

COUNTRY Hungary Approved For Release 2003/12/18 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000200170005-6

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Kecskemet and Cegled

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 22 to 27 August 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 20 January 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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Soviet Troops in Kecskemet.

1. On 26 August 1952, Soviet troops were seen in the former Artillery or Rudolf Barracks on the north side of Izsaki Street and west of the Kecskemet/Maria Varos railroad station in Kecskemet (Y 6/N 95). Some officers were seen at the eastern gate of the barracks installation from where they went into the headquarters building nearby. Sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets stood at the western gate. There were no sentries at the other entrances. In the early afternoon, three details each of about 30 unarmed recruits wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the installation by the western gate. They received basic drill and field training west of the barracks installation. A T-34 tank [redacted] was seen north of the western gate. Two low vehicle sheds, each 60 meters long and 20 meters wide, were visible from the west. [redacted] 3 or 4 tank turrets through the open gates of one of these sheds. A ZIS truck [redacted] stood in the yard. Sidecar motorcycle [redacted] entered the barracks installation, coming from the town.¹

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2. On the same day, [redacted] a Soviet airstrip with firm turf sod west of the barracks installation mentioned in paragraph 2. Three single-engine Po-2 biplanes and two Soviet trucks were parked there near two round white tents and a shed with some gasoline barrels.²

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3. On 26 August 1952, a Soviet motor vehicle repair shop was observed on the southern side of Izsaki Street near the airstrip and east of a barracks installation on the same side of the street which was occupied by Hungarian troops. This Soviet installation included 2 new garages, 10 meters wide and 25 meters long, with concreted area and large gates, a new building used as assembly and locksmith's shop, another new workshop building, a two-story old building used as quarters and a little guard building. The entire workshop area was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] 15 Soviet soldiers who were employed on various repair jobs. A new six-wheeled ZIS truck [redacted] driven by a soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets, left the workshop carrying a gas welding apparatus. Vehicles under repair included about 10 trucks and 2 dark-green buses for about 30 persons.

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4. On 26 August 1952, the former Erzsaket Barracks on the southern side of Izsaki Street appeared to be only lightly occupied. An extremely young

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Soviet sentry with red-bordered black epaulets stood at the northern gate. About 15 Soviet soldiers fired rifles at the target range. A radio station in the western part of the barracks installation consisted of a small building and 5 steel tubular masts, about 6 meters high, 2 of them supporting a four-wire antenna. Each of the four wires of the antenna was connected with the small building by a special line.

5. On 26 August 1952, the former Ferenc Jozsef Barracks on the southern side of Dozsa Gyorgy Street, previously Regi Vasar Street, immediately east of the railroad line and southeast of the Kecskemet/Maria Varos railroad station, was also occupied by Soviet personnel. [redacted] a Soviet sentry and two uniformed women wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On the same day, 15 uniformed women with red-bordered black epaulets were seen in the barracks installation on the west side of Honved Street. The two gates of the installation were not guarded. Pobyeda type sedan [redacted] the driver of which had red-bordered black epaulets without insignia and, later, sidecar motorcycle [redacted] the driver of which also had red-bordered black epaulets, were parked at the northern entrance of this installation. A high lookout post with sentry and a single wire antenna about 30 meters long were mounted on the roof of a building in the northern part of the installation. [redacted] the building was a headquarters building. Six to eight trucks and sedans were in an open garage on the east side of the installation.
6. On 25 August 1952, no sentries or other troops were seen in the former Cavalry Barracks, also called Hussars' Barracks, southeast of the Central Railroad Station on the north side of Szolnoki Street. The entire barracks area was densely planted with trees. West of this installation and separated from it by a small street running in a northerly direction, [redacted] there was a Soviet hospital in a building surrounded by an iron fence and guarded by sentries with red-bordered black epaulets. A red cross on a large white canvas was placed beside the entrance to the building. An ambulance, [redacted] stood in front of the building while about 40 persons wearing blue hospital clothing were seen in the yard.
7. On 25 August 1952, open ZIS-type truck [redacted] with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets was in front of the building at 24 Szechenyi Street which is on the southwest side of the street. Two Soviet soldiers in blue coveralls carried boxes with vegetables from the yard of this building. On the same day, Soviet soldiers including an unarmed soldier with red-bordered black epaulets, a captain with red-bordered epaulets and two woman soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen in front of a three-story building on the northeast side of Szechenyi Square, at the corner of Hornyak Street. From this building which had the Hungarian inscription Iparos Otthon (Workmen's Home), two insulated wires led to the one-story house, No 8 Szechenyi Square, on the west side of this square. An unarmed soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen standing in front of this house.
8. On 22 August 1952, 4 Soviet officers including a major, and about 14 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 3 of them with tank insignia, were seen in the waiting room of the Kecskemet railroad station. On the same day, no Soviet quarters were noticed in the southern section of

