

TELEFAX

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~--U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 19 September 1952

SUBJECT Further Development of the Hungarian
People's Army

NO. OF PAGES 4

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

REFERENCE CO.
DO NOT CIRCULATE

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSES OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A thorough reorganization of the Hungarian People's Army began in the summer of 1951. Since then, further development of the Army has been under way. In the following study, [] give a picture of the present status of the Hungarian Army, based on several hundred bits of information. 25X1
2. Questions of reserves: Present day Hungary has nine million inhabitants. Experience shows that 1.002 percent of the population is always comprised of youths 20 years of age. At the first draft, approximately 90,000 men appear before the drafting committees. Of these, about 30 percent are unfit, or, because of other limitations of the service law, are not draftable. One can therefore reckon upon about 60,000 men in Hungary, of one age class. Three active age classes, which are doing service in the Army simultaneously, total about 180,000 men. About 12 to 15 percent are non-commissioned officers. At present the number of officers and non-commissioned officers is the same.
3. In the event of war, about 720,000 men in the 12 to 15 years of age group will be called to the colors on the first day of mobilization in Hungary. Experience shows that from that number about one-fourth must be deducted, because of death, illness, etc. From the mobilized men, 150,000 must be retained to replace eventual losses during the first three war months. Men in the over 35 years of age group must be trained in 12-week accelerated military courses. From the above data it is easy to see that, in the fourth month of war, Hungary will not be in a position to mobilize only able-bodied men.
4. Military area headquarters: Until 1951 the distribution of the units was the same as in the old Army before 1945. But since then, many garrisons have changed places, the higher commands have been regrouped, and new commands have been organized. In the summer and fall of 1951 many troops were shifted back and forth for operational training reasons. Since then it has been observed that in the framework of redistribution, the majority of the troops has been concentrated

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET/CONTROL--U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY**

[illegible]

SECRET/CONTROL--U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-2-

in the southern and western areas.

5. There are at present four military area headquarters (Honvéd kerületi parancsnokság) in Hungary:
 - a. Military area headquarters in Budapest
 - b. " " " " Pécs
 - c. " " " " Szeged
 - d. " " " " Debrecen

6. Previous to the Soviet occupation, there were no military area headquarters in the Hungarian Army. The military area headquarters were organized on the Soviet model. They are higher military administrative organizations which do not command the divisions stationed in the same territory. Regarding troops, only a guard battalion is placed under a military area headquarters. This battalion is composed of about 500 to 600 men; it provides the guard personnel for the militarily important objects which lie in the territory of the military area headquarters. The following military organizations are placed under a military area headquarters:
 - a. All military replacement commands and their dependencies. Replacement commands are in the capitals of each county; dependencies are in the seats of each administrative district.
 - b. Gasoline, food, clothing and ammunition depots.
 - c. Military hospitals and sanitariums.
 - d. Military building units, which build, renovate, and keep the barracks in order.
 - e. Repair shops of the military area.
 - f. Military jails and the activity of the punishment battalions.

7. Army corps commands. In peacetime they see only to the uniform military training of their troops and execute the Soviet organizational orders, which they get through the Hungarian Defense Ministry. The personnel of the staffs of the corps command is small in times of peace, when the tasks are still limited. The body of the officers is composed of the commanders, the aides, and the administrators of the various branches of the service; they are all general staff officers. Besides these, there is also a manager (intendant), who is in charge of the distribution of the "training credits." Expenditure of these sums and control of financial questions are not tasks of the manager. The material service is not organized on the corps command level, since material problems are being handled by the administrative sections of the military area headquarters. The separate divisions also handle such questions through their rear base organizations. A Hungarian corps command has no military tribunal and no auditor in peacetime. The whole officer corps of a corps command during peacetime is about 20 to 22 officers, plus the bureau clerical assistants. The corps commands do not command any units placed directly under them in peacetime. At present, all troop formations which do not belong to any divisions are being handled as "reserves of the highest command."

