

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY: Rumania
25X1

TOPIC: 1. Rumanian Troops in Stalin (Brasov) 25X1

25X1 2. Ammunition Plant, about 14 km northeast of Stalin, near Harman

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] 25X1

REFERENCES: 4

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[Large Redacted Area]

Stalin (Brasov)

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1. In the summer of 1951, a barracks installation consisting of two sections, which had been constructed in recent years, was observed in the northern sector of Stalin (Brasov, R 35/A 37), on the west side of the former Langgasse. The two sections of the installation were partitioned by a board fence. The northern section on Langgasse, which consisted of three-story brick buildings, was occupied by a Rumanian artillery unit of about 400 men. The khaki uniform included a blouse, breeches and boots. The EM wore a sort of ski cap and the officers wore service caps with black bands. The epaulets were black with the rank insignia topped by a bursting shell. [Redacted] observed units of about 100 men, who were equipped with an unidentified number of long-barreled field guns with limbers pulled by six horses. He learned from hearsay that the unit had 16 guns. The units marched to a training ground north of the city. (1) The southern section of the barracks installation quartered a small mounted unit. The majority of the officers and EM of the unit were billeted in private quarters in the city area. The soldiers wore light-blue uniforms, blouses with neckties, breeches and service caps with red bands and Soviet star emblems. The epaulets were blue. They wore Sam Browne belts. [Redacted] believed the soldiers belonged to a militia unit. 25X1

2. Prior to September 1951, [Redacted] frequently walked past billets between Balacescu Street, formerly Schwarzgasse, and In Pavlov Street, formerly Burggasse, which were referred to as the Schwarz Barracks by the population. The billets consisted of one four-story gray yellow stucco

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building, about 40 meters long, with red brick window frames. The installation quartered a Rumanian unit who wore khaki uniforms with garrison caps. No heavy weapons were observed. (2)

3. Another barracks installation, which was generally referred to as the Rifle Barracks by the local people, was located in the eastern or northeastern sector of the city near a large open air swimming pool. The installation, which was larger than the Schwarz Barracks, was constructed prior to World War I and consisted of one large yellow stucco building. It also quartered a Rumanian unit. (3)
4. Prior to September 1951, Rumanian units were frequently observed marching to the so-called "Schulerau (Poiana)", a training ground west of the city. Sounds of rifle and machine gun fire were heard from this direction almost daily. The marching units almost always included a mountain infantry detachment of 40 to 50 men wearing berets. Usually the soldiers carried only rifles but sometimes they were equipped with small guns drawn by EM. No other heavy weapons were observed.
5. In the summer of 1951, the area of the so-called "Zinne" hill south of the city was closed to civilians for about one week. 25X1
 AA guns were emplaced there at that time. After 1947, no Soviet troops were billeted in the city area.
6. Prior to September 1951, the former artillery barracks in the northern sector of the city, on the west side of the former Langgasse, quartered a Rumanian unit. Soldiers were being trained with rifles in the barracks yard.
7. Old billets in the eastern sector of the city, on the north side of Boulevard Lenin, formerly Calea Victoriei, also quartered a Rumanian unit. The billets included a gray-yellow stucco building, about 60 meters long, and behind this building was a courtyard, enclosed by a wall with iron grillwork on top. Soldiers were observed drilling in the yard. An unidentified number of trucks was also parked there. (4)
8. In the summer of 1951, the mountain infantry barracks in the north-eastern sector of the city, on Strada Vanatorilor, quartered a mountain infantry unit. The installation included three five-story, gray stucco, buildings, arranged in a U-shape. The soldiers wore green berets, pale colored epaulets, ski boots with ski trousers and white socks. They were equipped with submachine guns with round drum or box magazines and air-cooled light machine guns. In the winter they were seen marching out on skis.
9. Registration boards referred to as the Cerks, were located near the main railroad station on Strada Treias, in the central sector of the city on Strada Armata Rosie, formerly Michael Weiss Gasse, and in the mountain infantry barracks.
10. The militia office was located in the central sector of the city at the intersection of Strada Armata and the former Kloostergasse, in a yellow-colored house which was a five-story, L-shaped building with its main entrance on Strada Armata Rosie
11. In 1950 and between May and October 1951, record practices were regularly held about 1 km north of Harman (R 45/S 48) and west of the Harman - Bod (R 45/S 39) road. During the practices, the troops shot in a northwestern direction into wooded hills. There were up to 200 soldiers who were organized into four detachments. They wore army uniforms with garrison caps and boots. Their equipment included old Rumanian rifles, submachine guns with drum magazines and air-cooled light machine guns with stocks and bipods.

