



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

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Dear friends,

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Dr. Jozsef Paradi, president of SZBMRTT (Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvedelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság) recently stated in a personal letter that, in his opinion, the first major step in the area of Hungarian Gendarmerie's historical research was the establishment of our web site with its vast collection of original documents, and the second is the opening of the gendarmerie garrison permanent exhibit at the Opusztaszer National Heritage Park ([Opusztaszeri Nemzeti Történeti Emlékpark](#), ONTE).

The ONTE exhibit, scheduled to open at the end of July, will be the first long-term exhibit since 1945 recognizing the Hungarian Gendarmerie's sacrificial and outstanding service. ONTE's so-called village-museum depicts rural life in southern Hungary between the two world wars, where the gendarmerie was responsible for the protection of life and property. Their outstanding service created a safe environment, promoting national prosperity. It is only natural that the gendarme garrison, which was an essential part of that village life, would be included in this museum. We owe a great deal of gratitude to ONTE's willingness to establish the exhibit because unfortunately even today there is political opposition to such a display. It is our hope that this display will help rectify some of the distortions and misconceptions the communist propaganda so successfully created to degrade the gendarmerie's history.

The reproduction of the furniture pieces for the gendarme garrison room, made to original specifications, are now completed, along with some objects of the display, and the printing of the photographs, books, and documents is also nearing completion (no originals will be on display due to their rarity and the hands-on nature of the exhibit). The right side of the room will depict everyday life at the garrison, while the left side of the room will show the work of the gendarmes.

The funds collected for the display have now been exhausted. That is why we asked all our members who honor and respect the Hungarian Gendarmerie and wish to see its objective proper place in Hungary's history, to contribute to this very worthy cause. We send out over 200 quarterly *Newsletters*, half of which by mail, and granted 100 memorial medals, many of which had to also be sent by mail. We have not charged for any of these, and we do not collect membership fees. Yet only 10% of our members considered it important enough to have sent a donation for this very important project. Therefore I ask all who receive this newsletter to make a donation if they have not already, if for only a few dollars, to be counted among those who consider the gendarmerie worthy to be remembered in the display. Let us not have this

noble cause flounder because of inadequate funds. Donations in Forint may directly be sent to ONTE (see previous *Newsletter* or our website *News* section for info), or donations in dollars sent to us earmarked for the garrison room exhibit.

In May 1929, Florian Reti gendarme took into custody two thugs in the village of Balatonzamardi. The thugs managed to free themselves and killed the gendarme guarding them. The incident was written up in the May 20, 1929, issue of the [*Csendorsegi Lapok*](#) (the official newspaper of the gendarmerie).

According to the May 20, 1931, issue, an obelisk memorial was erected to honor Florian Reti, financed through

donations by the gendarmes. After the war, the monument was capsized and

buried by the communist regime. It was recently discovered during a railroad renovation, and people interested in our military history salvaged its pieces, repaired the monument, and re-erected it. They also reported the whole process on their website (www.roncskutatok.hu) along with the original article from the *Csendorsegi Lapok* found on our website. Other members expanded on it with news clippings of the apprehension of the gendarme's murderers from contemporary newspapers. The Hungarian Gendarme Association (Magyar Csendor Bajtarsi Egyesület, [MCSBE](#)) also reported the event, and from there an online newspaper picked up the story, so this part of history became well-known.

This is one example of how our website was able to provide information on a topic of interest. How many other times was our website similarly useful, we will never know. We do know, however, that it has been providing a much needed objective source of original writings on the gendarmerie for research, and thus contributing to the vindication of this outstanding organization from the smear campaign of the communists.

Each issue of the *Csendorsegi Lapok* can now be found on our website. It was no easy feat to acquire access to all the issues. It had to be searched out from numerous sources, as even the largest libraries only had limited numbers, and then copy them, but eventually it was accomplished, by God's grace. We had since placed them onto a CD as well, and distributed



Az emlékbizottság munkájából: Az 1929 május 10-én Balatonzamárdi határában gonosztevők által megölt Réti Flórián tiszthelyettes emlékköve. A gyilkosság az országútnak az emlékkövel átellenben fekvő szélén történt, oda azonban az emlékkő nem volt elhelyezhető.

The picture of Florian Reti's monument from the May, 1936, issue of the *Csendorsegi Lapok*, reporting the transfer of the monument to the other side of the road due to works on the railroad.

copies to all universities that have a history department, both in Hungary and in the former territories. We have also made them available for purchase (see under [News](#) on the website).

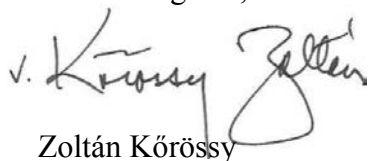
The number of hits on our website is now over 61,000. People are attracted to our site for a variety of reasons. Many are looking to find out more about a gendarme ancestor. During the communist era, all sources of information on the gendarmerie were destroyed by the government, but also by the gendarmes and their families themselves, fearful of the severe action taken against those who kept such items in their possession. Now people turn to our website, the largest source of information on the gendarmerie in the world. We are constantly looking for new information to make it as complete as possible, 70 years later. Our site now has over [350 books](#), more than [50 biographies](#), about [3000 photographs](#), and a few hundred [articles](#). Because the work on the website is done by my wife and I, we do not have the time to research when people turn to us inquiring about a certain gendarme, but we refer them to the website, where most likely they will find some information if they're willing to spend the time. From time to time, we receive thankful responses from individuals who have successfully found information they were looking for. It is interesting to note that during these past eight years, we have only received one negative email. This may well be due to the fact that we limit the content of the website to original documents and material published or written by the gendarmerie itself or its members.

As always, it is my sad duty to report a recent loss: Jozsef Soos, probationary gendarme, March 2016, Baltimore, Maryland. We extend our deep condolences to the family for their loss.

We thankfully acknowledge all those who have contributed to help in the work of the organization and the setting up of the gendarme garrison room at Opusztaszer: Bela Csatory, Raphael B.Clementis-Zahony, Mrs. Jozsef Kiss and her siblings (children of gendarme Elemer Szakal), and Zoltan I. Korossy.

Otto Takacs donated a gendarme book to our library, which is very much appreciated. It is our hope that someday this book and the others in my library along with my gendarme artifacts will find their way back to Hungary in a permanent gendarmerie museum.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Zoltan Korossy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zoltán Körössy
MKCsBK Central Director

A decorative banner with a light blue background and a dark blue border. The text is written in a cursive, handwritten style in dark blue ink.

Híven, becsülettel, vitézül