



Magyar Királyi Csendőr Bajtársi Közösség

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Dear Friends,

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[László v. Maczky, gendarme captain](#), wrote the following in a letter, regarding the communists' declaring the gendarmerie collectively guilty of war crimes in 1945, "This makes our merciless fate all the more insufferable, but with greater pride I lift up my head, and no matter how much I am persecuted, no matter what cruelty I must suffer, I am still glad that I am a Royal Hungarian Gendarme, and if I could do it all over again, I still would do whatever it takes to become a gendarme" [translated from Hungarian]. What a corps it must had been, that its members loved it so, in spite what great suffering it meant belonging to it!

[Attila Olchváry-Milvius, gendarme general](#), commanding officer of the gendarme officer's training school, 1941-1943, was also the author of the criminal investigations book for the gendarmerie, which also was used by the police after WWII. As the Russian Army was approaching, he was ordered to retreat to the west. In early 1950, the United States decided to halt the immigration of former members of the gendarmerie, along with members of the Order of Vitéz, and Levente, due to the Russian propaganda against them. In response, Attila Olchváry-Milvius wrote a [Memorandum](#), which was translated to German and English, and presented to the US officials. As a result, the US lifted the immigration ban. The gendarme refugees were living in displaced persons' camps in the various sectors of Allied-occupied Germany at



Commemorative plaque in Verőce, Hungary.

It reads [trans.]:

Kristóf László, 1911-1959. In this house was born a martyr of the Hungarian law-enforcement, who was wrongfully sentenced and executed for performing his service and duty. „Faithfully, honorably, valiantly!” Respectfully erected by the local government, 2017.

the end of WWII, waiting to find a country where someone would sponsor them, so they could immigrate there. When the U.S. stopped accepting former gendarmes solely based on the communist government's anti-gendarme propaganda, they were forcefully repatriated to communist Hungary, where they were imprisoned, tortured, and even killed. Olchváry-Milvius's Memorandum saved the lives of many, along with their reputation. Because of the importance of this writing, we placed it onto the website in three languages (the recently found original German, a Hungarian translation of it as published in a *Bajtársi Levél*, and our English translation).

Emese Kerkay Maczky brought the Memorandum to our attention. She has been researching the biographies of gendarmes, whose names she came across in the extensive correspondence of her late father, László v. Maczky gendarme captain (the signed original German Memorandum was among these papers). So far she has enriched the website by thirteen well-researched biographies and two end-of-war diaries, which shed light on an obscure time in history. She was the curator of the former [Passaic Hungarian Museum](#), and joined the group of those, who sacrificially and wholeheartedly contributed to our website in major ways: Orbán Gábor by digitalizing over thirty books for our library, which otherwise would not have been available elsewhere, and Béla (Bill) Csatáry, who has painted or drawn close to 60 pieces of art depicting Hungarian gendarmes (he has brought much joy to many gendarme families with his art). We have written about them in previous *Newsletters*, and thank them for their invaluable help.

We now have over seventy biographies on our website sent in by various individuals. These are very important in countering the 70 years of lies about who the gendarmes were and how they lived. They also reveal their unjust suffering, humiliation, loss and shattering of their lives and of their families, which they had to endure not because of any wrongdoings on their part, but just because they were gendarmes, loyal to country and duty. For this reason, I appeal to all of you again that if you have a relative or an acquaintance, who was a gendarme, share with us whatever information is available about their service and about their lives before, during, and after the war. Documents and photographs may be sent by mail or via internet. We must make every effort to preserve these accounts. This is our last chance to save their stories for the sake of truth, or they will be permanently lost.