SECRET/CONTROL--U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL--U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-3-

The present corps commands took over the role of the former Army commands.
The organization of the corps commands is the same as that of the former

25X1

Army corps command in Székesfehérvár
" " " " Budapest
" " " " Kecskemét

Distribution of the divisions placed under each corps command is not uniform.

8. The Army corps command in Székesfehérvár has three divisions placed under its authority:

1 infantry division in Veszprém
1 infantry division in Tab
1 infantry division in Pápa

(The division in Tab was formerly stationed in Miskolc, and the division in Pápa, formerly in Szolnok.) In Szolnok and Miskolc there are at present no infantry commands, but other higher units are being organized there. The transferred commands and units arrived with all their troops and equipment in their new garrisons. But it should be noted that the troops are seldom in the quarters allocated to them, since the building of many new barracks is not yet finished. According to the new regulations all units of a division must be concentrated on the smallest possible territory, in order to facilitate uniform training and education. According to the Soviet model, the infantry units of a division should be billeted in the same barracks, or in the same camp. In some places this is already in practice, for example, in the case of the regiment of Jutas, and the training camp of Tab. It seems probable (but has not yet been confirmed) that an infantry division in Kaposvár, which was moved there from Pécs, is also placed organizationally under the corps command of Székesfehérvár.

9. There are two tank divisions placed under the army corps command of Budapest; some informants report that they will be built up to a full-fledged motorized corps and that other fast mechanized units will be added to it. The divisions in question are:

7th Tank Division in Esztergom
18th Tank Division in Gyöngyös

25X1

Because these units are at present the best troops in Hungary, [redacted] their organization in more detail: The present distribution of the troops of the 7th Tank Division: Staff of one tank regiment is in Esztergom; staff of one motorized infantry regiment is in Esztergom; staff of one independent motorized infantry battalion is in Esztergom camp; one mixed regiment (artillery and assault gun) is in the camp of Piliscsaba; staff of one tank regiment is in Budapest; one motorized infantry battalion is in Vác; one tank battalion is in Tata; one tank battalion is in Rétság; one tank battalion is in Sárbogárd; one tank battalion is in Nagykanizsa. Commander of the division is Brigadier General Ladislav Liptai.

SECRET/CONTROL--U.S.OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL-- U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-4-

10. The present distribution of the troops of the 18th Tank Division is as follows: One tank regiment in Gyöngyös; one tank regiment in Cegléd; one artillery regiment in Jászberény; one reconnaissance battalion in Aszód; one tank battalion in Soltvadkert; one assault gun unit in Karcag. Commander of the division is Brigadier General Gyula Uszta.
11. The following divisions are placed under the army corps command of Kecskemét: One infantry division in Szeged; one infantry division in Nyíregyháza and one infantry division in Kiskunhalas (formerly in Kecskemét).
12. Up to now the following independent artillery divisions (or brigades) were organized:

Artillery division in Budapest¹
 Artillery division in Miskolc¹
 1 AAA division in Budapest
 2 AAA divisions in Komárom

13. Technical brigades. Two technical brigades are being organized in Hungary: One technical brigade in Szolnok, and one technical brigade allegedly in Komárom. The technical brigade of Szolnok has five technical battalions. The technical brigades also are reserves of the highest command.
14. The engineer and pontooner battalions of the infantry divisions have no war equipment in peacetime. They have only training materiel, which often consists of obsolete pontoons. The "M" (Mobilizations) materiel is kept separately in depots. Only on large scale maneuvers is a part of it loaned to the troops. The materiel is guarded and cared for by a small force. The so-called "bridging columns" receive in case of mobilization the necessary officer staffs and personnel, and also means of transport. Their main task in war is to bring the materiel as quickly as possible to the operational area, where the materiel will be taken over by a pioneer battalion. The replacement battalions will be organized only in case of war from among older age classes of the technical troops. In time of peace these formations are unknown.
15. An airborne division is under organization, but details concerning it are not yet known.

1. the two artillery divisions and the two tank divisions will be merged into an elite tank corps.

SECRET/CONTROL -- U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY