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COUNTRY

TOPIC Rumanian Army and Security Troops

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EVALUATION

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REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

Rumanian Troops in the Banat.

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1. Elements of the Horia Cloșca și Crisan (HCC) Division stationed in the Banat left in an easterly direction in 1949. The troops of the division wore a blue oval badge on their sleeves horizontally crossed by the Rumanian blue, yellow, and red national colors, embroidered with the gold letters "H.C.C.", and surrounded by a wreath of green oak leaves. They also wore on their caps a round cockade showing the national colors and the letters "H.C.C."
2. An infantry regiment, which was generally referred to as the Banat Regiment by the residents, was stationed in Timisoara (R 16/T 91) from the end of the war up to August 1950, when it left by train toward Lugoj (R 25/U 50) with its entire billeting equipment. According to local residents, the regiment was transferred to Lugoj or Caransebes (R 25/Z 76). The regiment was horse-drawn and its personnel carried obsolete long Mauser rifles. No heavy weapons or arms of Soviet origin were observed.
3. Several motor columns, with long intervals between each column and including more than 200 three-axle Skoda Diesel trucks, passed through Timisoara between 6 a.m. and about 4 p.m. on one day in February 1951. They came from the direction of Recas (R 16/U 11) and proceeded toward Sacalaz (R 16/T 81). About two-thirds of the vehicles were occupied by troops; the rest were loaded with materiel. The troops wore berets, ski trousers with mountain shoes and small black leather puttees, and epaulets and collar patches with green service color. They carried submachine guns and rifles only. [redacted] unable to give information on the destination of the unit.
4. One unit of about 300 men, who wore dark-brown service color on collar patches and epaulets and were equipped with submachine guns, was located in Timisoara prior to mid-April 1951. (1) Rumanian officers wearing black service color with bursting-shell insignia were also observed in Timisoara.

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Rumanian Troops in Southwest Rumania and Bucharest.

5. On 23 March 1951, troops wearing dark-blue service color were observed in Lugoj where numerous Rumanian units have been reported. Other troops wear-

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ing blue service color were seen in Caransebes which was also a large Rumanian military post. (2) Many units, including troops wearing dark-blue service color, were located in Turnu Severin (R 23/24 /E 98) and Orsova (R 23/24 /E 78). Among the troops at Orsova were also some with green service color. According to local residents, a mountain infantry unit was also located in Orsova. Turnu Severin was, furthermore, generally known to be the Danube Flotilla base. Rumanian troops were also observed in Craiova (R 33/34 /A 83) and Pitesti (R 33/34 /B 79) in March 1951. No troops were observed on the railroad line between Rosiorii de Vode (R 33/34 /E 70) and Bucharest. Three officers wearing the badge of the H.C.C. Division and Rumanian tank troops were observed in the streets of Bucharest. None of the tank troops, however, wore the sleeve badge of the Tudor Vladimirescu (T.V.) Division which source described as a rectangular shield, which resembled the badge of the H.C.C. Division in color and border but was embroicered with the letters "T.V.". The round cockade on the cap had the letters "T.V." on a background of the national colors.

Army Uniforms.

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6. Rumanian Army troops wore a yellowish-brown uniform distinctly different from the Soviet uniform of a more greenish hue. All Rumanian military personnel were well dressed and neat. Their high-collared jackets also differed from the tunic worn by Soviet troops. The field caps were Soviet-style, but somewhat larger than Soviet caps. Visor-type service caps were worn by officers. A round, pressed silver metal cockade inscribed RPR was attached to the front of the caps. Collar patches, epaulets, and the front edges of the field caps showed the service color. Generals wore large stars on gold epaulets, and oak leaves on their collar patches, along the cap edges, and the cap visors. The only arm insignia [redacted] recollected was the bursting-shell insignia previously mentioned.

Security Troops.

