

THESES OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

The History of the Border Guard
Regiment of Adyliget

Imre Berki

2015

Eötvös Loránd University

Faculty of Humanities

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Imre Berki

The History of the Border Guard Regiment of Adyliget

Doctoral School of History

Head of doctoral school: Dr. Gábor Erdődy DSc, professor

Doctoral Program of Modern and Contemporary Hungarian History

Head of doctoral program: Dr. Zsuzsanna Varga CSc, habil. associate professor

Chair:

Dr. Gábor Székely Dsc, professor emeritus

Opponents:

Dr. István Ravasz PhD

Dr. József Parádi CSc

Committee members:

Dr. Károly Szerencsés PhD, habil. associate professor,

Dr. Csaba Csapó PhD, habil. associate professor (secretary)

Alternate:

Dr. Lajos Gecsényi Csc, honorary professor

Supervisor: Dr. Lajos Izsák DSc. professor emeritus

Budapest, 2015

I. The topic of the dissertation

Border Guards without border? What can be the role of a Border Post, and the role of border guards in the capital? What were the position and the role of the Border Guard Regiment of Adyliget? The present dissertation makes an attempt to answer these questions.

The ancestor corps of the Border Guard Regiment of Adyliget, the legal predecessor of the regiment was formed on 25th March 1946 within the Central Training Battalion as an independent corps of signals providing reports to the Border Guards Command Center. Later as its number of tasks increased, it became a Signaling Company in 1948. Apart from providing reports to the command center, it took part in the establishment of the line and radio communication between the border guard battalions and the command center, as well, as in the training of the signaling corps.

Following its merger with the Hungarian State Security Authority in 1950 it functioned as a Signaling Battalion. It took part in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956; it defended its barrack and kept the memory of its member killed in action green throughout the Kádár era.

The first section of the SZ-100 electronic signaling system in Hungary was built up and introduced here in 1964. After the termination of the security police in 1971 the scope of its tasks was extended to involve guarding and construction work. Through the integration of the Technical Battalion the Border Guard Regiment was formed. A guard battalion also belonged to the Regiment after 1975.

After the change of system, in the 1990's, its number of tasks increased, its responsibilities changed as well as its name and organizational structure. The focus shifted from the training of signaling troops to guarding and serving. The name it received in 1992 reflects its tasks: Support and Service Directorate. Its name changed to Budapest Border Guard Directorate in 1995.

Since it functioned as central reserves, it was assigned critical tasks during the period of the Gulf War and the Yugoslav Wars; it participated in the strengthening of the southern borders.

After the de-enlistment of the last enlisted border guard soldier, the Bálint Balassi Border Guard Training School was established on the base of the directorate. The school started to operate on 1st April 1998. Its name was changed to Adyliget Law Enforcement Training School, and the border guard training that had been conducted in the school was completed with the vocational training of police officers. This step meant a transition from a militarily organized law enforcement body to a civil law enforcement agency.

II. The structure of the dissertation

In the construction of the dissertation I laid special emphasis on the history of border guarding from a historiographical perspective, and on making reference not only to the literature, but to sources related to the matter, as well. In order to learn more about the history of this special corps in context, to understand its position in the processes taking place in the Border Guards, and to appreciate the effect of these on the Border Guard Regiment, a brief outline of the history of Border Guards is inevitable.

As a next step I present the establishment of the signaling corps, company, and battalion, its organizational structure, system of tasks, its relocation to Adyliget and the construction of the barracks in a chronological order.

I make reference in a separate section to its role played in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the events of the revolution, the actions performed by the Regiment and its member killed in action.

I provide an outline of its work during the era of consolidation, its activities performed during the relocations, its everyday life until the establishment of the Border Guard Regiment.

I delineate the location, role, organizational structure and system of tasks of the Border Guard Regiment, the sole regimental level formation of the Border Guards articulated according to its commanders. I also outline the process of the change of system as well as the changes that occurred during this period, and the descendant corps (i.e. the Support and Service Directorate and the Budapest Border Guard Directorate) until their liquidation, and the termination of the line infantry.

I treat the separate organizational units of the Border Guard Regiment in separate sections: the Training Base for the Signaling Corps, the New Training System Technical Battalion, and the Guard Battalion, the Border Guard Orchestra, the Signaling Workshop and storehouse.

I also summarize the activities that it performed beyond its basic tasks: as a consequence of its central location it could function as a location for demonstrative purposes for the Border Guards and it also took an active part in cultural and sport activities.

The appendices containing photos and maps as well as the diagrams and graphs, the index and the outline of the technical equipment assist the reader in a better comprehension of the subject.

