



**Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség**

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Dears Friends,

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Dr. Béla Rektor, gendarme captain, author of the seminal book *A Magyar Királyi Csendőrség Oknyomozó Története (The Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie's Investigative History)*, wrote me in the mid 80s about his dream to establish a Hungarian Gendarmerie Research Center located somewhere close to Budapest. The center would have served four main purposes. “ 1. To study and compare Hungarian and foreign gendarmeries; 2. To establish a gendarmerie library; 3. To establish a gendarmerie museum and document depository; 4. Purchase a small printing press where gendarmerie and police topic books can be made available for sale.” Dr. Rektor’s untimely death prevented the realization of his dream. Unfortunately he left no will, so those monies that would have provided the basis for the center were also lost.



As a part of fulfilling that dream, our Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie website was inaugurated in 2004. The site contains all the known gendarme books. This collection of books, documents, an extensive photo library, and other gendarmerie related material is more than could have ever been assembled in one location. There are also articles, biographies, and audio visuals on our site. We are constantly adding new material. All of this is downloadable, negating the need for a printing press, and can be accessed from anywhere in the world, so there is no need to travel to a library somewhere in Hungary to be able to study from fragile rare books that cannot even be borrowed from the library. All that is needed to access this vast resource is to turn on a computer and type in [www.csendor.com](http://www.csendor.com).

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, another of Dr. Rektor’s dream as well as ours, became a reality. A permanent Hungarian Gendarmerie exhibit room opened to the public at

**Entrance of the Gendarme Garrison Room  
at the Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park.**

Ópusztaszer National Heritage Park in Hungary. This is the first permanent gendarmerie exhibit in Hungary since the end of WWII and was long overdue. Even a few years ago this would have been unheard of.

The exhibit was officially opened by Péter Kertész, director of the Heritage park. Dr. Sándor Szakály, world renowned authority on the Hungarian Gendarmerie, gave a brief overview of the history of the gendarmerie. Then, Dr. József Parádi presented in our behalf the MKCsBK Commemorative Medals to those individuals who had a major role in making this exhibit a reality. Finally, Gábor Vince, the Park's historian, and our invaluable partner, spoke of the evolution of the project from initial inquiry to the present exhibit. He was the one who oversaw the manufacturing of the furniture, procuring of artifacts, and assembling the layout of the exhibit.

Approximately 80 persons, consisting of about twenty officials, members of the press, and interested individuals, attended the ceremony. v. János Hangodi, son of a gendarme senior sergeant, traveled all the way from Canada to attend this momentous occasion. Besides one individual who has been hired to occasionally dress in a gendarme uniform, two others joined him for the opening. The three men dressed in uniform lent a sense of authenticity to the occasion



**The berthing side of the exhibit.**



**The side of the garrison's office.**

At the entrance of the exhibit is a reproduction enameled gendarme sign as was found at the entrance of all the former garrisons. Because we only have one room to work with, the room was divided into two sections: the left side depicts the garrison office, and the right side represents the gendarme berthing and common space area. The office portion contains a built-to-specifications desk and cabinet. The right side has a made-to-specifications bed, desk, cabinet, and hanger/shelf on which were placed the uniforms, great coat, hat, rifle, sword, and other equipment. On the walls are thirty

framed photographs depicting gendarmes at work at the garrison, or on patrol. Gabor Vince stated that the display is a work in progress. We hope to soon provide a brochure on the gendarmerie for the visitors to take with them, and picture postcards to purchase in the Park's gift store. We have already made further recommendations for the room, such as the regulation green curtains for the windows, a map of Hungary, a daily schedule on the wall, etc. We are also in the process of printing a copy of the 1927 *Szervezeti és Szolgálati Szabályzatok* (*Service Regulations and Organization*) book that contained all the rules and regulations for the gendarmes, which they all knew by heart, and to which they faithfully adhered. Visitors will be able to browse through the book to see for themselves and admire what an outstanding and honorable organization the gendarmerie was.

Posted on the wall is a list of the 38 families who made contributions of funds for this significant exhibit. Again, we wish to thank all those who contributed to this endeavor. Their list may also be found on our website under the [Ópusztaszer Park heading](#). Those individuals who contributed larger sums were also presented with a certificate of appreciation. They are: Péter Aradi-Beöthy, Mária Báthori, Kálmán Beöthy, János v. Hangodi, Jenő v. Kovács, Zoltán v. Körössy, István v. Nemesdaróczi, István v. Préda, Dr. Sándor Szakály, and László Tokay.

We ask those individuals who have a sincere interest in the gendarmerie to please continue to financially support this work. Its continuation depends on our ongoing support. Donations may be made in Hungary to the ÖNTE bank account: OTP 11735005-21034271, designated "for the gendarme garrison room," or abroad by sending a check to us (see the address in the *Newsletter's* heading).

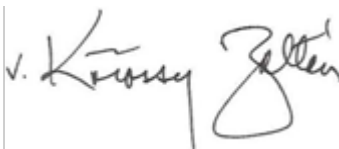
We thankfully acknowledge those who financially helped since our last *Newsletter*: Mrs. Sándor Domokos, Rosalyn Mandelik, Dr. Viktor Parádi, and Mrs. István Serényi.

It is still hard to believe that this exhibit is now a permanent fixture at the Heritage Park. Hopefully this is a major step toward someday having a gendarmerie museum in Hungary, literally fulfilling Dr. Rektor's dream. Our only regret is that most of the gendarmes have now passed, and were not able to witness this monumental occasion. May God continue to help us in our efforts to return the dignity to the Hungarian Gendarmerie.

As always, it is my sad duty to report recent losses: Vilma Lessmann, daughter of Pál Hódosy, gendarme brigadier general, October 2015, Brasil; Károly Subosics, Port Charlotte, Florida; and L. Kemes, Seven Hills, Ohio. We extend our deep condolences to the families in their loss.

If your email or postal address has changed, please notify us. We also ask that you let us know of any event that might be of interest to our members.

We wish you all a pleasant Thanksgiving and Christmas,



Zoltán v. Körössy  
MKCsBK Central Director

*Híven, becsülettel, vitézül*