

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE
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The Metropolitan Police Detective Squad

*The roots, development and evolution of detective work and the detective organisation in
Hungary*

Thesis book of PhD dissertation

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1. FORMULATING THE SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM

The detective corps first appeared among Hungarian law enforcement organisations in the Budapest police force during the period of dualism. At that time, the police forces – with the exception of the Royal Hungarian State Police of Budapest, the Royal Hungarian Border Police and the Royal Hungarian State Police of Fiume – were under the jurisdiction of the local government. The nationalisation of the metropolitan police brought about a number of changes and started a process of improvement in investigative work that continues to this day. The period of the operation of the Budapest Royal Hungarian State Police, later the Royal Hungarian State Police and later the Metropolitan Police, which was embedded in the Royal Hungarian State Police, was a fundamental and decisive period in this development process. Investigative work was carried out within the detective corps set up in 1885 as part of the Royal Hungarian State Police in Budapest. The results and experience of this detective corps were exemplary and had a spill-over effect on other police forces.

I consider the beginning of the period under examination to be the Reunification, since after 1867 it became possible to establish Hungarian law and order bodies in Hungary, which guaranteed internal order independently of the Habsburg power; at the same time, the system of law and order, which had been placed under the jurisdiction of the municipalities, failed during the dualism. This marked the beginning of the nationalisation process, which saw the creation of the detective corps within the metropolitan police force, which later became a national police force. Of course, it is also necessary to look at the pre-Dualism policing, where the germs of detective work can be seen: the distinction between traditional and covert criminal functions. It is in the light of these antecedents that detective work and its roots can be fully understood and explored. I chose the year 1944 as the capstone because, as a result of the German occupation of Hungary, the country lost its sovereignty, and from that time onwards, like other parts of the state apparatus, the Hungarian police and detective corps could no longer serve the nation.

Subsequently, the term detective was dropped, followed by the current term investigator

Thus, the aim of my research is the historical exploration of the detective corps of the metropolitan police in the period under study, and, as a result, the presentation of the investigative units of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, the Royal Hungarian Financial Police and the Royal Hungarian Border Police, which were directly subordinate to the central state power, as the primary bodies adapting the professional and organisational developments

achieved in the detective corps of the metropolitan police from the German occupation of Hungary until the German reconquest.

In my interpretation, the period of the Soviet Republic in Hungary is not included in the scope of my research, since then law enforcement and its organs were completely abolished and transformed. On 21 March 1919, the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs, which functioned as an organ of the Revolutionary Governing Council organizing the central state power and replaced the former Ministry of the Interior, issued a decree on 26 March 1919, dissolving the armed law enforcement bodies, i.e. the police and the gendarmerie. They were replaced by a body called the Red Guard, made up of demobilised soldiers, armed workers and some of the crews and officers of the old police forces. Ex-police officers, gendarmes and border guards in Budapest who were not employed by the Red Guard or the Red Army had to report to the headquarters of the Red Guard. The Revolutionary Governing Council stipulated that only the investigative corps of the Red Guard could carry out investigative work. All investigating officers had to be in possession of a Red Guard General Headquarters card. The members of the detective corps were dismissed or reassigned to other, mainly political, investigative units, as the leadership of the Political Investigation Department recognised that the expertise of the old detectives was essential for successful investigations. Ordinary trade unionists had become proletarian detectives who had no idea of the peculiarities of the watchdog, detective and preventive service. Accordingly, the Department also employed old detectives – even though they were aware that they were not loyal to the Soviet Republic. It was thanks to these detectives that, despite the mixed system and their crisis of values, they produced a successful detection record, uncovering numerous counter-revolutionary plots.¹

On the basis of the above, it can be stated that the detectives and the staff of the Criminal Investigation Department were unable to continue their previous activities and investigations, and the unit had traditionally ceased to exist, unable to perform its original function. Accordingly, the activities of the Corps during this period cannot form part of my thesis, as the Corps of Detectives did not exist. The detective corps resumed its traditional form of operation and the performance of its tasks after the fall of the Soviet Republic, when the former detectives were taken back and the former law enforcement structure regained its original form.

In the context of my chosen topic, there is a relatively long-standing terminological debate about the correct use of the terms law enforcement versus policing. I do not wish to take part in this termino-technical debate, as my thesis was prepared under the auspices of the

¹ Müller-Takács-Tulipán: *Terror 1918-1919*. 194.p.

