anonym donors. We must also express a special appreciation to Kálmán Beöthy, whose father so faithfully edited the *Csendőrségi Lapok* for the benefit of "his gendarmes", and now his son supports our endeavors to re-establish the good name of his father's "beloved gendarmes" with his very generous, sacrificial givings.

It is with a sad heart that I inform our readers of the passing of József Hertelendy (Canada, March 2019). We send our condolences to the family.

We wish all of you a blessed and peaceful New Year,
Respectfully,



Zoltán v Körössy
MKCsBK central director

Híven, becsülettel, vitézül!