

COUNTRY Hungary REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1A

TOPIC Hungarian Engineer Training Camp near Kisbodak 25X1X

EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 28 June 1951

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1C DATE PREPARED 30 January 1952 25X1A

REFERENCES [redacted] 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [redacted]

REMARKS [redacted]

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[redacted]

1. In early April 1951, there was an engineer battalion from Gyöer (P 48/Y 44) at the engineer training camp near Kisbodak (P 48/Y 26) [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] engineer battalion was organized into a headquarters and three companies, with three platoons to a company, and three squads to a platoon. Each squad consisted of a squad leader and 10 EM. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Officers of the battalion, [redacted] included Captain Ferenc Berta, battalion commander; Junior Lieutenant Istvan Rac, an ardent Communist and commanding officer of the 2d Co; and Junior Lieutenant Sandor Szalai, deputy commanding officer of the 2d Co. Agitator of the battalion was private Laszlo Stefan, who in his civilian life was a party secretary in Veszprem (P 48/D 78). Once a week, a party rally was held by the battalion. Only 15 EM turned up for the first rally and the battalion was employed in road construction work as punishment. Thereafter the party rallies of the battalion were well attended. \*

2. The engineer training camp in which the engineer battalion from Gyöer was quartered, was located 2 km east of Kisbodak, on the west bank of the Danube River, just south of the point where a tributary joined the Danube. In addition to the camp cadre personnel, the camp quartered 7 engineer battalions, 1 company of NCO candidates and about 6 other independent units of company strength. Most of the troops at the camp were quartered in tents. Source learned that two other engineer battalions from Komarom (P 48/Y 75) and Baja (Y 6/S 28) respectively had arrived at the camp prior to the arrival of the battalion from Gyöer. Ninety percent of the NCO candidate company were former privates who were promoted to the ranks of corporal or sergeant after the completion of their training. No details were available on the missions and organization of the independent companies. \*\*

3. Most of the personnel of the units at the camp were quartered in Hungarian tents and slept on straw. Six-man tents were used to house 12 men. There were also several large U.S. tents with a capacity of about 40 men and Hungarian two-man tents. Officers were quartered in groups of six in six-man tents equipped with iron bedsteads. Only the officers' tents had electric light. The food at the camp was poor and inadequate.

4. The camp commander was a Hungarian major. A Soviet major who wore breeches with

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wide red stripes on the outside seams was attached to the commander's staff. The service color of the troops seen at the camp was dark green. As far as could be determined [redacted] most of the EM of the individual battalions belonged to the 1927 and 1928 classes. On 20 June 1951, all the EM were discharged after the completion of their training. Only members of the NCO candidate company continued to serve until late September 1951. \*\*\*

5. The EM of the training battalions were armed with rifles. The camp guards had submachine guns with drum magazines. Several Soviet light machine guns with disk-shaped magazines were also used for training. No other weapons were observed. Twenty boats for crews of 20 and six for crews of 30 were available for training purposes. This equipment was rotated among the individual training battalions. Source's battalion was equipped with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines in wooden casings. The anti-personnel mines contained 75 grams of tritol (sic) and the anti-tank mines contained 5,000 grams of the same explosive. Motor vehicles observed at the camp included numerous Csépol trucks, 6 prime movers, 30 to 40 small trucks and jeeps and 20 to 30 GAZ sedans.
6. The training, which was the same for all battalions, included basic infantry training with advanced combat practice firing, mine laying, river crossing practice, bridge building and theoretical instruction. Three times a week, sometimes at night, attacks against fortified positions with subsequent penetration were practiced. Blank cartridges were used for these practices, and gas masks were sometimes used. Pneumatic boats and improvised floats were used for river crossing practice. Once the use of a float uniform consisting of long rubber trousers, a life vest and paddles in the shape of ping-pong rackets was demonstrated. Bridge building was practiced only once. A pile bent-bridge (Jochrfahlbruecken) with a load capacity of 40 tons and a Szent Mihaly saw-trestle bridge (Szent Mihaly-Gaegebockbruecken) with a load capacity of 10 tons were built on this occasion. Only theoretical instruction in bridge demolition was given. The laying and removal of mines was practiced twice a week. Mine detectors were not used. Anti-personnel mines were laid at distances of 1 meter, while anti-tank mines were spaced 4 meters apart. When both anti-personnel and anti-tank mines were laid in a field, the mines were placed in a row 1 meter apart, 3 anti-personnel mines alternating with 1 anti-tank mine. The distances between the individual rows of mines were 4 meters.
7. One week prior to their discharge, the EM at the camp were asked almost daily to volunteer for reenlistment. However, only two men [redacted] battalion reenlisted. Drivers were also asked to reenlist but without success.

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25X1A \* [redacted] Comment. This information confirms an engineer unit at the Frigyes Barracks in Győr. [redacted]. Another engineer unit is allegedly quartered in the wooded area near Mosonmagyaróvár. [redacted]

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25X1A \*\* [redacted] Comment. The presence of a motorized engineer battalion in the new Klapka Geerry Barracks in Komárom and of another engineer battalion in Baja were previously reported. [redacted]

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25X1A \*\*\* [redacted] Comment. In June 1951, part of the 1927 class and the majority of the 1928 class were serving with line units. It is believed that the personnel of the training battalions observed at the engineer training camp were deferred members of these classes who, instead of the normal length of service, were subject to a three-month training course. As all EM were discharged in June 1951, it is believed that the units mentioned in paragraph 2 of the report were training units to which line units had detached cadre and training personnel.

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