Doctoral School of Law Enforcement at the National University of Public Service. The subject of my research, given the limitations of the scope, is the guard corps, whether militarily organised or civilian-armed, which are called upon to use legitimate state violence when necessary. Their organisation, their equipment, the training of their personnel, their powers and their experience in the field make them qualified and capable of carrying out this task. In the current Hungarian law enforcement model such a body is the police.

I do not consider it my aim to present those official organisations performing police tasks, which, although their purpose is to enforce law and order in their field of expertise – e.g. fire police, health police – are not authorised to use legitimate state violence, or are not capable of carrying out such tasks due to their organisational structure, equipment and the training of their personnel. These organisations were in any case without detective corps.

In my opinion, the correct terminology to use in historical treatments is the period terminology, with the content as it was used in the period under study. In my thesis I will try to stick to this.

I think it is wrong to project the debate on 21st century terminology back to the 19th and 20th centuries. In my view, it is only possible to talk about a meaningful exploration if we examine events and organisations not in themselves, but in their development. It is with this conviction in mind that I also try to pay attention to the antecedents of the period under study.

I see it as a problem that during the development of our national history in the 19th and 20th centuries, an effective law enforcement organisation - the detective corps - was established, but it no longer exists, and we have little knowledge of the organisation and its workings. As a result, there is no realistic chance that the historical experience gained in this area of the Hungarian state's work can be used to improve.

2. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

In the light of contemporary statistics, it is safe to say that detectives were making significant progress in policing during the period under review. At the same time, the proportion of detectives in relation to the total number of law enforcement officers was lower than today.

So, in essence, even with fewer people than in the 21st century, they achieved positive results, for obvious reasons. In my dissertation I want to explore these reasons. To this end, I have set myself four objectives.

1. How have the parts of the legal system of the period under review that affect detective work as a whole and in its main parts influenced this service activity? In other words, did the

development of the law act as a catalyst for high-quality detective work and, if so, what were the key areas of development?

2. How did the development of the detective corps' organisation, the evolution of its organisational structure and its relationship with law enforcement organisations contribute to the effective functioning of detective work?

3. How has the overall regulation of the human relations of detectives and the specific regulation of the organisation affected the functioning and the ethical state?

4. How have detective methodologies developed and evolved during the period under review?

Finally, the previous four objectives together created the fifth objective, namely to explore and present the history of the detective corps.

My hypotheses :

1. The evolving legal system and societal demand have facilitated the creation and effective functioning of the detective corps.
2. The special organisation of the detective corps is an essential prerequisite for detective work.
3. The detective corps is an indispensable and progressive element of 20th century Hungarian policing.
4. The emergence of investigative services set up within the ranks of partner bodies shows a process of adaptation from the detective corps.
5. In the current law enforcement system, the Criminal Investigation Department of the Budapest Police Headquarters bears the defining characteristics of the Budapest Detective Corps, both in its structure and in its tasks..

3. RESEARCH METHODS AND OBJECTIVES

I was able to write my thesis on this topic mainly by using library and archival research. The knowledge of laws, regulations and ordinances, their interpretation and the contextualisation of recommendations for practical work provide a realistic picture of the tasks, services, human relations, organisational changes and the practical implementation of these factors. The historical background is of prime importance, as it makes it clear that the emerging law enforcement tasks were not suitable for other personnel, and thus the need to create the corps is demonstrated.

Due to the nature of my topic, I mainly used qualitative methods, while the quantitative method was important in the presentation of statistics. As a professional police officer, I have tried to avoid distortions of empirical reality, and I have sought to draw my conclusions objectively and impartially from the facts. In the light of the facts, results and organisational changes, I have drawn conclusions and discovered correlations using inductive and deductive methods. My thesis is aimed at exploring the operational history of a specific area of the Hungarian state in the period under study. Therefore I regard it as a historical work, not a legal history, but an organisational history. However, I also consider it essential that the law enforcement activities in the period under examination were based on the criminal law and criminal procedural rules. Since the main task of detectives is to detect crimes and apprehend offenders, the criminological and criminological approach and interpretation is also of importance.

With my thesis I want to deal with one of the white spots in the history of the Hungarian state

The detective corps of the Metropolitan Police was the subject of several contemporary publications and their subsequent adaptations in various forms, but these works were aimed at presenting a particular sub-area or sub-period. In a comprehensive manner, covering the entire period of the Corps' existence, I first examined the subject by exploring the roots and antecedents of detective activity.

