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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	76th Antiaircraft Artillery Unit in Ceske Budejovice	DATE DISTR.	29 June 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	8
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Organization of the 76th AAA Regiment in Ceske Budejovice; 25X1
 - a. Regimental headquarters
 - b. Headquarters platoon: Commanding officer
Deputy CO
8 radio operators
7 telephone operators
6 drivers
4 cooks
2 medical NCOs.
 - c. AA troops (batteries): 1st battery: 5 officers
4 radio operators
4 signal personnel
2 range finder operators
2 ordnance fitters
2 scouts
2 platoons consisting each of 26 to 30 men
2nd battery: the same as 1st battery
3rd battery: the same as 1st battery
4th battery: the same as 1st battery
One additional battery: of large caliber AA machine guns--30 men.
NCO's school--50 trainees.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	x	ARMY	Ev	x	NAVY		x	AIR		x	FBI		AEC				
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2. Subordination: 1st Infantry Division, \checkmark eske Budejovice¹

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4. Equipment:

a. Guns: 8 AA guns 37 mm., Soviet, model 39-S. Length of barrel: 2,315 meters. Rate of fire: theoretical, 160-180 rounds per minute; effective, 70-90 r.p.m. Automatic loading: 5 rounds in a magazine, 10 magazines on a loading tray. Firing mechanism operated by hand or foot. Maximum range: 8,000 meters, maximum effective range: 4-6,000 meters. Angle of traverse: 360°; angle of elevation: 5-90°. The gun crew consisted of 8 men: gunner, elevating gear operator, traversing gear operator, speed and range setter, direction and elevation setter, loader, 2 assistant loaders. When in action the gun rested on four supporting arms. Guns were towed by Tatra 128 and Ford trucks on a four-wheel carriage. There were two kinds of shells: A.P., and German type NG-8 H.E. shells. In both cases explosion occurred automatically after 11 to 12 seconds.

In July 1953 new Czech 125 mm. AA guns, based on a Soviet model, were issued.³ In addition, four-barrel and single-barrel machine guns of a German type and probably of the same caliber were issued.

b. Uniforms: Type "20" of khaki color; black shoulder boards with red lining; and a badge featuring an AA gun and an airplane.

c. Vehicles: 3 Tatra 128s, 18 Ford trucks, 8 Praga RN, 6 Praga RNG, 4 Skoda jeeps, 6 Jawa 250 ccm. motorcycles.

5. Location: The barracks are situated on the eastern edge of town, not far from the main station, at the road leading from the main station through Suche Vrbno to Srubec. The camp was built by the German Army during World War II. After the war it was repaired and enlarged. The unit has been there since 1951. The south side of the barracks area borders the road from \checkmark eske Budejovice to Suche Vrbno and Dobra Voda; the west side borders the road from \checkmark eske Budejovice to Suche Vrbno and Srubec; the northwest edge borders a plant producing tar paper, and a coal storage yard.

6. Summer training camp:

a. The unit went to a summer training camp at Vranovice near Rozmital for live firing practice. Other AA units participating in the training came from Pilsen, Vimperk, Jince, Jihlava, and Prague. Units were practicing firing on ground targets with infantry weapons and AA firing with 37 mm. AA guns, and 88 mm. AA guns, and the new type of 125 mm. AA gun was tried for six rounds. Four-barrel AA machine guns were fired as well. The target for AA fire was a canvas bag towed on a cable 1,500 meters long by twin-engine Siebel aircraft from the Pilsen airfield.

b. Stages of live firing at towed aerial targets:

- (1) 16 rounds in 30 seconds, target 500 m. high, range of fire 1,500 meters;
- (2) 16 rounds in 30 seconds, target 1,000 m. high, range of fire 2,000 m.;
- (3) 16 rounds in 30 seconds, firing from two guns, target 1,000 to 1,500 meters high, range of fire 2,500 meters;

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- (4) 16 rounds in 40 seconds (one gun, test of firing at an invisible target with covered range-finder, target 3,000 meters high);
- (5) 24 rounds in 30 seconds, target 2,000 m. high, range of fire 2,500 m.;
- (6) 16 rounds in 40 seconds, height 3,000 m., range of fire 4,000 m., four guns.

