



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

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Dear Frineds,

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"Frost coated fields, yard deep snow; bone chilling bitter cold, hidden crevasse in pitch black nights, rain, storm, day and night, he faithfully patrols and guards the life and wealth of others. He is alert for fire, water, and anything that could present a threat. When others panic, the gendarme keeps calm and knows what to do..."

For forty three years, the Hungarian gendarme with his honesty, faithfulness, and courage became the solid figure admired and envied by the otherwise more progressed foreign nations".

- wrote Dr. Ivan Rakovszky, minister of the Hungarian Royal Interior, on June 1924, on the occasion of the restart of the Gendarme Newspaper, *Csendőrségi Lapok*. (It started in 1907., but stopped by the Red Terror in 1919.)

This was indeed the picture of the gendarme, the great heritage of the Hungarian nation. The high level of personal and material safety provided by the gendarmerie was a large contributing factor that allowed Hungary to come up to the ranks of the other European nations by the mid-1930s, in spite of the ravaging WWI, the Red Terror that followed, and the country's severe loss from the Trainor peace dictate.

But this gendarme stood directly in the way of the communists' desire for power. The gendarme, that represented the love of country, of Christian faith, of values of civilization, was a hurdle before the communist rule, so it had to be destroyed by any and all means. So, they had to be destroyed after 1945. And not only them, but their families as well.



Pinczés Zoltán csendőr vezérőrnagy, a múlt század egyik legnagyobb magyarja

And, as the gendarmes did not speak up for fear of further attacks on their families while the communist propaganda was blaring, two generations were raised on false information about the gendarmes, so even today it is not popular to speak of the unjust suffering and tragedy that befell on the gendarme families. But some voices are raised. One such voice is a newly published book by Vilma Alföldi, "*Az 'ellenség' gyermekei*" (*The Children of the "Enemy"*).

The book is about the fate of a gendarme and his four children after 1945. Their portray could be a prototype of most gendarme families in post-war Hungary. The gendarme, Mihály Alföldi, typically, was himself a son of a poor peasant, who worked himself up to a rank of garrison commander with hard work and tireless studies. He earned the love and respect of the villagers everywhere he served (Mérk, Vásárosnamény, Mándok, Nyírmeggyes, Túrc, Királyháza), so much so that those villagers wrote their praise of him even after the war to the committee that was set up to decide about the fate of the gendarmes. If they were "not proved", then they could get no job, neither they or their families could receive any social benefits (healthcare, retirement), and their children could not get education beyond elementary school. In spite of those letters and the total lack of any complaint against him, the committee declared him "not approved". So, he was cast out of civilization, along with his family, to live in a rural area, without home or any way of survival ("internálták"), then they placed him under police surveillance, and harassed him for many years. But why? Why? Of course, we know the answer to this horrible injustice: the communists needed to destroy everything that stood in their way of full power. They had to destroy the gendarmerie which was one of the strongest and most faithful pillar of the previous, civil society. We know this from history. But I have never seen it openly worded in a public document by them as clearly as they did in their order of putting him out of the civilized world: **"For the sake of developing a democratic public opinion, it is justified to temporarily removing him from society."**

Vilma Alföldi's book is not only the story of their family, but also the story of thousands of gendarme families, who suffered the same way and for the same reasons. And this book is not only a story, but an accusation as well, against the blind hate with which the communists sought to achieve power (and which forces are still active today under Marxist slogans, even in present day America), and for which they never were kept accountable. (The book may be ordered from the author at alfoldivil@gmail.com , for Ft 2800).

Pinczés Zoltán, gendarme brigadier general, edited the gendarmerie's own publication, the *Csendőrségi Lapok*, from its restart in 1924, until the end of 1936. He had done a tremendous work for the development of the gendarmerie, lifting it to its international fame. Among several books, he wrote a three volume series on the legal proceedings affecting the work of the gendarmes, in which he made this highly technical topic accessible to the gendarmes, most of whom had only a few years of formal education. In the 1926. June 1. issue of the *Csendőrségi Lapok* he wrote: "We are only the publication for the gendarmes. Rather, *only* for the gendarmes. With each of our words, with all our strength and affection, we strive to serve our corps; our main goal is to provide a noble and useful entertainment for our gendarmes, to help in their self-education, and to nurture them professionally and personally to help them in the performance of their duties."