My aim is also to interpret the development of the College in the light of changes in criminology. I wanted to explore and present this topic with a view to providing a model for posterity. Furthermore, I intend that the conclusions and recommendations drawn may be used in the training of police officers and may contribute to the development of the professional awareness of future generations.

4. A CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY CARRIED OUT, BY CHAPTERS

My dissertation is completed with a review of the relevant literature and a historiographical evaluation of the research, after the introduction and its obligatory content elements – *the scientific problem related to my research, the justification of my choice of topic, the aims and methods of the research, and my research hypotheses*. After that, the actual substantive part begins, the first step of which is a historical review. In the first chapter and its five sub-chapters, I describe the introduction to policing prior to dualism, in the light of which we can interpret the process by the end of which it became clear that the existing police force was not capable of carrying out specialised tasks. I will then present the most influential works of the contemporaries who laid the foundations of Hungarian police science and played a significant role in the professionalisation of police work. In these works, they laid the moral, ethical and professional foundations of the Hungarian police profession. Then I begin to introduce the detective corps in the second chapter, which is divided into six subchapters. In addition to presenting the Corps from 1885 to 1944, I will also cover the periods of World War I, nationalisation and consolidation in separate sub-chapters. The formation and development of the political police and its organisation into the corps are also described in separate subsections. In the last sub-chapter I describe the life of the detectives from the second half of the 1920s until 1944. In the third chapter I describe the legal regulation of the activity and the human relations. The seven sub-chapters that follow discuss the details of professional training, further training and legal regulation, and present the operational results. Finally, the background institutions that have contributed greatly to the achievements of detectives and law enforcement are described. Accordingly, the development and evolution of criminal records and forensics are described. In the fourth chapter and its subchapters, I will present the investigative units of the partner agencies, the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, the Royal Hungarian Treasury Police and the Royal Hungarian Border Police, with a special focus on the adoption and application of the detective corps' nomenclature, and I will also briefly describe the activities of private investigators. Finally, in the fifth chapter, I will evaluate my research work, presenting the correlations I have found and answering my hypotheses. I present the new scientific findings and suggest how they can be put into practice.

5. SUMMARISED CONCLUSIONS

In the **introduction**, I have reviewed the literature relevant to my research topic, in addition to explaining the rationale for the choice of topic, formulating the scientific problem, outlining the research hypotheses, and presenting the research methods and objectives.

The work of Ágoston KARVASY is indispensable in the demarcation between public administration and law enforcement. In her publications, Ágnes DEÁK explores the detective and secret police functions of the police of neo-abolitionism. János SALLAI describes the emergence of policing, its role within the public administration and its origins in his book *The Emergence and History of Hungarian Policing*. Mihály ERNYES describes the policing of the counties, the institution of civil commissioners and the role of investigating magistrates in the period before dualism. After the nationalisation of the police, Imre LAKY, Miklós RÉDEY and Rezső KAPY.

The primary sources for the preparation of this thesis are the detective regulations, the reports of the chief captains published from 1895 to 1922, the general and reserve documents K-149 and K-150 of the Ministry of the Interior.

In the **first chapter** I describe the historical background of policing in Hungary from the pre-Dualism period, the starting point of my thesis.

In Hungary, before dualism, the subject of policing changed dynamically depending on the nature of the state system. After the defeat of the 1848-1849 Revolution and War of Independence, policing was clearly dominated by the Austrian-style system of law enforcement coordinated by the Viennese court, but the municipalities were still responsible for the classical police tasks.

The maintenance of order was mainly a local function, replaced by military administration during the wars. The gendarmerie, which was set up in Hungary after the suppression of the 1848-1849 revolution and war of independence, was also set up during a period of military administration to maintain order.

Basically, the imperial gendarmerie and the police were meant to prevent and eliminate resistance and possible conspiracies. With the approach of the Compromise, the pressure of the Empire eased, so that the police could begin to organise itself according to the expectations of the municipalities – although later, during the period of dualism, it became clear that the decentralised system was not suitable for ensuring adequate public security. Classical investigation and prosecution did not exist during this period, and the imperial network of informers served purely political purposes and functioned as a tool of repression. Detective

functions were still limited to surveillance and reporting, usually carried out by civilians, informers.

The nationalisation of the police was delayed until the fall of the Soviet Republic. There had been a demand for it even before the War of Independence in 1848, but it was thwarted by warfare, then by the oppressive power that neglected national organisations, and finally by the Great War. As the history of law and order bodies has shown, the self-government model was not viable in Hungary, given its specific characteristics. Although measures were taken to strengthen public security, such as the posting of royal commissioners, they were only a temporary improvement. The outsourcing and transfer of certain functions helped the work of the body and reduced the bureaucratic burden.

