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Imagery analysis report

Yugoslavian River-Crossing Battallions (S)

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YUGOSLAVIAN RIVER-CROSSING BATTALIONS (S)

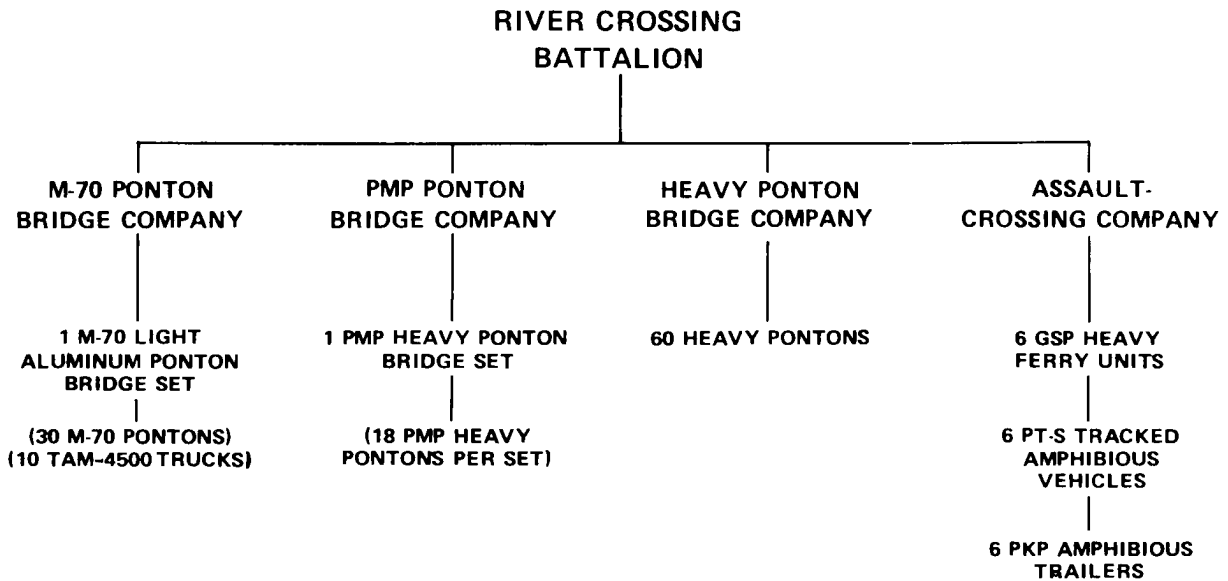
SUMMARY

1. (S/D) This report provides an imagery-derived analysis of two river-crossing battalions in Yugoslavia, using imagery acquired from [redacted]. The organizational structure and river-crossing equipment seen in these battalions are described in this report.

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DISCUSSION

2. (S/D) The organizational structure of engineer units in Yugoslavia vary. The most common are the engineer companies seen in the brigade. These engineer units are relatively small and contain a mixture of river-crossing, construction, minelaying, and combat engineer equipment. The least commonly observed are the specialized units which support units above the division level. Such units frequently support armies and form engineer regiments. The two river-crossing battalions discussed in this report are probably part of a regiment which supports the 5th Army District in northern Yugoslavia.^{1,2}



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FIGURE 1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF YUGOSLAVIAN RIVER-CROSSING BATTALIONS

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Organizational Structure

3. (S/D) A detailed analysis of imagery of the engineer units seen at Karlovac Army Barracks 506/522 [] and Zagreb Army Barracks South [] revealed two river-crossing battalions. According to the most current order-of-battle, the 297th Engineer Battalion is housed at Karlovac and the 213/513th Engineer Regiment/Brigade is housed at Zagreb.^{1,2} Figure 1 shows the probable organizational structure^{1,2} for the river-crossing battalions that were observed.

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4. (S/D) River-crossing battalions were observed at Karlovac Army Barracks 506/522 (Figure 2) and Zagreb Army Barracks South (Figure 3). Each battalion consists solely of river-crossing equipment and the facilities to support river-crossing training. The only other engineer units observed at either installation have been assault-crossing companies equipped with six GSP ferry units, six PT-S tracked amphibious vehicles, and six PKP amphibious trailers. The assault-crossing company is often seen in training with the ponton bridge companies at Karlovac but are rarely observed at Zagreb. Therefore, it has not been determined whether the assault-crossing company is a separate unit or a part of the river-crossing battalion.

5. (S/D) The two river-crossing battalions observed were in the 5th Army Region, within 20 nautical miles of each other. This close proximity of the battalions suggests that they are both subordinate to the 213/513th Engineer Regiment/Brigade.

Trends and Development

6. (S/D) A common trend in Yugoslavia is to dedicate one element of a major unit in a military region to recruit training. Frequent training activity observed at Karlovac Army Barracks 506/522 suggests that the river-crossing unit observed has been dedicated to recruit training for the 5th Army Region. Additionally, the Yugoslav Army Engineer School is at Karlovac.

7. (S/D) The Yugoslavians have developed their own ponton bridge set, the M-70 light aluminum ponton bridge set. The set consists of ten TAM-4500 trucks carrying deck balking and towing six half-pontons on a single-axle trailer. The M-70 can be used to make rafts or ponton bridges with a 12- to 16-ton capacity.

8. (S/D) PMP heavy ponton bridge units were first observed in Yugoslavia in 1967.³ By 1970, the Yugoslavians had developed their own carrier, the 2220BS, and redesignated this carrier the M-71⁴ (Figure 4). Not all of the river-crossing units are equipped with the new carriers. In PMP/M-71 companies that are not equipped with the new carriers, the ponton bridge sections are stored on the ground even though Soviet KRAZ-225B carriers are present. When training is conducted, units that are not equipped with the new Yugoslavian carrier borrow a small number of these 2220BS carriers from the units that are equipped with the carriers.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All pertinent satellite imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report.

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DOCUMENTS

1. DIA. DDB-1100-17-79, *Ground Force Organizational Guide—East Europe (U)*, Mar 79 (SECRET)
2. DIA. DDB-1100-YO-79, *Ground Order of Battle: Yugoslavia (U)*, Aug 79 (SECRET)
3. DIA. IR 6 904 0100 70, *Bridging Equipment (U)*, Apr 70 (CONFIDENTIAL)
4. DIA. IR 6 904 5083 80, *Equipment Display (U)*, May 80 (CONFIDENTIAL)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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