One such profound biography is of [László Kristóf gendarme sergeant](#). On March 24, 2017, the local government of the town of Verőce dedicated a memorial plaque to his memory. He was born in that town, and served his homeland as a gendarme. On June 27, 1943, he took part in the apprehension of Endre Ságvári, a communist instigator. During the process of taking him into custody, Ságvári made an attempt to escape, firing at the detectives. He shot Kristóf, who was not even carrying a firearm, in his leg, another detective in his shoulder, and a third individual in his abdomen, killing him. The detective with the shoulder wound fired and hit the fleeing Ságvári, who died during his transport to the hospital. Kristóf spent two years in hospitals for his severe leg wound, but eventually recovered. After the war, he settled down to farming, and lived in peace for over 15 years, because the communist government thought he was dead. Following the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fight, the communist government rounded up all former gendarmes. He was arrested after an informer reported him. They could not find any incriminating evidence against him, so they dredged up his involvement in the Ságvári incident in 1943. He was found guilty in the shooting death of Ságvári (even though acknowledged that Kristóf had no weapon), sentenced him to death, and executed him on November 28, 1959. His case was re-tried in 2006, and he was found posthumously innocent of all charges. Dr. Zsolt Zétényi, his defense council wrote a book about the trial and related issues (*Ártatlanul, jeltelen sírban. A Kristóf-ügy. – Innocently in an Unmarked Grave. The Kristof Matter.*). We are very pleased to see that a former gendarme is being memorialized in his home town.

We are pleased to see a slow but sure improvement regarding the moral rehabilitation of the gendarmerie in other ways, as well. The Law-enforcement department of the National Civil Service University held a contest last year for high school students to write on any law-enforcement issues. Two of the six contestants chose a gendarme topic, including the second place winner, Nikolett Volcsányi. Her work was titled, "Special points of the gendarmerie's regulations". She used for her research the ample material found on our web site.

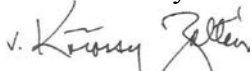
News like this makes the thousands of hours invested in our website well worth the effort. We thank God for it, as I am sure our site has played a role in this change of attitude in Hungary towards the gendarmerie.

As promised, we continue to expose the various lies the communist propaganda fabricated against the gendarmerie. The gendarmerie's enemies like to talk about its "involvement in the holocaust". This is both inaccurate and malicious. Hungary had no concentration camps, and the existence of the German concentration death camps were unknown at the time the gendarmerie were being forced by occupying Germany to round up and deport the Jew from rural Hungary, in May of 1944. In the background the SS solders were watching with machine guns. So, the gendarmerie had a part in the deportations, but not in the holocaust. The nature of the concentration camps was revealed to the Budapest Jewish Council at the end of April 1944 in the so-called Auschwitz report, but the Council, for a still debated reason, did not bring this knowledge to the attention of Regent Adm. Horthy until mid-June, by which time the rural deportations were completed and moved to towns (where it was carried out by the police). When Adm. Horthy was made aware, he immediately ordered the deporting train still on Hungarian soil to be turned back (which order was carried out by the gendarmes). So, during the deportations in May, neither Adm. Horthy, nor the people, including the gendarmes and the Jews themselves, had any knowledge of the nature of the concentration camps. With the exception of the Jewish Council, everyone believed the Jews were being taken to labor camps, which were a part of the war-time scene both in Europe and in America. According to the Hungarian Holocaust web site, one of the Jewish survivors has stated, "If I had known what was occurring at Auschwitz, no power on earth could have forced me onto that train. At the same time, no power on earth could have convinced me of what was occurring at Auschwitz". Even though the gendarmes, as everyone else, thought the Jews are deported to labor camps, they still considered this task objectionable, and not in line with their regular service, yet there was no reasonable ground to disobey the order, which would have risked their lives. As terrible as Auschwitz was, blaming it on the gendarmes is outright unjust and ungrounded.

I would like to bring to your attention two items of possible interest. Dr. László Szilas in Hungary has created a law enforcement foundation for the purpose of familiarizing the public with the law enforcement agencies throughout the world. He has also established a museum of international law enforcement regalia in Esztergom, Hungary. Further information via email at laszlo.szilas@kameras.hu, or by calling 36 70 362 2460. The other item is Victor Falk's short book on the history of the Royal Hungarian "Honved" Army in WWII, in English, titled, *Fire, Iron, and Blood*, which deals with actions on the Russian and Romanian fronts, with a few mentions of the gendarmerie. It may be ordered from the author at 1640 Columbia Rd., Westlake, Ohio 44145.

We thankfully acknowledge Kálmán Beöthy for his continued financial help.

We wish for you all a blessed Easter.



Zoltan v. Korossy, MKCSBK Central Director

Híven, becsülettel, vitézül