Zoltán Pinczés was ordered to leave the country as the Russian front approached in 1944-45. When the war ended and the Russians took hold of Hungary, he fully understood what this meant to Hungary and to the gendarmerie, for which he devoted his life. Seeing all that irrevocably collapse, in his helpless desperation he took his own life. It is worth reading the biography of this giant of our nation

Emese Kerkayné Maczky (the daughter of László Kerkay, gendarme captain) is a faithful and studious researcher of gendarme biographies. She has richly added to the number of biographies on our website, most recently the biographies of [Zoltán Pinczés](#), and Lt. Col.s [Gyula Fáy](#) and [Géza Gereöffy](#). Géza Gereöffy was a nationally known and loved poet as well, whose poems reflected a deep love for God and country, so the communists made sure that his the art and name would be erased from the public's memory.

The COVID-19 pandemic shook up our world. It has numerous present and future consequences. Among these is the cancellation of the gendarme conference that was scheduled for May of this year in the Parliament building. It got postponed to September 10, to be held at the [Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park](#) (ÓNTE). Its title is one of the gendarmerie's motto: "Behind you is the law. Let it also be before you! – The Hungarian Royal gendarmerie and its era." It will be a joint conference between the ÓNTE and the SZBMRTT (Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság), with dr. József Boda (SZBMRTT board member), moderator. Its program:

"Remembering the Hungarian Royal gendarmerie" exhibit and opening by Béla Kürti of Dévaványa

Conference opening: Péter Kertész (ÓNTE, EXO)

Greetings: József Parádi (SZBMRTT, president)

Welcoming of new SZBMRTT members and presentation of MKCsBK medal („Csendőr Érdemkereszt”) to Béla Kürti

Dr. József Parádi CSc. (SZBMRTT): Borderpatrol of the gendarmerie

Dr. Olasz Lajos Ph.D. (SZTE – SZBMRTT): Air service of the gendarmerie

Dr. Sándor Szakály DSc. (VERITAS, főigazgató): Military service of the gendarmerie

Dr. Ferenc Kiss Gábor Ph.D. (SZTE): Death in the line of service in the gendarmerie (1933-1934).

Gábor Vincze (Emlékpont, Hódmezővásárhely): Book review of Dr. Vilma Alföldi: „Az 'ellenség' gyermekei” (*The Children of the "Enemy"*)

Dr. András Kovács Zoltán Ph.D. (NKE – SZBMRTT): The Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie in WWII.

Dr. István Ravasz CSc. (alezredes, HIM): Gendarme coup?

Dr. jur. Zsolt Zétényi (Constitution lawyer, law historian, president of NJA): Gendarmes in the law of public courts

Gábor Vincze (Emlékpont, Hódmezővásárhely): Victimization of gendarmes after 1956.

László Gál – Tamás Máté (ÓNTE): The proposed gendarme garrison in the Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park

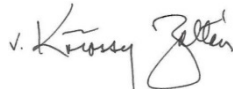
Summary: Dr. Ferenc Kiss Gábor (ÓNTE)

Although the pandemic prevents us from visiting home this year, and attending the conference, but we will be present in spirit, and we rejoice at it being organized, and hope many of our readers will participate.

We express our deep thanks to Péter Aradi-Beöthy for his most recent generous gift to support the gendarme garrison building at the ÓNTE. We hope that the government permission will soon be granted and the construction can begin. I also recommend to our readers the Sins of Communism Foundation (A [Kommunizmus Bűnei Alapívány](#), <http://www.kommunizmusbunei.hu/>), for whom Péter Aradi-Beöthy also works. The Foundation fulfills a much needed and so far quite neglected area of research into the society-destroying effect of the violent communist ideologies imported from the Soviets.

Respectfully,

Zoltán v Körössy, central director



Híven, becsülettel, vitézül