

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO. 25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 26 November 1954

SUBJECT NCO School and Reconnaissance Training of the 23rd Rifle Regiment at Hanry

NO. OF PAGES 5 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 25X1

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The NCO school of the 23rd Rifle Regiment is located near an old ruined grain mill outside Hanry. The school consists of two buildings. In summer 1952, the school had about 20 people. At other times, only a unit of about 30 men remained for guard purposes. The school buildings were formerly used for the storage of grain.

The school was also conducted. The commander of the school was Jiri Bakko, a 2nd Lt. His superior was the commander of the regiment, Bakko (fnu). The entire strength of the school was 20 men. Each day of training lasted 20 minutes of "political enlightenment". The members of the school were drawn mostly from the ranks of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

3. The training consisted of basic training and theory of reconnaissance. The students learned to recognize different types of aircraft and weapons of the Western powers - mainly of the U.S. They were told that an American division is able to fight with only one-third of its strength, since two-thirds are used for support. They also learned to recognize uniforms and ranks of Western soldiers. About American military tactics they were told the following:

- a) The Americans don't like to risk lives. Their offensive is psychological and based on material superiority.
- b) They use aircraft primarily, which drop incendiaries.
- c) They bomb primarily the supply and communications lines.
- d) After an air attack, they start with artillery and break through with tanks.

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- e) Only then comes the infantry; human life is highly valued.
- f) The Americans attack from a centralized spot and attack in two or three places. They do not use the wedge type of attack like the Germans and do not use the squeeze like the Russians.
4. The trainees were told about new American [redacted] recoilless weapon which weighs 40 pounds, has [redacted], is electrically operated [redacted] tank with di [redacted] at 800 meters, but which is very [redacted]
5. American military tactics consist mainly of a lot of firing and a waste of ammunition, firing without reason or targets. They try to scare the enemy.
6. The trainees were taught about [redacted] tactics of General [redacted] and which [redacted] use the American [redacted] formation is [redacted] rear by units dressed as Americans. [redacted] about the carelessness of the American soldiers, especially those in the rear echelons, and that such tactics [redacted] used with success. By such methods it is possible to get [redacted] fuel. The American soldier was described as an adventurer, of bad character, who receives many financial bonuses. The Americans are used to money.
7. About their own tactics in the use of machine guns, the trainees were told that in practice their own unit would send out a company which would establish machine guns on the flanks. Then they would send out a provocation company whose purpose it would be to cause a counter-attack. The company would move back and the enemy while counterattacking would be caught between the machine guns, which would have a wide field of fire. The [redacted] Czechoslovak machine guns [redacted] this type of [redacted] the use of new mounts [redacted] can remain [redacted] firing laterally.
8. Each member of the reconnaissance unit is equipped with a submachine gun, pistol, knife, and hand grenades; the platoon also has [redacted] wave transmitter and sometimes also a light machine gun. Standing orders are that the platoon's assignment must be accomplished and then it must fight back to its own unit. [redacted] are surrounded, be [redacted] the last round from their sub [redacted] they must put in [redacted] all plans and orders written [redacted]
9. The following methods for eliminating [redacted] are taught: a) with a knife or by hand, b) with a belt or [redacted] use of the guard's steel helmet. The American helmet is especially good for this, since it reaches deep into the neck of the soldier. This can be used when the enemy has the chin strap fastened under his chin. The attacker comes to the sentry from behind, grabs the helmet at the forehead and pulls it quickly towards himself. With this fast movement the man's neck is broken. When the attacker needs a living prisoner, he comes to the enemy from behind and quickly encircles the man's neck with his right hand. The attacker then grabs hold of his own elbow and yanks the man sharply towards himself. This takes the man's breath away. The students also were taught special ways of binding the prisoners and immobilizing them.
10. Other training concerned knowledge of terrain, topography, orientation in terrain at night and during the day; practical training in orientation with [redacted] recognition of noises in the night; [redacted] distance [redacted]

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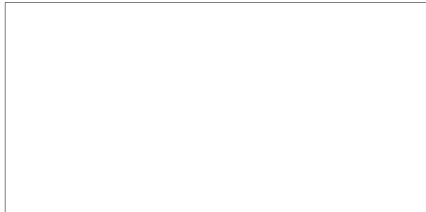


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The purpose of this training was to pass information through the enemy lines and to use the enemy's code words were

