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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter # 18, April 6, 2012

It was always a thrill for me to listen to my father speak of the Hungarian Gendarmerie and his service as a gendarme captain. He considered it one of his greatest honors to have been a part of this noble, outstanding body. He spoke of the dedication, dignity and commitment. When the Hungarian Gendarme stepped inside, law and order made their appearance. Such was the respect given them. May their memory long live.

As we have been digitizing the gendarmerie books to place them on the website, we have had the opportunity to become better acquainted with the wide range and all-inclusive topics of the books. The official training and reference books explain the laws pertaining to the gendarmerie and how they should be enforced. Other books however give extensive guidelines on the personal, moral, and ethical behavior that was expected of a gendarme. This is so surreal in this day and age. I have yet to see standards of this nature in any other organization, and it would be shunned today by our liberal "emancipated" society. All too often we read about the

corruption, inappropriate use of force, and inadequacy of law enforcement agencies in today's world. We yearn for the days when the Hungarian Gendarmes were the guardians of our peace.

The photographing of the gendarmerie books, 32 in all, at the National Szecsenyi Library (OSZK) is complete and they are now on our website, along with another 100 or so gendarme books from other sources. The Szecsenyi Library has also placed the first 22 of these books on their own National Electronic Library (MEK), with plans to include all the others as well. Thus, the OSZK for the first time has books dealing with the Hungarian Gendarmerie on its site. This internationally renowned library is accessed by many people throughout the world, allowing the gendarme books to gain much exposure.

The Hungarian Military History Institute and Library, whose books we have already photographed and placed on our website, had also downloaded books from our site for use by their own readers. The OSZK plans to confer with them to eventually also



Pal Jegenyes, gendarme, initiated the MKCsBK in 1947.

place these books onto the MEK site. Neither of these major libraries would have any of these gendarme books on their sites if we had not initiated and carried out the photographing of their books. Even our website has had over 55,000 visits so far. I thank God for the impact this vast reference source will have on the restoration of the legacy of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie.

The Szemere Bertalan Hungarian History of Law Enforcement Academic Society has been producing scholarly research on the history of gendarmerie. Their yearly publication containing this material is also in the process of digitalization and will be posted on the OSZK's electronic library of periodicals (EDK).

I had the pleasure of meeting and often talking on the phone with Sándor Domokos gendarme 1st Lt. He answered many questions for me and shared many of his experiences from the war. A few years ago, he sent me his book-length autobiography but requesting that I would not place it on our website until after his passing. You may recall from our Newsletter, my friend passed away last year. I miss our conversations and the resource he was for my many questions. His autobiography is now on our site.

We have also added Dr. Jeno vitez Kovacs gendarme captain's biography. A short version is in the Biography section, and the book-length version written by Istvan Molnar under the title of *Prisoner Number 916* (A 916-os számú rab), is accessible through the Bibliography of the Library. I recently became acquainted with his son, Jeno Kovacs, who lives in Western Hungary, but for years he has enlisted his family, friends, and co-workers to restore Hungarian buildings, monuments, tombstones, historical sites, signs, etc. in Transylvania, where the Romanian government makes no effort in this regard. This self-sacrificing work on behalf of our homeland embodies the spirit of his gendarme father and the gendarmerie that served Hungary so faithfully. May he have much continued success in his efforts.

We gratefully acknowledge and thank again those who have contributed to the work of the MKCsBK.

Advocate: Kalman Boethy, Carl Dome, Dr. Ervin Honos

Patron: Charles Baka

Supporter: Matyas Eszes, Laszlo Pasztor, Frank Szick

It is always my sad duty to report our recent losses. Ruth Kiss, widow of Gábor Kiss, gendarme 1st Lt. and former central director, passed away on February 28th in Florida. I extend our deepest condolences to her family. She was a dear friend.

Please keep us informed of any news that would be of interest to our members. I wish all of you a blessed Easter.

Best regards,

Zoltán Kőrössy

MKCsBK Central Director