In the **second chapter**, I will explain the new tasks and challenges that led to the creation of the Corps of Detectives, and the evolution of the Corps from its creation until 1944. The technological development of the time and the social changes brought about by urbanisation made it necessary to work undercover, to disguise the police nature of the investigation and to obtain information in a non-open way.

In response to these needs, the detective corps was created in 1885, which, by employing the best of the profession, formed a unit among the metropolitan police forces that soon became a model for the development and working methods of the rural police forces and other law enforcement agencies. The selection and training system, performance indicators, state and civilian awards, and the image of the organisation communicated to the press and the image of the organisation by its staff in the press have contributed to its recognition. In the meantime, the organisation has faced a constant shortage of staff, which has posed both minor and major challenges to its ability to work effectively.

In the history of the detective corps, the period before and after the revolutions of 1919, with all its difficulties, meant an upward trend, referring to the investigative methods consolidated in dualism, then to the development and clarification of the legal regulations, the introduction of the training system, the relief association, the sports club in the period after the fall of the Soviet Republic. Each of these elements raised the level of the College, but their basic service remained unchanged from dualism.

In the **third chapter** I present the human conditions and operational rules that formed the basis of the detective corps' performance indicators.

The final appointment to the College was preceded by a multi-stage selection process, which ensured that the staff on duty were the best qualified members of the profession, fully exploited through specialisation. The system of training, further training and mentoring that

was put in place, and the dynamic legislative environment, made it possible to transfer the body of knowledge accumulated in the organisation more and more fully – a professional example which led rural towns to set up detective corps in their police forces in the dualist era.

The successes and rapid development of the metropolitan police after 1881, which highlighted the backwardness of rural law enforcement, had a not inconsiderable impact on the push for nationalisation of the police at national level, which was the beginning of the development of a national organisation on which a solid basis for development could be built. In my opinion, these uniform and general guarantees are essential for building a quality law enforcement apparatus, whether in terms of training or staff remuneration, a uniform legal framework.

In the case of the subject under study, as in other fields, the activity itself evolved first, followed by the organisation and then the regulation of the field. It is therefore not true that regulation is the result of everything, which does not, of course, call into question the need for legislation. Specialisation is part of the development of the state, and in the case of the subject under study, in the context of the Hungarian civil state, this process took place in Hungary in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Hungarian nation-state responded to the new challenges by detective work on two phenomena. On the one hand, the existence of the detective corps was due to the emergence of large cities; on the other hand, the detective corps proved to be an important instrument of action against the enemies attacking the nation-state – the proletariat dictatorship. The creation, development, activities and achievements of the detective corps reinforce the idea of the active state, rather than the so-called "night watchman state". The dissertation refutes, albeit not directly, the misconception that the military-organised armed guard corps was inadequate for the protection of law and order, since the Royal Hungarian Police was able to integrate detective work into its structure, and its use improved the corps' already effective functioning. Forms such as detective work cannot be exclusively linked to one or other type of police force.

When comparing the performance indicators of the period with the current number of members of the Corps, we can conclude that throughout its existence the Corps of Detectives has performed beyond its strengths, with professional and individual skills strongly compensating for the often severe shortage of staff.

Professionalised criminal records and the scientific advances of the day to help investigative work contributed to the effectiveness of the detective corps.

First and foremost, however, it is necessary to highlight the success of the working method used during the on-site inspection, which contributed most to the success of the detection of the crimes.

The increased presence of detectives in the public space, which is another key to their success, can serve as an example for today's law enforcement officers, as without adequate knowledge of the person and the place, pursuits can be difficult. In spite of social changes and technological progress, I believe that knowledge of society as a medium for the performance of tasks is essential for effective investigative work. A strong bastion of this can be the increased teaching of social science subjects in police departments and educational institutions. However, with the increase in bureaucratic burdens, the extent of time spent in the public sphere is not usually determined by discretion.

In today's terminology, the recognition of the need for hotline activity was also a milestone, and detectives were best placed to apply it effectively. Even contemporaries recognised the dangers of delay to the outcome of an investigation. The organisation of flying squads was also a major step towards improving the way this activity was carried out, and is still used by today's law enforcement units. My current duty station, the Criminal Investigation Department, is also a flying squad unit, with the aim of bringing the perpetrators to justice as soon as possible after the crime has been committed, by taking immediate action.