11. The trainees were taught the use of symbols and coded language. For instance, the unit might be transmitting the following: "Bachrac nas" (The "fatso" is near us); that means that the tank is near them. For all the things they needed to keep secret, the commander found a substitute word. For instance, velitel (commander) = otec (father); the tank = bachrac ("fatso"); military infantry = smeti (dirt), etc.
12. The trainees were also taught to operate the "RP" ultrashortwave-length transmitters. They also received one hour of training in Morse Code. For field problems, they received maps of the area from the commander, which were then hidden in the muzzles of the machine guns.
13. The shortened course of the NCO school in Hamry lasted three months.

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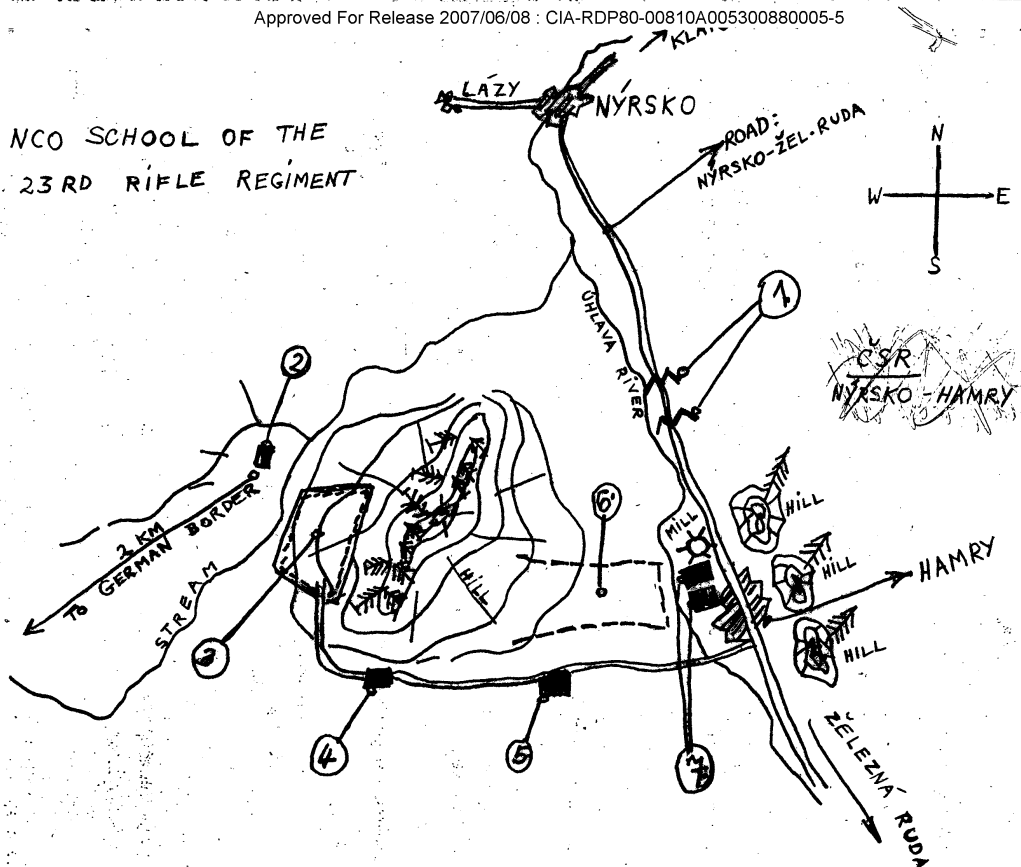
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NCO SCHOOL OF THE
23RD RIFLE REGIMENT



