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Dear Friends,

MKCsBK Newsletter #32, October 2015.

“The Hungarian Gendarmerie is one of the few organizations for which the Hungarian nation had an undivided esteem and trust from its inception to the disastrous downfall of our nation at the end of the war. Everyone had great respect for the gendarmerie, whose every member from its highest ranking individuals to the common gendarmes on patrol always fulfilled their duty with the utmost regard and conscientious attention to the responsibility given to them.” – Sándor Szurmay, retired foreign minister in Lóránd Preszly: [A M. Kir. Csendőrség története 1881-1918](#) (The Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie's History 1881-1918, which can be found on our website's bibliography).

The gendarmerie went on to serve our nation with the same spirit and dedication after 1918. They continued their disposition even after 1945 during the purges inflicted on them by the communist state. Those that managed to emigrate abroad, exemplified this same dedication. Their love and commitment to their past service led them over many years to meticulously collect and preserve their cherished gendarme artifacts for a hoped-for gendarme museum or permanent exhibit in Hungary, sometime in the future. The collection was thus eventually transferred home



Gendarme Col. Jenő v. Péterffy.

One of Béla (Bill) Csátray's newest work.
(Péterffy's granddaughter lived in South Africa, and was able to find her martyred grandfather's grave through our website, and she has since relocated to Hungary, where she finally feels “at home”).

in 2000 with the intention of it being permanently displayed at the Ópusztaszeri National Emlékpark (ÓNTE). But it ended up in storage at the Hungarian Military Museum in Budapest, hidden from the public, to this day. Without the hope of a gendarme museum, considering the present day ongoing negative propaganda against the Gendarmerie, the artifacts will continue to languish in storage. This is in direct opposition to the intended wishes of the gendarmes and the MKCsBK leadership at the time of transfer, and had and has caused much frustration and disappointment among the gendarmes and their family and friends.

Therefore, it is all the more to our joy that now, fifteen years later, action on a gendarmerie exhibit is in the making. We are in the process of creating a room depicting a gendarme garrison from the first half of the 20th century. Because this will be an interactive display, original artifacts will not be used. The plan is to have a copy of a gendarme garrison room with furniture, uniforms, copies of documents and photographs available for perusing to be placed on the wall and table. Two mannequins in reproduction gendarme uniforms will be a part of the display. Furniture, built to specifications, will be constructed. It is our hope that the display will be available to the public by next spring. Through their financial support, former gendarmes and their decedents are playing an integral part in bringing this plan to fruition. Significant donations have already been made to help with the cost, and these donations hasten and promote the construction of the exhibit. This will be the first lasting gendarmerie exhibit in Hungary since 1945.

We thank Préda István for his initiation of this endeavor, the ÓNTE historian Gábor Vincze for his tremendous help to mediate this process at the Emlékpark, and the historian experts, Dr. Csaba Lóránt, Dr. József Parádi and Dr. Sándor Szakály for their significant roles in helping to make this exhibit as accurate as possible. We extend our most heartfelt gratitude to all taking part in making this dream a reality. It is still hard to believe that a long term exhibit of the gendarmerie will come to existence in such a prominent location as the Opusztaszer Hungarian Historical Park. We thank God for making this possible.

Because the cost of making this display is largely the responsibility of the MKCsBK, we thank all those who share in this enthusiasm by their contributions. So far the special bank account established by Opusztaszer for this purpose has received 125 thousand forints in contributions and an additional 130 thousand forints contributed in dollars. The contributors in alphabetical order are: Mária Báthory, Kálmán Beöthy, Mrs. Sándor Domokos, Nicholas Hernády, József Horváth, Ilona Kostka, Zoltán v. Körössy, Dr. László Maján, v. István Nemesdaróczi, v. László Sokoray, Zsóka Sörényi, Éva Tarnóy, and two anonymous contributors. I would like to mention separately that László Tokay, in his gendarme father's memory, donated 400 thousand forints, for which we are most thankful. But we are thankful for every single contribution, because each is given with the intent to express respect and love for the gendarmerie. Therefore we ask again that every one of our members make an effort to contribute, no matter how small of an amount, in order that the number of contributors would be a witness to all that the respect for the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie is still alive. (Contributions by checks in dollars may be sent to my address, made out to MKCsBK, which I will then forward to the special ÓNTE account. For Forint contributions see our previous Newsletter).

At the same time, we wish to encourage our members to continue their financial support for our routine expenses. Most of our funds have now been exhausted with the *Csendőrségi Lapok* (Gendarmerie Newspaper) CDs, the three recent books, the commemorative medals, the scholarship fund, and the Newsletters. Therefore, we gratefully

acknowledge again those, who have made a contribution in the past three months to help in the various works of the MKCsBK:

Advocate: Beöthy Kálmán

Patron: Károly Subosics

Supporter: Mátyás Eszes

I would like to remind those who are planning to make contributions to the MKCsBK, or for the Ópusztaszer exhibit through us, that those contributions are tax-deductible.

We have been focusing more so in the past few weeks on the Picture Archives of our website. We recently scanned all of the drawings of gendarmerie found in the thirty four years of the official gendarmerie newspaper, *Csendőrség Lapok*. These have also been placed onto our website, so our website now contains over 2,500 photographs. Among these pictures are photographs of paintings, drawings, statues and other gendarmerie-related artwork. The collection has again been enriched with the addition of several new works by our “Csendőr Painter” Béla Csátáry (Bill). He has already created drawings and/or paintings of over 30 known gendarmes and fifteen unknown ones. We have been able to present some of his drawings to the gendarmes’ respective family members. One picture was recently presented to a dear gendarme captain, Dr. László Maján, who exclaimed that he never had a picture of himself with his proper captain’s rank on his collar. We have presented another recent drawing, the picture of Dr. Sándor Képiró to Dr. Zsolt Zétényi, who was his defense lawyer; a picture of László Kristóf, a gendarme martyr, to both his family and Dr. Zsolt Zétényi, who also represented him posthumously, a drawing to a gendarme widow, and another one to the granddaughter of another gendarme. We are so appreciative of Bill Csátáry’s tremendous contribution in preserving the legacy of the gendarmerie.

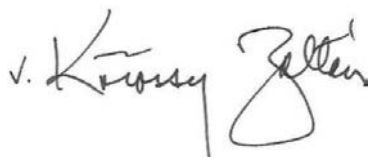
It is a dream of ours, though quite unrealistic, considering our serious lack of funds, to publish a book someday illustrating gendarme artwork to include gendarmerie-related drawings, illustrations, paintings, statues, plates, carvings, handwork, etc.

We were given the correspondence archives from two previous MKCsBK central directors Jenő v. Karsay and dr. Gyula Kiss. The time-consuming sorting out and preparation of this extensive material for the website is still awaiting us, along with continuing the completion of the digitalization of the biographical data collected by György Perjési. We also would like to prepare a sort of a repertorium of the *Csendőrségi Lapok* (the newspaper collection is available not only through our website, but on a CD as well).

Please, let us know of any news that might be of interest to our members and friends of the MKCsBK.

We wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

With best regards,



Zoltán v. Körössy
Central director

Hiven, becsülettel, vitézül!