The methods and methodologies used by the detectives are designed to meet the challenges of metropolitan life. The specific crime challenges of cities made it necessary to set up a body organised to support the Criminal Investigation Department, mainly for territorial work. The city, as a melting pot of different social classes and a place where wealth is concentrated, offered many opportunities for those who led a criminal life. In response to the challenges posed by these urban, industrial and social changes, detectives were constantly developing and updating their methods. In the light of the activities, achievements, organisational and staffing requirements of the Corps of Detectives, it can be said that the objectives of its creation have been fully achieved.

In the **fourth chapter**, I will examine the impact and integration of the operation and legal framework of the detective corps in the case of the partner agencies – the Gendarmerie, the Financial Police, the Border Police – while maintaining the organisational characteristics.

In the first period of the existence of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, we can observe the presence of two aspects: on the individual level, the incorporation of the detective's investigative work methodology in terms of securing the location and obtaining information, and on the organisational level, the emphasis and daily implementation of the importance of

training and education towards subordinates. In the second period, with the emergence of political investigations, there is a strengthening of fieldwork and covert activities in the organisation and a further increase in the importance of professional training.

The investigative methodology of the Royal Hungarian Financial Police, which had a specialised field of expertise, had a clear investigative and law enforcement aspect, given that its mission was to prevent the violation of financial laws, to suppress smuggling and to detect and apprehend the perpetrators. Their investigative methodology included conspiratorial activity, raiding, surveillance and preventive action. As in the case of the detective corps, the role of training was given a high priority: the corps was also staffed by a basic training course and a successful examination, and investigative knowledge was passed on to the members of the corps through weekly practical training sessions, as a practical activity to be learned through practical examples.

In the meantime, the Royal Hungarian Border Police's service tasks were increasingly focused on investigative work as the number of border crossings and guarded border sections increased. The cornerstone of successful border police work was the continuous exchange of information with partner law enforcement agencies, as their areas of jurisdiction did not overlap but their areas of operation did – thus, for successful law enforcement, it was necessary to share information on crimes outside their jurisdiction, thus building a common knowledge base.

6. NEW SCIENTIFIC RESULTS, ANSWERS TO HYPOTHESES

Based on the comparison of the objectives and hypotheses stated at the beginning of my research with the research results, I believe that I have achieved the following new scientific results.

1. In the work of my research, I have established and demonstrated that the evolving legal system and societal demand have facilitated the creation and effective functioning of the detective corps.

The law that nationalised the Metropolitan Police already specified the investigative tasks of the pursuit. The changing nature of crime and its characteristics created the need for the creation of a detective service. The modernisation of the Penal Code and later the introduction of the Code of Criminal Procedure provided a solid basis for carrying out stable investigative work. In 1884, a Ministry of Interior instruction supplementing Act XXI of 1881 regulated the details of investigations. Subsequently, three detective regulations were issued to

ensure quality and modernity in the performance of their duties. I have found that the constantly evolving legal background and environment was a prerequisite for the development of investigative techniques and tactics, the emergence of the detective corps.

In addition, the police, including the detective corps, have also actively responded to new phenomena and challenges that cause social problems. In this process, the detective corps has taken up the fight against illegal gambling, which at the time claimed many lives and destroyed families, and has also achieved undeniable results in the fight against drug-related crime, which is becoming more widespread in society. Overall, therefore, the development and growth of the legal framework and the needs of society have influenced the activities and organisation of the force.

2. I have established and proven that the specialised organisation of the detective corps is an indispensable prerequisite for detective work.

Only specialised staff were able to carry out the new, specific tasks mentioned above. Certain investigative tasks were part of the detective's specific toolbox. Tasks involving the disguise of a police character were part of their everyday duties, which is one of the reasons why the Corps was the only group of personnel who were qualified and competent to perform the tasks assigned to them. So without the Corps, the specific tasks would not have been possible. The recruitment requirements, the process of getting into the specialised category, the higher remuneration all contributed to the creation of a high quality, highly qualified staff. Such a highly qualified workforce has almost inevitably led to results, as confirmed by statistics and international recognition. The technical support, modern methods and methodologies developed, and the service instructions, which also provided guidance for personal and professional conduct, all guaranteed professional success. All these factors have, in my view, contributed to professional success and international recognition. The need to ensure an increased presence in the field and to become familiar with society as a medium for service provision were prerequisites for acquiring a high level of local and personal knowledge, which, given the technical background of the time, was a prerequisite for successful professional work. After examining the three service instructions, there is no question of the existence of an adequately regulated legal background. The framework was provided by the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Instructions on Investigations, which set out the cases in which the police authorities act, when it is necessary to order an investigation, what the investigation should be and how it should proceed. The detective regulations and their annexes to the service instructions described the principles and conduct to be followed in the course of

the investigation and the performance of the service, as a framework for the police. This uniform and detailed legal framework guaranteed lawful and efficient operation.