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See 

1. Anti-tank barriers erected in 1952. They consisted of wood frames filled in with stones and gravel.
2. Quarters of the Border Guards (PS). One ceta (platoon).
3. Military firing range.
4. Border Guard.
5. Training hill for the school. (see)
6. Area of the NCO school at Hany.
7. (see identification)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The NCO school of the 23rd Rifle Regiment is located near an old ruined grain mill outside Hamry (N 49-13, E 13-08). The school consists of two buildings. In summer 1952, the school had about 200 people. At other times, only a unit of about 30 men remained for guard purposes. The school buildings were formerly used for the manufacture of bobbins for sewing machines. It is believed that the name of the former factory was Hartmann. The shortened course of the school lasted three months. The commander of the school was Capt. Skalicky, a Slovak, who participated in World War II.
2. Besides the NCO school for the 23rd Regiment, a school for the reconnaissance platoon was also conducted. The commander of this school was Jiri Barta, a 2nd Lt. His superior was the intelligence officer of the regiment, Backo (fnu). The entire strength of the platoon attended the school - 20 men. Each day before training began, 20 minutes of "political enlightenment" took place. This had to be conducted by the trainees. The members of the platoon were chosen mostly from the ranks of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.
3. The training consisted of basic training and theory of reconnaissance. The students learned to recognize different types of aircraft and weapons of the Western powers - mainly of the U.S. They were told that an American division is able to fight with only one third of its strength, since two thirds is used for support. They also learned to recognize uniforms and ranks of Western soldiers. About American military tactics, they were told the following:
 - a) The Americans don't like to risk lives. Their offensive is psychological and based on material superiority.
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- e) Only then comes the infantry; human life is highly valued.
- f) The Americans attack from a centralized spot and attack in two or three places. They do not use the wedge type of attack like the Germans and do not use the squeeze like the Russians.
4. The trainees were told about new American weapons, e.g. a recoilless weapon which weighs about 40 pounds, has a rocket projectile, is electrically operated, can destroy a tank with direct fire at 600 meters, but which is very inaccurate.
5. American military tactics consist mainly of a lot of firing and a waste of ammunition, firing without reason or targets. They try to scare the enemy.
6. The trainees were taught about the tactics of General ~~Manstein~~, which were considered good and which could cause the Americans a lot of damage, such as penetration into the rear by units dressed as Americans. They were also told about the carelessness of the American soldiers, especially those in the rear echelons, and that such tactics could be used with success. By such methods it is possible to get vehicles and fuel. The American soldier was described as an adventurer, of bad character, who receives many financial bonuses. The Americans are used to money.
7. About their own tactics in the use of machine guns, the trainees were told that in practice their own unit would send out a company which would establish machine guns on the flanks. Then they would send out a provocation company whose purpose it would be to cause a counter-attack. The company would move back and the enemy while counterattacking would be caught between the machine guns, which would have a wide field of fire. The present Czechoslovak machine guns have been converted for this type of firing; by the use of new mounts they can remain stationary while firing laterally.
8. Each member of the reconnaissance unit is equipped with a submachine gun, pistol, knife, and hand grenades; the platoon also has a short-wave transmitter and sometimes also a light machine gun. Standing orders are that the platoon's assignment must be accomplished and then it must fight back to its own unit. In case they are surrounded, before firing the last round from their submachine guns they must put into the muzzles all plans and orders written on paper.
9. The following methods for eliminating sentries were taught: a) with a knife or by hand, b) with a belt or string, c) by use of the guard's steel helmet. The American helmet is especially good for this, since it reaches deep into the neck of the soldier. This can be used when the enemy has the chin strap fastened under his chin. The attacker comes to the sentry from behind, grabs the helmet at the forehead and pulls it quickly towards him. With this fast movement the man's neck is broken. When the attacker needs a living prisoner, he comes to the enemy from behind and quickly encircles the man's neck with his right hand. The attacker then grabs hold of his own elbow and yanks the man sharply towards himself. This takes the man's breath away. The students also were taught special ways of binding the prisoners and immobilizing them.
10. Other training concerned knowledge of terrain, topography, orientation in terrain at night and during the day; practical training in orientation with the compass and by the stars; recognition of noises in the night; also recognition by ear of types of vehicles, units, number, distance, direction; knowledge of camouflage, concealment, scouting, etc.

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The purpose of this training was to teach the trainees to break through the enemy lines and come up from behind. Before a mission began, the enemy's code words were given to them.