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12. The basic color of the Rumanian uniforms was khaki. NCOs and EM wore garrison caps without piping. After 1950, a cockade in the national colors, bordered silver or gold and bearing the inscription RPR, was fixed to the front of the cap. The officers wore round visor-type service caps with black visors and black chin straps. The cap bands were of the appropriate service color and mounted the above mentioned cockade at the front. The caps were without piping. The officers, NCOs and EM wore buttoned blouses without cuffs or piping. The epaulets were of the distinctive service color and mounted the rank insignia. The officers wore long trousers or breeches without piping. The NCOs and EM wore the trousers tucked into the boots. The officers wore riding boots or laced shoes. All soldiers wore a leather belt with a buckle mounting the Rumanian coat of arms in gold. The only service color known to source was the light-green of the border guard troops. Mountain infantrymen wore berets with the cockade at the front, ski boots, ski trousers and white socks.
13. In Stalin the Militia wore blue gray uniforms and visor-type service caps of the same color with smooth black visors and red cap bands mounting the cockade at the front. The blouse did not have patches or piping and was worn buttoned. The epaulets were red and mounted rank insignia. An unidentified number of soldiers was observed wearing silver crossed-sabre insignia on their epaulets. The belts were gray brown and had buckles mounting the Rumanian coat of arms in gold. (5)
14. Registrations for the draft were held in the spring of every year. The next registration, at which the 1932 class will be examined, was scheduled to be held in March 1952. All Rumanians, Hungarians and ethnic Germans subject to the draft were examined. The Rumanians and Hungarians were registered for assignment to combat units while Rumanians and Hungarians unfit for combat units and the ethnic Germans were assigned to labor service. On 1 May 1951, one of 28 ethnic Germans of the 1931 class was inducted in Harman for assignment to a labor service unit and three of 31 Rumanians of the same class were inducted for assignment to units of the combat forces. The 1930 class had not yet been inducted. In October 1951, all members of the 1928 and 1929 classes, except for the ethnic Germans, served in the combat forces or the labor service units.

Ammunition Plant near Harman.

15. The so-called Brainer Bela Ammunition Plant, which was formerly referred to as the Du nitru Voina Plant, was located about 2 km north-northwest of Harman and south of a large bend of the Oltul River on a wooded hillside ascending from the river bank. The plant was established prior to the war, but was not put into operation again until May 1951, after being repaired and modernized. The northern section of the installation included two fairly old brick buildings, with a metal smokestack, 25 to 30 meters high, between the two buildings, and 15 wooden single-story buildings, about 30 meters long, which were arranged in three rows. In the spring of 1951, none of the buildings was furnished or equipped. An extensive area around the installation was enclosed by a barbed wire fence. The Harman - Bod road was asphalted from Harman to the plant. A graveled road, about 5 meters wide, led from the highway to the plant. The plant employed about 400 workers, who were almost exclusively ethnic Germans from the neighboring villages. About 50 percent of the workers were women and the other 50 percent were juveniles. They worked one eight-hour shift, but frequently had

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to work overtime or to omit a shift as a result of the irregular deliveries of material. Stick hand grenades and egg-shaped hand grenades were loaded in the plant and were packed in crates about 100 x 50 x 30 cm, bound with steel strips. In September 1951, up to 150 crates of this type were filled with hand grenades in one shift per day. [redacted] incendiary artillery ammunition was also filled in this plant. According to workers employed at the Brainer Bela and Metrom Plants in Stalin, hand grenades were made at these plants and shipped to Harman to be filled there. The completed hand grenades were trucked to the Harman railroad station and were shipped in boxcars. The plant was guarded by sentries wearing green service color and standing guard at a distance of about 100 meters from the fence. The shipments to the railroad station were also guarded by soldiers from the same unit.

16. Hand grenades were tested in a brick building, about 5 meters square, in the open terrain, about 300 meters west of the Harman - Bod road, at approximately the same level as the ammunition plant. Sample hand grenades were detonated in a double-walled iron box with ventilation holes. Subsequently, the fragments were counted. There were supposed to be at least 32 fragments per grenade.

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17. Up to July 1951, [redacted] an ammunition plant, guarded by troops, in the area north of Harman in a small woods on the southern bank of the Oltul River. [redacted] the installation was a branch of the Brainer Bela Plant in Stalin. This plant had existed before World War II and work was resumed in the plant in the winter of 1950-51. [redacted] the ammunition plant was only a small installation. It was built into a wooded hillside, and a portion of the plant was installed underground. Incoming material arrived by truck from the main plant in Stalin. From 80 to 100 Rumanian men and women worked at the plant in one eight-hour shift. [redacted] the powder supplied was weighed on scales and loaded into capsules. The completed products were packed in boxes and trucked away. No information concerning the main plant in Stalin was known.

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Comments.

- (1) A previous report of July 1951, stated that a mountain artillery unit was located in the barracks installation on the west side of Boulevard Voroshilov, formerly Langgasse. [redacted]
- (2) According to a previous report, the barracks installation on the former Schwarzgasse quartered mountain infantrymen. [redacted]
- (3) [redacted] the barracks installation which, according to a previous report, also quartered mountain infantrymen and an officer candidate school. [redacted]
- (4) A previous report stated that this barracks installation was also occupied by mountain infantrymen. [redacted]
- (5) The statements on the Army and Militia uniforms agree with those of previous reports.

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