



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség
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Dear Friends,

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“Hungary, since 1867, has been evolving into a modern nation. Of its many established organizations, none has succeeded in every respect in its desired results so perfectly as the Magyar Királyi Csendőrség (Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie),” – Gábor Ugron, Internal Minister, retired - Preszly Lóránd's: [A m. kir. csendőrség története 1881-1918](#), Budapest, 1920, p. 9.

The gendarmerie had been a major pillar of Hungary's civil development from 19th century feudalism to a 20th century modern European country, by providing the security for the wealth and personal safety of its citizens. With the establishment of the one-party communist regime at the end of WWII, this service, having been tied to the previous civil government, was deemed no longer necessary, and in fact, vehemently opposed, resulting in a fierce persecution of all gendarmes. This was not only a tragedy for the former members, but also for the nation.

I recently had the distinct pleasure of again visiting a very dear friend, Dr. László Maján in Budapest, a former Hungarian Gendarme captain, who also was a dear friend of my father. This past visit was a very special



Dr. László Maján, gendarme Captain, 100 years old.

occasion, however, since Laci bácsi turned 100 years old on the 26th of August. To commemorate this remarkable occasion, his neighbors gave him a surprise birthday celebration. He also received well wishes from the mayor, and the local Christian newspaper (*Evangelical Life*) wrote a lengthy article on his life. (See his [biography](#) on our website, in the Library's Biography archives).

Laci bácsi is a very outgoing, humble, and endearing individual, belying the difficulties, humiliation, and physical persecution he suffered for many years at the hands of the communists. He credits God for giving him the faith, the strong will, and steadfast determination to have survived the persecution and degradation imposed upon him during that era. Laci bácsi truly is of the caliber that typifies the men who served in the Hungarian Gendarmerie. He is now one of only a very few left of a class of men with the sense of morality, bravery, dedication to honor, duty and spirit, that is passing away and not likely to be seen again.

Another highlight of my time home was visiting another dear friend, György Perjesi, gendarme 1st Lt., and his dear wife, Babi néni. It was such a pleasure to see them and to be with them again as if visiting family. Now, that all of the gendarme books, newspapers, and newsletters are on our website, the last major task is placing Gyurka bácsi's monumental gendarme biographical data collection onto the website, which work we have already begun.

It was a blessing and privilege to be with these two dear friends. We talked of the past better days, the past struggles, the present, and the future. It is for them and their departed comrades that we invest our time and energy to right a wrong, and to help them claim their true and rightful place in Hungarian history. May God grant further good health to these dear loyal friends and patriots of our homeland.

During my recent visit to Hungary, the Hungarian Gendarmerie was naturally a major topic of conversation wherever I went. Besides their past service, a recurring topic was the possible re-establishment of the Gendarmerie in present day Hungary. One of the major political parties actively promotes this goal. The MKCsBK, following in the footsteps of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie, does not associate itself with any political party or movement, but it naturally has an opinion. It is understandable that in present-day Hungary, where crime is a major concern, many yearn for the law and order that the Hungarian Gendarmerie provided in the past. We feel that it would be very wise to study the structure, function, and principles under which the gendarmerie operated, and put into practice an updated version of many of these principles. But we are opposed to equipping any newly established organization with the well-known rooster-feathered hats, the hallmark of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie. That belongs to the past and should not be repeated in an era where the same moral standards and patriotic feelings are no longer found. Let the past legacy stand alone. Learn from them, model them, but do not try to look like them, as it would only distort and diminish their image. For the same reason, we oppose civilian activities assisting the police while wearing a rooster-feathered hat or a gendarme designation of any sort. The gendarmerie was legitimately established by law, giving them the respect and power they needed to be effective. Civilians calling themselves gendarme would again negatively affect the gendarmerie's legacy. (Our website has a more detailed [statement](#) article on the matter

During my visit to Hungary, I was able to make contact with a number of individuals. I met Dr. József Parádi, president of the Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság, with whom we closely work together on the digitalization of the gendarmerie's material. I also met with Pál Ságvári, president of the Magyar Csendőri Bajtársi Egyesület, which seeks to preserve the legacy of the Hungarian Gendarmerie by being present

in gendarme uniforms before the public at funerals of gendarmes, and at various local and national civil events. I also had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Sándor Szakály, noted historian of the Hungarian Gendarmerie and president of *Veritas*, at a conference on the German and Soviet occupations of Hungary. The conference was held in the Upper House of our beautiful Parliament building, which made it an unforgettable experience.

And to my great satisfaction, I was also able to acquire a few cherished gendarmerie artifacts during my visit.

We thankfully acknowledge again those who have made a donation in the past three months to help in the work of the MKCsBK.

Advocate-

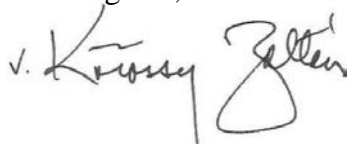
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We also thank Gyula Kiss for his suggestion of including links to our *Newsletter*, so those who receive it electronically may visit the mentioned topic immediately by clicking on the words printed in blue.

Please continue to inform us of any event or news that might be of interest to the friends of the gendarmerie.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'v. Körössy Zoltán'.

Zoltán v. Körössy
MKCsBK Central Director

Híven, becsülettel, vitézül