3. As a result of qualitative research, I found that the detective corps is an indispensable and progressive element of 20th century Hungarian policing.

Special investigative tasks required a specific form of service. The metropolitan police did not have the personnel for this purpose, and the institution of civilian commissioners was unsuitable for the task due to its lack of training and unreliability. The Nationalisation Act provided a solid basis for the creation of a developing metropolitan police force, which, after the strengthening of the uniformed personnel, allowed the establishment of a special civilian uniformed group of personnel to perform the pre-nationalisation and investigative tasks defined in the nationalisation act. The metropolitan police were at the forefront of this, as public security in rural areas and villages was not yet at an adequate level, so the setting up of similar investigative units was out of the question. Detectives were therefore a special task force set up to support the criminal investigation department, for which they were the only personnel with the necessary training and skills. Therefore I believe that the corps' indispensability is justified, since no other service could respond effectively to the challenges of criminology and criminalistics, and the police responded to these challenges by setting up the detective corps, and very effectively at that.

4. I have demonstrated that the emergence of investigative services set up within the ranks of the co-police corps shows a process of adaptation from the detective corps.

No better proof of the indispensability of the methodologies developed than the process by which the co-investigating bodies adapted, according to their own specialisation, the elements and strategies already well-established by detectives.

The detective corps has set a positive example, becoming a unique progressive element of policing. Consequently, in responding to crime and patterns of offending, fellow law enforcement agencies have sought to use their methods and methodologies. This shows a degree of continuity, which I demonstrated with a two-stage model in the case of the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie, and then by examining the investigative services of the Royal Hungarian Financial Police. Thus, regardless of the specialisation, all these bodies have adapted the methods developed, applied the curricula and common rules. Although they have adapted the recommendations and implementation of their own specific tasks in accordance with their own organisational and operational rules, the basic principles have been retained and can still be found in the investigative units of their partner law enforcement agencies.

5. I have deduced and proved that the current Criminal Investigation Department of the Budapest Police Headquarters, both in its structure and in its tasks, corresponds to the successor of the Budapest Detective Corps, according to its position in the system.

The Budapest Police Headquarters Criminal Investigation Department of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Budapest Police Headquarters Criminal Investigation Department is a unit modelled on the detectives of the time. After the war, the deteriorating public security in Budapest – armed criminal groups, homicides, robberies – made it necessary to set up rapid-response units, and as a result the R-Group was formed in 1946, which performed its tasks until the consolidation of 1956. Their primary task was to respond to crimes committed in the capital, hot pursuit, and elimination of armed offenders. This unit was staffed by uniformed personnel. However, as in 1885, following the advent of the detectives, this period of difficulties for the police – shortage of staff, lack of trained personnel, disorganisation of the force – required further specialisation in terms of crime categories. The departments and sub-departments thus reorganised were unable to carry out checks and action services in public areas because of their investigations. In 1981, by order of the Minister of the Interior, the Action Division, the predecessor of the Criminal Investigation Division, was set up by a measure of the National Police Chief to perform the above tasks. The subdivision consisted of 58 investigators, who were deployed in 8 teams, rotating between Pest and Buda. To ensure successful operation, the staff consisted of investigators and uniformed police personnel assigned to the subdivision. Their tasks were to provide assistance at the request of their counterparts, apprehend and search for wanted persons, carry out the instructions of the Budapest Police Headquarters Central Office, and carry out recurrent checks of public places of entertainment, underpasses and prominent locations. The sub-division carried out raids on railway stations, metro stations, nightclubs and other places of entertainment on special orders. In the course of their increased service in public areas, they acquired personal and local knowledge, contacts and information systems. In 1982, the *Magyar Rendőr* described the significant increase in the number of wanted persons apprehended in public security operations as a result of the blessed activities of the Action Department. The subdivision carried out its tasks under the authority of the deputy chief of the criminal investigation department. Later, the number of officers was increased and the unit was expanded to departmental level. The highly experienced officers serving in this unit became notorious in criminal circles, being nicknamed the "Jumpers" for their unexpected appearance in crime-infested areas, where they would jump out of their service vehicles and take action against delinquents.