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Kecskemet and west of Szegedi Street. Only three Soviet trucks were seen in the town.¹

Soviet Troops in Cegled.

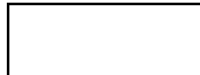
- 25X1 9. On 22 August 1952, the former Cavalry Barracks at the eastern edge of Cegled (Q 48/O 08), between Toerteli Street and Szolnoki Street, was lightly occupied by Soviet troops whose total strength was estimated at about 150 men. About 40 men were playing ball games and 25 men were piling lumber. All sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. The observation posts on the roof of a building in the northwestern part of the installation were not occupied. Two uniformed women with red-bordered black epaulets entered the quarters. Two armored vehicles with gun barrels were washed on a ramp in the eastern part of the installation, while the upper parts of the turrets of 4 other tanks were visible in the barracks yard. A gun barrel, about 5 meters long, lay on some steel cables near the tanks. Truck [redacted] was seen in the street leading toward Szolnok (Q 48/O 37). A Hungarian watchman of a can factory nearby, which was being dismantled, stated that the Soviet troops stationed in Cegled were in the Kocser forest.
- 25X1 10. On 22 August 1952, the barracks installation on the northeast side of Toerteli Street, about 400 meters east of the crossing of this street and the railroad line from Cegled to Kecskemet, appeared to be lightly occupied by Soviet troops. The barracks installation consisted of brick buildings and had a barbed-wire fence, about 2 meters high, with concrete poles. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. About 65 soldiers were seen in the installation area. Some of the soldiers were firing rifles at the firing range in the western part of the installation. A covered tank with 5 large bogie wheels and no track supporting rollers was parked parallel to the fence near the street. [redacted] Another Soviet quarters or store house, about 250 meters west of the barracks installation and east of the crossing of Toerteli Street and railroad line, was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. It had a barbed-wire fence with six wires and wooden poles. Large quantities of firewood were piled in the yard.
- 25X1 11. On 22 August 1952, a Soviet office with sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets without branch of service insignia, was stationed in the building No 1 Rakoczi Street on the east side of this street just north of Arpad Square. Two Soviet lieutenants wearing gold epaulets with red stripes were seen entering the building. A Soviet corporal wearing red-bordered black epaulets and tank insignia stood in front of the two-story building No 11 Rakoczi Street at the corner east of Rakoczi Street and north of Teleki Street. A Soviet captain and a lieutenant entered the building. On 24 August 1952, some Soviet soldiers were seen in the third story of the house No 9 Rakoczi Street which was at the corner east of Rakoczi Street and south of Teleki Street.
- 25X1 12. On 22 August 1952, four Soviet trucks near the station [redacted]
25X1 The trucks were being loaded with firewood by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. A Soviet T-34 tank which was equipped with a 85-mm caliber

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25X1 gun without muzzle brake

25X1 stood on a four-axle flatcar at a ramp. In the evening of the same day, the tank had been moved. the bulk of the Soviet troops stationed in Kecskemet and Cegled were out for field practices.

25X1 Comment. The information again confirms that Soviet troops are stationed in Kecskemet and Cegled. The units included elements of the 2d Gds Mecz Div which, at the time of the observations, seem to have been out for practices except for guard details and recruits who had recently arrived. No identification of the units quartered in the individual installations, is possible. The officers seen near the headquarters building in the eastern part of the former Artillery Barracks in Kecskemet mentioned in paragraph 1 may indicate that the divisional headquarters is stationed there.

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25X1 Comment. The three Po-2, on the airstrip near the building of a headquarters, probably a divisional headquarters, may belong to a special communication squadron. Planes of this type were also observed in Landsberg on the Warthe River (Polish-occupied Germany).

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