



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

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Dear Friends,

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"The Hungarian gendarme's character traits: impartiality, love of truth, respect for the law, vigilance, courage, strength coupled with self-restraint and tact, unbreakable patriotism, tireless and uncompromising sense of duty, exemplary discipline. The above-listed virtues, along with up-to-date expert training, made the Hungarian Gendarmerie world-renowned." *Keresztút* (Santiago, Chile) 1954/2.

Among these character traits, the fierce love of country was the reason the gendarmerie had to perish at the hands of the communist regime. Patriotic fervor is in direct opposition with communist ideology. After WWII, the communists employed whatever means possible to bury patriotism for the next fifty years. For this reason a major portion of the population to this day does not know or understand true patriotism, and have even come to believe that love of one's homeland is in the way of world peace. By now, internationalism and globalization has taken root throughout the world. But patriotism and love of country has a God-ordained place in human life, and discarding it is like cutting



At the opening of Kürti Béla's gendarme exhibit on Dévaványa, dr. Parádi József presents the history of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie. István Préda, in gendarme uniform in the front row, started the process that led to the opening of the Gendarme garrison exhibition at ÓNTE, in 2016.

the limb out from underneath ourselves. Therefore, we need to nurture this sense of nationalism, by all means. An intrinsic part of this nurturing is to value our past, our traditions, and to preserve them.

The communists' merciless crimes were not just directed against the Gendarmerie and their families, but were perpetrated against the nation as a whole, which is inexcusable. Their intent was to destroy the Gendarmerie, because the gendarmes were the strongest support of the national civil society the communists hated so much.

There is still hope for the future, as this affection is seemingly present in the hearts of many, manifested by grass-roots efforts to preserve the memories of the Gendarmerie and to commemorate those who lost their lives to communism. Some examples (for further detail on these, look at Hodos Gábor's compilation in the SZBMRTT newsletter in our website's *Library, Magyar Írások*)::

1992. Magyar Ellenállók Szövetsége placed a plaque in Buda Vár in memory of Lajos Kudar, gendarme colonel, who was executed by German occupation forces.

1999. MKCsBK, Szemere Bertlan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság (SZBMRTT) and Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum placed a memorial plaque at the museum in memory of the members of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie who lost their lives in WWI and WWII.

2011. The local government of Budapest's 12th district placed a plaque in memory of three senior gendarme officers who were brutally tortured and murdered by the Lenin-boys in 1919. (Oszkár Fery, Sándor Borhy, János Menkina).

2015. In Zamárdi, the town restored the obelisk the gendarmes originally erected in 1931 to honor their comrade killed in the line of duty. The memorial was toppled and buried in the dirt after WW II.

2016. The first permanent gendarme exhibit opened in Ópusztaszer Historical Park, through the efforts of the MKCsBK.

2017. The local government of the town of Verőce placed a memorial plaque on the house where László Kristóf was born, who, during a show trial in 1959, was found guilty and executed (he was posthumously found innocent and rehabilitated in 2006).

2019. The local government at Tápióbicske memorialized two gendarmes and two farmers, who in 1919 were murdered by the communist Red Guard.

And this year February 15, at the Imre Bereczki Local History Museum of Dévaványa, a local collector, Béla Kürti, mounted on an exhibit depicting the life, location, and service of local gendarmerie. Nearly a hundred attended the opening, of which about a third were young individuals. They listened to Dr. József Parádi's opening presentation on the history of Gendarmerie with great interest. The exhibit was to last until the end of March, but it had to be closed early due to the pandemic. Its photos can be viewed on our website's *Museum*, under "*Kiállítások és Rendezvények*".

At the next conference of the SZBMRTT, scheduled for September at the Parliament, Dr. Parádi will present Béla Kürti with the MKCsBK Érdemérem medal for his significant contribution to the public's education about the true history of the Gendarmerie,

After the opening presentation, there was an opportunity for guests to contribute to the ÓNTE gendarmerie garrison building fund. Those who contributed received a courtesy copy of Gábor Vincze's book, *Csendőrsorok 1945 után az állambiztonsági és népbírószági iratok tükrében*. I cannot give an account of donations at this time, because ÓNTE is also closed due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

In addition to Dr. Paradi's lecture at Dévaványa, his presentation on the Gendarmerie given at Bátaszék in 2015 can also be viewed online, as well as Dr. Sándor Szakály's lecture titled, *Magyar Királyi Csendőrség*, given at Bosztorpuszta in 2012. The latter is also found in our website's *Museum*.

An outstanding 2-part movie based on interviews with former gendarmes, *Híven, Becsülettel, Vitézül*, released for the Filmfestival in Budapest in 1997, can also be found on Youtube. I highly recommend viewing these two segments (70 minutes each).

Béla Kürti also contributed material for our website: a copy of *1906 Service Regulations (Szolgálati utasítások)*; *The Balatonfüredi Gyógyház Szabályzata*; the letters László Elek retired gendarme, received from the Gendarmerie with detailed explanation's of policies pertaining to retirement; and the Gendarmerie's call for data for an upcoming book of Lóránd Preszly, on the heroic acts of gendarmes. The book, *A csendőrség úttörői*, was subsequently published in 1926. All these are now on our website under the appropriate headings.

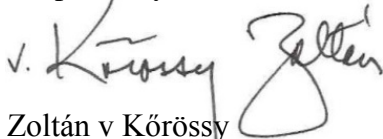
The communist regime aggressively campaigned to distort the picture of the gendarmerie, to besmirch their good name. To this effect, they made good use of various media. To compensate, we are in the process of publishing a short novel for young people, age ten to late teens, which depicts two gendarmes on a one-day patrol and the various situations they encounter. All episodes are based on actual occurrences, and referenced in the endnotes. The book is already written, and we are now in the process of preparing the illustrations. We hope to have the book available by the end of the year. If anyone can suggest a publisher for this endeavor, please let us know.

We would like to thank Dr. Zsolt Bodnár for his generous further contribution to the garrison building fund, which hopefully brings us closer to our goal.

I share with sadness the passing of our faithful friend and supporter János Hangodi, who passed away this past April in Victoria, Canada. His father was János Hangodi, gendarme sergeant major, whose two brothers were also gendarmes. He learned from his gendarme father a high standard of ethics, a code of conduct, and a tremendous love for their homeland. He had been struggling with his health for some time. Typical of his attitude, when he had a serious fall the day before the opening of the gendarme exhibit at ÓNTE, in 2016, he refused to go to the hospital, so he could be present at the opening. He was in a wheelchair, but he wanted to honor his father's memory by his presence. He also supported our work with his heartfelt encouragement, and generously contributed to the garrison building fund as well. He was unique and will be missed.

We also lost another dear member of our organization, Gyula Szalay, who passed away in May of last year, in Pleasant Valley, New York. He was a reporter and authored the book, *Világjáró Csendőr*, published in 2002, which can also be found on our website.

Respectfully,



Zoltán v Körössy
MKCsBK central director

Híven, becsülettel, vitézül