Despite organisational and staffing changes, the basic tasks remain the same. The traditional

and legendary name "Actioners" has been changed to Criminal Investigation Department. At national level, it is the only hotline team of investigators working exclusively in the public domain, supporting the Criminal Investigation Department – currently the subordinate department of the Criminal Investigation Department – and its partner agencies. In my opinion, the detectives of the time are not without a worthy successor. Like their contemporaries, the staff here do not take notes, their bureaucratic burden is much less than that of the detectives in the district or other agencies, and their actions are documented in the form of reports. They perform their duties in public places, with a great knowledge of the place and of the people. In my opinion, the detectives of this department, modelled on the classic flying squad, are worthy successors to the detectives of their time in terms of personnel, training, dedication and efficiency. By inheriting part of the detectives' tasks, with the support of the Criminal Investigation Department, the department's role has been continued.

The influence of the storm troopers that appeared in the 1940s can also be felt in the operation of the Criminal Investigation Department. Although the members of the unit are investigators, they are basically a support force for the Criminal Investigation Department without investigative powers, and do not carry out any investigative work (interrogations, inspections), but are equipped with bulletproof shields, high-grade bulletproof vests and serial rifles, so that they can carry out their liquidation and realisation tasks effectively. Moreover, the exploration of the detective corps itself in such depths is considered a novelty in itself, as it was a blank spot in the series of doctoral theses to date. In our country, the need for this was recognised, and the process of turning policing into a profession and formulating the personal and professional competences required to carry out this profession began before dualism, with the foundations of police science being laid. In the course of my presentation of investigative work, I also considered it appropriate to demonstrate that the solid foundations of the investigative, preventive and detective work, whether in terms of the methodology of implementation or the organisation of the service, were laid during the dualist period. These roots can also be found in the study of the law enforcement services of our time.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS, PRACTICAL USE OF RESEARCH RESULTS

The main result of the research work is the presentation of the operation, organisation, structure and personnel of the detective corps, as well as its position and role in the Hungarian police system. Among the national law enforcement bodies, the detective corps has not yet been described in the above-mentioned detail, so the dissertation pays off a debt to the history of policing. Thus, I recommend it to academic societies dealing with the history of policing, as well as to the academic staff of the Police Museum and to researchers on the history of law enforcement bodies.

On the basis of the above, it is only possible to use the findings for the purposes of organisational development if there is openness to the specificities of the period and the particularities of the body.

Today, the use of these experiences, practices and methods is only possible with a professional, unbiased approach. I see the usefulness of the values identified primarily in the development of a sense of identity. Considering that today's detectives serve in the National Police Headquarters, and that the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the establishment of their service regulations, I recommend my dissertation to the Regulatory Department of the Deputy State Secretariat for Regulation and Coordination on the regulatory side, and to the Personnel Directorate of the National Police Headquarters on the executive side.

In terms of practical use, I consider it justified to teach the methodological and ideological history of the activities of the discovered body in the course of police training, as this would set a kind of professional example for future generations of law enforcement officers, reviving the dedication and spirit of the time.

Since the period, activities, history, the emergence of investigative work, its role in supporting the Criminal Investigation Department, personnel, the thesis is incomplete, it is worth considering its publication as a separate work, thus enriching the Hungarian literature.

8. THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATE'S LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ON THE TOPIC

1. Szigetvári, Oszkár: *Detektívek a szolgálatban és a magánéletben.*

In: Kovács István; Frigyer László; Tirts Tibor (szerk.) Globális kérdések – globális válaszok: rendészettudomány a hallgatók szemével. Magyar Rendészettudományi Társaság, Budapest, 2021. p. 168-179.

2. Szigetvári, Oszkár: *History of law enforcement activities of the ground.*

Rendvédelem Történeti Füzetek. (2021). XXXI. évf. 61-62.sz. p. 83-88.

3. Szigetvári, Oszkár: *Bűnüldöző szervek helyszíni tevékenységének története.*

Rendvédelem Történeti Füzetek. (2021). XXXI. évf. 61-62.sz. p. 75-82.

4. Szigetvári, Oszkár: *Detektívtestület a főkapitányi jelentések tükrében.*

Magyar Rendészet. 2021/2. p. 201-214.