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7. Personnel of the security police, called Securitate, wore a uniform of the same color as that worn by army troops. The service color was light-blue, however, as compared to the army's dark-blue. All security police wore service caps with light-blue bands, rectangular collar patches, and emblems with a red enameled star with yellow letters "R.P.R." on their caps and belt buckles. [redacted] the security police was organized into regiments and equipped with heavy weapons. Security police and militia units were used against resistance groups and rioting farmers. The security personnel in Timisoara were relatively small in number. Three security police aircraft, which controlled the border area, were stationed at the Timisoara airfield of the TARS Air Lines, a Rumanian company. (3)
8. The Militia was considered the strongest branch of the security troops. Its personnel wore a bluish-gray uniform with red service color, rectangular collar patches, and Soviet stars mounted on caps and belt buckles. The militia units were either motorized or, occasionally mounted, and equipped with pistols, submachine guns, and rifles. As a rule, militia personnel lived at home, but some of the younger men were quartered in barracks.
9. Border guard troops wore the regular army uniform with green service color. They formerly wore a badge with the white letters "GR.". No border guard troops were stationed in Timisoara although officers of border guard units were frequently observed at the Timisoara recruiting office.
10. Railway police wore dark-blue uniforms with red service color and service caps with red bands. Cockades and belts were similar to those worn by the security police. Railway policemen were equipped with pistols and rifles.

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In general, a detail of four or five railway police escorted every train.

11. Gendarmerie personnel wearing light-blue uniforms with light-blue service color and Soviet stars on their caps and belts were still observed in rural communities. (4)
12. About two companies of forest guard personnel, who were organized and trained as military units, were located in Timisoara near the Hunting Woods after September 1950. The troops, most of whom were of older classes, wore green uniforms without epaulets, bronze oak leaves on the blouse collar, breeches, green service caps without cockades, and belt buckles with the letters "R.P.R.". (4)
13. Members of the fire department, which was organized along military lines, wore army uniforms with light-brown service color and crossed-hatchet insignia.
14. A special factory police, wearing almost black uniforms with red rectangular collar patches with a yellow P and red cockades inscribed "Paza", guarded industrial and government installations. (5)
15. Civilian labor units, who worked in coal mines and on the construction of the Black Sea Canal and military installations, generally consisted of political prisoners who had neither uniforms nor insignia.

Induction System.

16. No public announcements on registration, draft, or induction were observed in Timisoara. It was common knowledge that Rumanian Army troops were, in general, on active duty for only six months, which, however, was frequently extended. An associate of source, who was inducted for a period of six months into an infantry unit in Bacau (R 45/T 47), eventually served for 18 months, including a two-weeks leave. After 1947 or 1948, source was unable to determine a system governing the sequence of inductions and discharges. Prior to that time, complete classes had been called up for active duty in the fall. Later, however, inductees or dischargees were observed in Timisoara almost every month. Males would be registered for the draft when 13 years of age and rather arbitrarily inducted on a later date. (6)
17. Reserve officers, 30 to 44 years of age, were called up for active duty in Timisoara in February 1951. From 50 to 60 of these reserve officers, who as reserve personnel had no service color, were observed departing from the railroad station. Numerous reserve NCOs were called up for active duty in March 1951. Reserve EM were also allegedly to be called up for active duty by notices of induction being prepared in the recruiting office. A reserve officer from Timisoara was inducted on 5 April 1951 and assigned to the Timisoara RTO office to replace a regular army officer.

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Weapons and Motor Vehicles.

18. The few Rumanian units [redacted] had no modern weapons or equipment. Their vehicle equipment included Skoda Diesel trucks, Soviet jeeps, and obsolete BMW motorcycles.

Miscellaneous.

19. [redacted] the Rumanian officers' corps is generally non-Communist.

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He had no information on clashes with resistance groups who were fighting the Communist regime. When asked about rumors concerning the transfer of the High Command of the Rumanian Armed Forces from Bucharest to Turnu Severin, he stated that he had never heard of it, and doubted such a movement.

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Comments:

- (1) Dark-brown service color is mentioned for the first time. It is probably worn by personnel of a guard unit.
- (2) Dark-blue has not been reported before as an army service color. It frequency indicates a major branch of service, i.e., infantry for example.
- (3) The security police is the equivalent of the internal security troops in other satellite countries i.e. Poland (KBW) and Hungary, who also wear blue service color.
- (4) Since the former gendarmerie was deactivated, and its missions taken over by the militia, it is believed that the personnel observed were militiamen wearing old uniforms.
- (5) "Paza" means guard duty. The unit is an industrial police formation.
- (6) On the basis of incomplete information, at the present time the 20-year-olds have been called up for service with the armed forces.

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