c. Classification of results:

- (1) 10 mils from the wind bag--excellent (360° = 6,400 mils);
- (2) 10 to 15 mils from the wind bag--good;
- (3) 15 to 20 mils from the wind bag--satisfactory;
- (4) 20 mils and more from the wind bag--unsatisfactory.

d. Live firing at paratroops: All the guns were firing H.E. shells, German type NG-8, with time fuse. Firing started at 2,500 to 3,000 meters range. The rate of fire was approximately 12 rounds per minute.

e. Antitank firing: Initial range of fire was maximum 1,000 meters. Three shots per gun were fired at a tank in the following sequence: A.P., H.E., and A.P.

f. Firing while in motion: In case of an alert during march the elevating-gear operator and traversing-gear operator sit on the gun; 10 rounds are ready in the loading tray, a case with 40 rounds is on the firing platform. Range, speed, and direction of an approaching aircraft are announced. As soon as the aircraft appears, the truck must stop within 5 seconds. The following members of the crew get down to the gun: speed and range setter, direction and elevation setter, and gun loader. As soon as these take positions at the gun the truck continues driving. Firing is done in motion, the speed may be up to 60 km. per hour.

g. Other anti-aircraft artillery ranges were at Kezmarok and in Kamenica nad Cirochou.

7. Morale in the unit:

a. The strict discipline, the lack of passes and leaves resulted in poor morale. Passes were issued only as a reward by the section leader, the platoon commander, or the battery commander. Leave was granted to those soldiers who fulfilled both political and military requirements and who acted as political agitators among the men. There were cases when a soldier had no leave for a whole year. The standard of conduct of some of the officers was also not very high and many of them handled the men very badly. About 10% of the men were convinced Communists.

b. The food was badly prepared and sometimes there was not even a sufficient quantity of it.

c. Political instructions took place twice a week for two hours. Every morning there was half an hour of political instruction. Most of the men did not take this political instruction seriously.

8. Personnel:

Lt. General RYTIR (fnu), CG of the 1st Military District.

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Lt. ALEXANDER (fnu), attached to the 3rd battery. [REDACTED]

2nd Lt. Milan MACHO, attached to the 3rd battery. [REDACTED]

Lt. BREJCHA (fnu), CO of the 4th battery. [REDACTED]

Lt. KORBEL (fnu), deputy CO of the 4th battery. [REDACTED]

2nd Lt. ZAHALKA (fnu), attached to the 4th battery. [REDACTED]

2nd Lt. HNAD (fnu), long-range anti-aircraft guns battery CO. [REDACTED]

Lt. KOUBA (fnu), deputy CO to Hnad. [REDACTED]

9. Legend to the sketch of the barracks:

1. Barbed-wire fence
2. Main entrance, sentry's booth
3. Inner road
4. Wooden hut, regimental HQ (60 x 20 m.)
5. Dispensary, NCOs' billets
6. Wooden hut, Communist Party rooms (20 x 10 m.)
7. Wooden hut, billets (60 x 30 m.)
8. Canteen and lecture room (20 x 40 m.)
9. Wooden hut, batteries' stores (30 x 20 m.)
10. Bathrooms, wooden hut (60 x 20 m.)
11. NCOs' school billets (40 x 20 m.)
12. Sports accessories store (60 x 20 m.)
13. Gun and truck garages (60 x 40 m.)
14. Brick hut, kitchen (80 x 30 m.)
15. Brick building, built in 1953, new dispensary (40 x 20 m.)
16. Wooden hut, Chemical Warfare materials store (60 x 15 m.)
17. Wooden hut, cadets' billets (40 x 20 m.)
18. 3-story brick building, auto workshop, ammunition store

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- 19. Gun and car garages, fuel store, brick building (120 x 40 m.)
- 20. Ordnance workshop, wooden hut (60 x 20 m.)
- 21. Tar-paper factory

Comments:

[Redacted]

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- 1. The 76th AA Artillery Regiment described in the report is probably the AAA Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division, since:

the AAA Bn. of the 1st Infantry Division is [Redacted] in Ceske Budejovice;

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no AAA regiment is subordinated to a division or to a corps; AAA regiments are directly subordinated to the General Staff;

an AAA regiment would not be equipped with 37-mm. guns;

the number of 8 guns and 35 trucks is too small for a regiment;

a regiment would not be commanded, as a rule, by a captain.

