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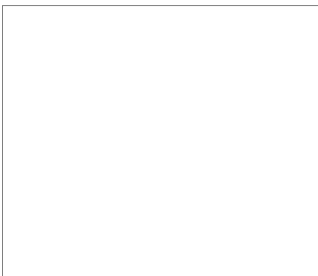
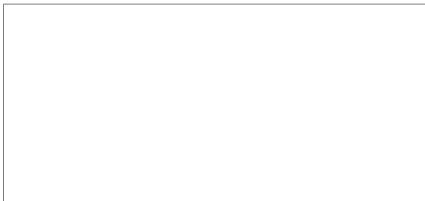
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY **Hungary**

SUBJECT **Fortifications Along the Southern Hungarian Border**



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The large-scale fortifications carried out in the course of 1953 along the southern Hungarian border, were started by the fall of 1951. At this time, the "Fortifications Committee" of the Ministry of Defense had been set up, with headquarters in Budapest on Ibrakim Street. This committee scheduled all preparations under Soviet management and control. These preparations consisted mainly of surveying the scheduled sites, and shipping material on the spot, as well as of scheduling industrial and shipping problems; also the organization of manpower needed.

I. Military Organizations Used for Building the Fortification Line.

1. The whole area scheduled to be fortified has been divided into three main sections according to military importance.
 - a. From the Austrian border down to the Baranya County triangle, (the river Drava section).
 - b. The Baranya County triangle between Sisklós and Mohács.
 - c. Part of the border east of the Danube, a rather wide open space.
2. Each of the above areas was assigned to one "Fortification Command" with headquarters at Lenti, Pécs and Szeged, respectively. All organizations (technical, building, military or supply problems) assigned to work on these fortifications, are under the command of this Fortification Command. Altogether, eleven battalions, different numbers at each of the above headquarters, are also commanded by the Fortification Command. These battalions consist of the following personnel:



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- a. The commander of the battalion, one engineer officer, and the staff of the battalion.
 - b. Three building companies, each composed of 140 men. These companies consist of professional engineer officers, NCOs. The privates are mostly reservists of the engineer corps.
 - c. Several so-called "military labor units" are divided wherever and whenever needed among the battalions during the period of construction. These military labor companies consist of a small official staff and of "unreliable elements". These are all draftees who for reasons of their origin are regarded as unreliable (kulaks, priests, and "class-strangers"), and are not assigned to the fighting forces. These people spend the time of their compulsory military service doing hard labor under the most severe conditions.
 - d. One mechanized unit together with all machinery needed, bulldozers, baggers, cement mixers, generators, etc.
 - e. One truck unit with 20 heavy trucks.
3. All these units work on specialized construction at specially assigned sections of the fortifications. During the summer, several regular infantry units also helped, but only as unskilled labor, digging trenches, etc. Convicts, political prisoners, and internees are not employed here.

II. Character and System of the Fortifications.

1. All fortification construction going on along the southern border of Hungary has no connection whatsoever with the "Iron Curtain" installations, for instance, the well-known ones along the western border. Such an "Iron Curtain" can also be found along the southern border, managed and guarded by the border guards of the AVH.
2. The fortifications to be built here are of the smaller type of fortification. This system is generally built in three lines, about 1,500 to 2,000 meters in depth. The first two lines are built 200 to 300 m distance from each other, and consist of individual fortification units and strongpoints linked by trenches. The third line runs about 1,300 to 1,600 meters further back. Here, built-in posts for artillery and antitank mortars are also constructed. Observation posts for the commanders, and liaison posts are also being set up. The whole setup is constructed according to the defense system of battalions, according to the weapons within each battalion, and according to the importance of a certain area.
3. The following fortifications are along each fortification line:
 - a. Open artillery nests for machine guns, also for circular defense.
 - b. Antiaircraft nests with fixed concrete foundations.
 - c. Fortified posts for mortars.
 - d. Observation posts and commanders posts.
 - e. Shelters for 50 to 100 men for the reserve.
 - f. Artillery posts and relay posts.

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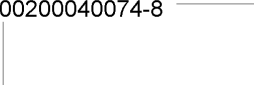
4. The individual posts are built with the aid of prefabricated concrete units, (domes and parapets) but concrete mixing is also carried out on the spot. The surfaces of the concrete facing the enemy are generally 30 cm. The underground shelters are about 2 meters deep in the ground, with the roofs reinforced with a layer of reinforced concrete and stones against artillery and bomb units. Near populated areas these posts are camouflaged as barns, sheds, haystacks, etc.
5. The major part of the prefab units is shipped from the concrete factory of Albertfalva, where the output of the whole plant is closely fitted into the schedule of the fortification work. Incidentally at Albertfalva, several political and other prisoners are also working.
6. The individual fortified posts, nests, etc. are linked by trenches. These are fortified with wooden props and brushwood. Drainage is achieved by means of sewers and cesspools.
7. The whole fortification net, which can by no means be called complete, has the character of a permanent field fortification. It is unfit to stem any serious or heavy attack by a modern and scientifically trained army.

III. The Site of the Fortification Line.

1. The right wing of the southern fortification line of the Hungarian border starts from the topographical point No. 353 on the Janos Hegy near the meeting point of the Hungaro-Yugoslav-Austrian border. From there it runs closely along the Yugoslav border all along the heights running north of Nemesnép brook, and further closely along the northern banks of the Kerka, and then up the Dráva, as far as Siklós. From here on it follows the border more or less in 50- to 500-meter length in the line of the villages Old. Beremend, Ilcska Bérda and Úvár, and reaches the Danube at Isabellaöld. The general outline follows the curves of the terrain.
2. Special attention has been given the "Dráva Corner Triangle" where, contrary to the three-line defense employed elsewhere, a multiple defense line has been erected. It is 10 km in depth and includes the mountains of Villány. Part of it is still under construction. The deepest point of this defense line goes back as far as the Danube at Mohács. The most important stronghold of this defense line seems to be centered around this area, which is quite logical from the point of view of modern logistics. Between the Danube and the Tisza, the fortifications hug the border as far as Szeged; here they reach the Tisza River and follow the River Maros, linking up with the Rumanian fortifications which also run along the border and end at Băsiás. The whole fortification system then links up eventually with the left wing, and with the Carpathian Mountains.
3. The fortifications were built during 1952 and 1953, weather permitting, at a forced tempo, but are still far from being completed. They are expected to be ready by 1954, but improvements and additional work may take some more years.
4. troops of the ÁVM stationed in the district ^{25X1} the southern borders will be reorganized into "fortification troops" with the evident purpose that, in case of a surprise attack in peacetime, this particular section of the defense line be guarded by a strong and permanent force.

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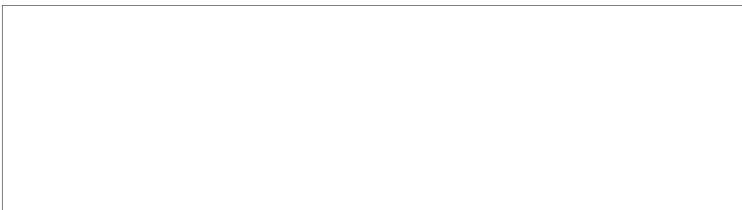


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5. Several units of the Hungarian Army, stationed in the south, also participated in the summer and fall of 1953 in the maneuvers held along these fortifications. The purpose of these maneuvers has always been quick occupation and defense of the fortifications, throwing back of enemy forces, etc. It is evident therefore that part of the Hungarian drafted divisions are being trained for the defense of this particular section.

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