5. Szigetvári, Oszkár: *A Magyar Királyi Csendőrség nyomozó munkája szervezeti keretének kiépülése.* In: Vedó Attila - Parádi József (szerk.) Ünnepi tanulmányok Szakály Sándor 65. születésnapja tiszteletére. Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság, Budapest, 2020. p. 179-218.

6. Szigetvári, Oszkár: *Nyomozás és bűnüldözés a detektívtestület göröcsövén keresztül.*

In: Baráth, Noémi Emőke; Mezei, József (szerk.): Rendészet-Tudomány-Aktualitások: A rendészettudomány a fiatal kutatók szemével. Doktoranduszok Országos Szövetsége (DOSZ) Budapest, 2020. p. 213-227.

7. Szigetvári Oszkár: *Fővárosi detektívtestület az államosítások időszakában 1881-1923.*

Rendvédelem Történeti Füzetek. (2019). XXIX. évf. 58. sz. p. 181-195.

8. Szigetvári, Oszkár: *A detektív munka háttértámogatása.*

In: Baráth Noémi Emőke; Mezei József (szerk.): Rendészet-Tudomány-Aktualitások: A rendészettudomány a fiatal kutatók szemével. Doktoranduszok Országos Szövetsége, Rendészettudományi Osztály, Budapest, 2019. p. 229-233.

9. Parádi József; Szakály Sándor ; Szigetvári Oszkár ; Zétényi Zsolt: *Nyomozati utasítások a Magyar Királyi Csendőrség számára*. Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság, Budapest, 2018. p. 99-126.

10. Szigetvári Oszkár: *A magyar bűnügyi nyilvántartás kezdete*.

In: Parádi József (szerk.): Ünnepi parergák Boda József 65. születésnapja tiszteletére.

Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság, Budapest, 2018. p. 169-180.

11. Szigetvári Oszkár: *A fővárosi rendőrség detektívtestülete*.

Rendvédelem-történeti Füzetek (2017). XXVII. évf. 53. sz. p. 85-96.

12. Szigetvári Oszkár: *Nyomozó tevékenység a Magyar Királyi Pénzügyőrségnél*.

Rendvédelem Történeti Füzetek. (2017). XXVII. évf. 54. sz. p. 127-140.

13. Szigetvári Oszkár: *A csendőr járásőrmesterek*.

Rendvédelem Történeti Hírlevél. (2017). XXVII. évf. 53-54. sz. p. 165-178.

14. Szigetvári Oszkár: *A fővárosi rendőrség detektívtestülete 1885-1918*.

In: Parádi József (szerk.): Ünnepi parergák Ernyes Mihály 65. születésnapja tiszteletére.

Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelem-történeti Tudományos Társaság, Budapest, 2016. p. 133-162.

15. Rendészettudományi Szaklexikon. Dialóg Campus, Budapest, 2019.

9. THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATE'S PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC CURRICULUM VITAE

Major Oszkár Szigetvári started his police career in 2004 after graduating at the Budapest Police College. His first duty station was the Action Department of the Budapest Police Headquarters, where he worked as a patrol officer with the rank of sergeant. In 2008, after completing the investigator training course, he was appointed to the position of a deputy investigator in his former duty station.

In 2009, he attended an officer retraining course, and after successfully completing it, he was appointed to his first officer position in 2010. Until 2016, he worked in the Criminal Investigation Unit of the now defunct Action Division, first as a senior investigator, then as a senior investigator. In 2020, he was appointed Head of Operations Division I of the Criminal Investigation Department, a position he has held ever since. During the 16 years prior to this, he was involved in public work in accordance with the tasks of the Department, during which he was involved in the hotline detection, prevention and apprehension of perpetrators of numerous high-profile crimes in the capital city.

He started his college studies in 2005 at the Kodolányi János University, majoring in social work, where he graduated in 2009. In 2014, he was admitted to the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University, where he graduated in 2016 as a criminologist.

In 2016, he started his doctoral studies at the Doctoral School of Law Enforcement of the National University of Public Service. In 2018, he successfully passed the complex examination and in 2021 he obtained his diploma. In 2022, he completed the additional foreign language requirements for the degree. During his doctoral studies, he published 15 scientific papers, including several co-authored monographs. He has also presented several papers at scientific conferences and co-organised scientific events.

His academic activities were carried out as a police officer at the Doctoral School of Law Enforcement of the National University of Public Service between 2020-2021, and since 2016 he has been a member of the Szemere Bertalan Hungarian Society for the History of Law Enforcement.