- 2.

[Redacted]

- 3. The appearance of a new Czech 125 mm. AA gun

[Redacted] is probably concentrated on improving fire-control devices, self-aiming shells, and anti-aircraft rockets.

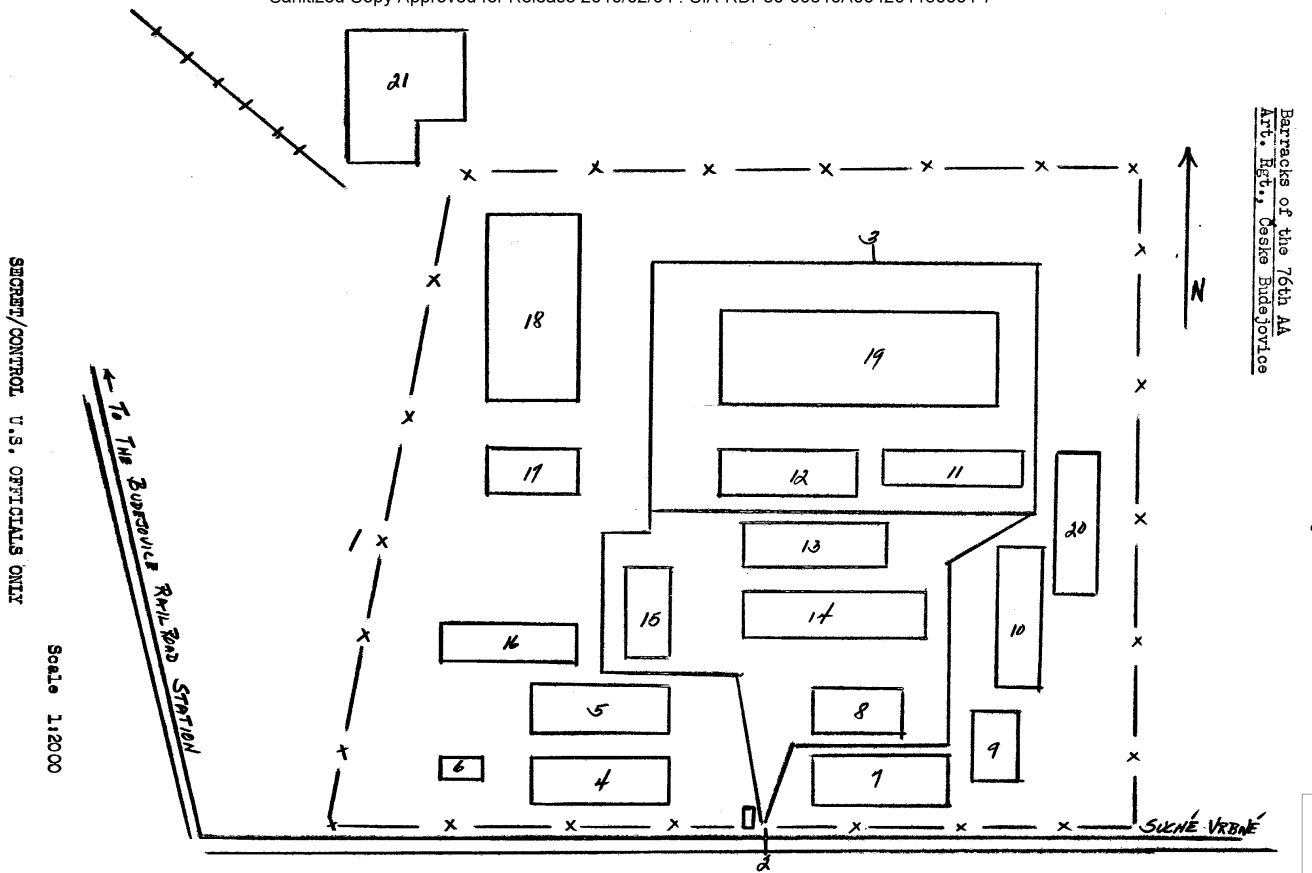
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