III. Methods and conclusions of the dissertation

During the making of the dissertation the traditional historian techniques were used as the main methods, such as searching for, tracking down, organizing, and presenting written documents. Besides public archives I also used internally distributed journals and other publications as important sources that were published in the era at hand. At this point it was very important to apply source criticism, to reveal information hidden behind the rhetorics and clichés used by the single-party state. The method of Oral History also played an important role, as the former members of the Regiment, the former leaders of the Border Guards are still among us. Through their recollection I was provided valuable details.

I systematized the data and the information unraveled and confronted them with written documents. To resolve contradictions I used the method of source criticism.

Based on the available sources I established that the corps at hand -- as the border guard unit in the capital -- played a special role; its responsibilities exceeded those of an ordinary signaling corps. Resulting from its role as reserves for the security office it participated in the events of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, it was involved in the taxi drivers' blockade and in the Yugoslav Wars. It served tasks beyond military functions. It performed the service of the National Command Center. It actively participated in the economy and -- through the technical battalion -- it also held social functions. It functioned a place dedicated to demonstrative purposes and was a special area for cultural and sports events.

The comprehensive exposition of the history of the Border Guard Regiment of Adyliget is a new and independent contribution to scientific knowledge.

IV. The author's publications and presentations related to the topic

1. Publications (selected):

- IMRE BERKI — Az 1956-57. évi sortüzek rövid története. *Rendvédelem-történeti Füzetek (Acta Historiae Praesidii Ordinis)*, XIII.évf. (2007) 16.sz. 25-32.p. HU-ISSN 1216-6774.
- Rendszerváltás a határőrizetben 1945-56. *ELSŐ SZÁZAD* Különszám: pp. 141-161. (2010) HU- ISBN 978-963-284-197-7
- A magyar határvédelem története. *Múlt-kor*
- Világhálón:
http://multkor.hu/20100929_a_magyar_hatarvedelem_tortenete

- A hadköteles határőrök utolsó napjai. *Múlt-kor*,
Világhálón:
http://multkor.hu/20110426_a_hadkoteles_hatarorok_utolso_napjai
- Visszapillantás egy megszűnt rendvédelmi szervezetre, a Határőrségre. *Visszatekintés a 19–20. századra*. ELTE Történelemtudományok Doktori Iskola Új- és Jelenkori Magyar Történeti Program Budapest, 2011. 248-263 p. ISBN 978-963-284-197-7
- Vági Lajos alezredes visszaemlékezése a határőrség megalakulására
ARCHIVNET XI:(1) (2011)
Világhálón:
http://www.archivnet.hu/kuriozumok/egy_kommunista_parancsnok_a_magyar_hatarrol.html
- Egervári László halálának hiteles története
In: Erdődy Gábor, Cúthné Gyóni Eszter, Wirthné Diera Bernadett, Szilágyi Adrienn (szerk.)
Mából a tegnapról: képek Magyarország 19. és 20. századi történelméből.
264 p. Budapest: ELTE BTK Történelemtudományi Doktori Iskola, 2012. p. 171-180.
(ISBN:978-963-284-250-9)
- A magyar határőrség újjászervezése 1946-ban. *Rendvédelem-történeti Füzetek (Acta Historiae Praesidii Ordinis)*, XXII. Évf. (2012) 25. sz. 13-26.p. HU-ISSN 1216-6774.

2. Presentations (selected):

- IMRE BERKI — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság által szervezett rendvédelem-történeti tudományos konferenciasorozatnak „A kiegyezéstől az ezredfordulóig megszűntetett országos rendvédelmi testületek” című konferenciája Budapesten 2009. október 9-én
A magyar határőrség újjászervezése 1946-ban.
- Visszatekintés a 19–20. századra Tanulmányok az ELTE Történelemtudományok Doktori Iskola Új- és Jelenkori Magyar Történeti Programjának konferenciája - Budapest, 2010. június 3–4.
Rendszerváltás a határőrizetben 1945-56.

- Mából a tegnapi képek Magyarország 19. és 20. századi történelméből az ELTE Történelemtudományok Doktori Iskola Új- és Jelenkori Magyar Történelmi Programjának konferenciája - Budapest, 2011. június 8–9. Egervári László halálának hiteles története
- 6. Báthory-Brassai nemzetközi multidiszciplináris konferencia „Kárpát-medencei versenyképesség” Budapest, 2015. május 27-28. A Határország Közvetlen Híradó zászlóalja az 1956-os forradalom és szabadságharc sodrásában