11. The trainees were taught the use of symbols and coded language. For instance, the unit might be transmitting the following: "Bachrac nedaleko nas" (The "fatso" is near us); that means that the tank is near them. For all the things they needed to keep secret, the commander found a substitute word. For instance, velitel (commander) = otec (father); the tank = bachrac ("fatso"); military infantry = smeti (dirt), etc.
12. The trainees were also taught to operate the "RP" ultra-short-wave-length transmitters. They also received one hour of training in Morse Code. For field problems, they received maps of the area from the commander, which were then hidden in the muzzles of submachine guns.
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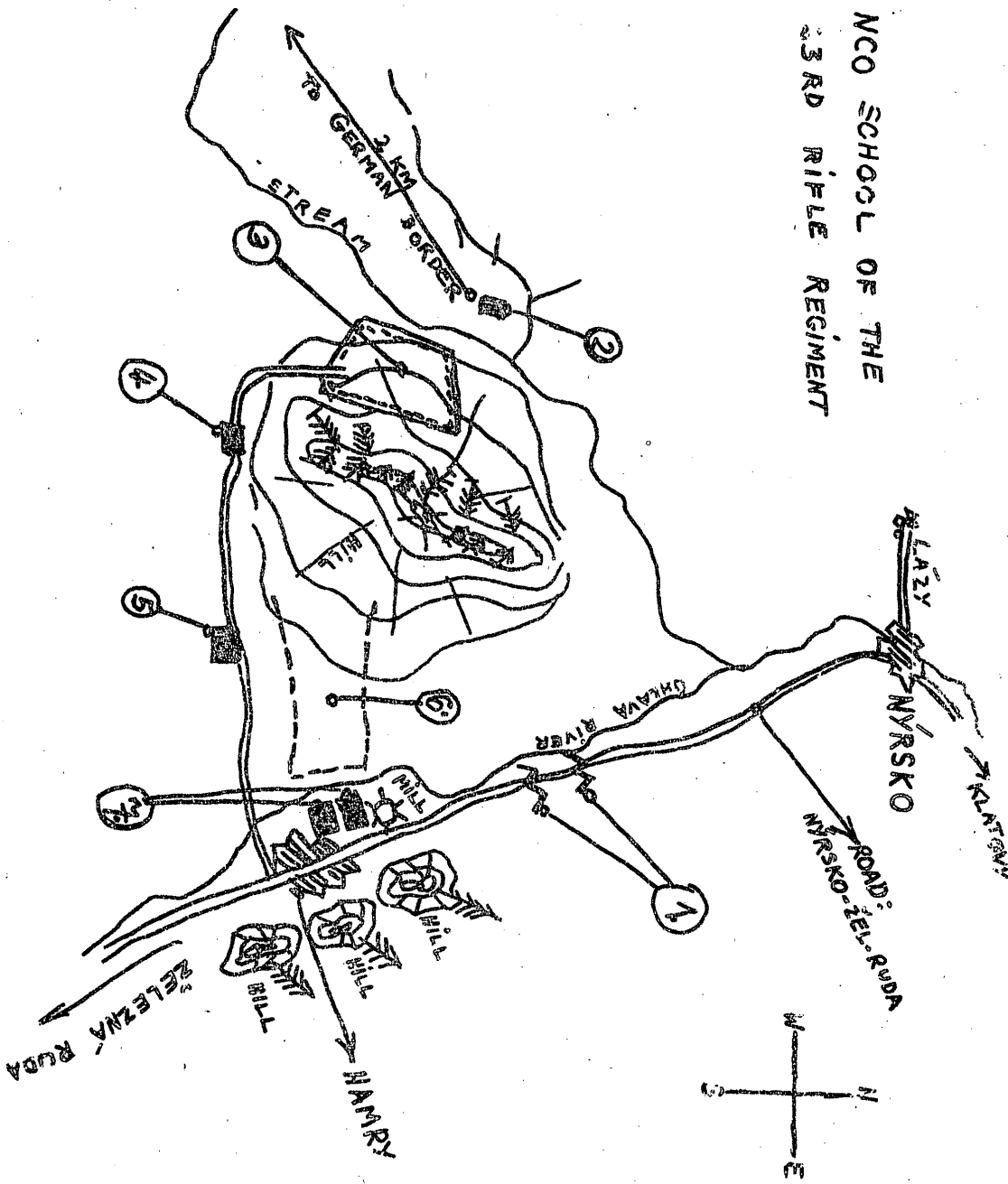
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NCO SCHOOL OF THE
3RD RIFLE REGIMENT



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Legend:

1. Anti-tank barriers erected in 1952. They consisted of wood frames filled in with stones and gravel.
2. Quarters of the Border Guards (PG). One ceta (platoon).
3. Military firing range.
4. Border Guard.
5. Training hill for the school.(sic)
6. Area of the NCO school at Hamry.
7. (not identified).

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