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RAIL TRANSFER SITE AT CERNA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA



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CIA/RR-HTA-M8-57

22 MARCH 1957

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CERNA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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RAIL TRANSFER SITE AT
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The Cerna rail transfer site on the Czech-USSR border is one of the major rail transshipment points between the USSR and neighboring countries to the west. It is located approximately three miles west of the rail transfer site at Chop in the USSR, and three miles northwest of the rail transfer site at Zahony, Hungary (see CIA/RR-HTA-M9-57).

25X1 The area in which the Cerna site is located appeared as only open country traversed by a double-track railroad on 1945 photography. The accompanying annotated mosaic of the Cerna rail transfer site was prepared from photography. Prior to this date, ground sightings had indicated the development of extensive yards at this location, but information as to size, trackage, and facilities had been fragmentary.

The transfer site is 3.4 miles long and 1530 feet wide. Mechanized equipment includes a large gantry crane, smaller cranes, and lifting jacks for the gage-conversion of freight car wheel assemblies. A small passenger train transfer area includes a probable mechanized facility for the gage-conversion of passenger car wheel assemblies. Floodlight towers throughout the yards indicate capability for night operations. Just west of the site are two truck-rail loading areas, two small sidings, and four turning wyes.

M-8-57

KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

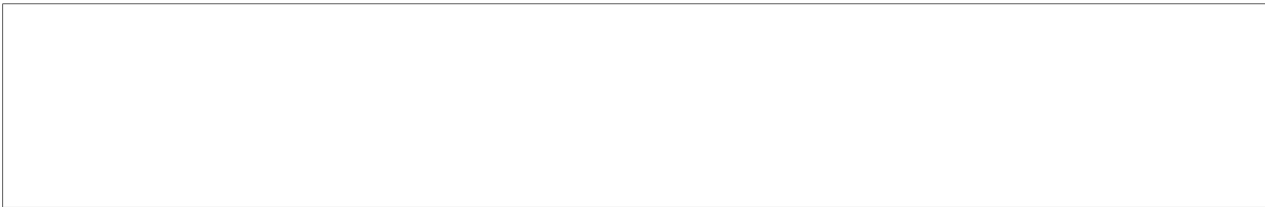
1. Choke point.
2. Freight yard, 4290'x 265', 10-12 tracks. Includes a loading platform 2280'x 40', with a truck ramp at each end.
3. Classification yard, 2670'x 330', 20-25 tracks. Includes a loading platform, 2000'x 40', with a truck ramp at each end.
4. Service area, 1690'x 140', 5-8 tracks. Includes two probable car repair shops, 105'x 90' and 105'x 25'.
5. Hump
6. Passenger train transfer area, 910'x 90', 6-8 tracks. Includes 190'x 40' building, a probable gage conversion facility.
7. Roundhouse. Length of stall approx. 40'. Probable capacity 8-10 locomotives.
8. Classification and receiving yard, 7330'x 325', 15-18 tracks. Probably Russian broad gage.
9. Main transloading yard, 5200'x 1820', 55-60 tracks. This area includes 3 loading platforms, (1) [redacted] shed, (2) 1160'x 35' with 325'x 35' shed, and (3) 500'x 50' with 160'x 50' shed; an open storage area 1370'x 65'; 80' wide gantry crane, covering 5 tracks, running length 650'; and cranes, lifting jacks, and other mechanized equipment.
10. Coal transloading area, with an elevated structure 1180 feet long for unloading coal cars.
11. Classification and receiving yard, 3820'x 480', 25-30 tracks. Probably European standard gage.
12. Administration buildings, personnel quarters, workshops, and storage buildings.
13. Water tower, 40' diameter.
14. Coal storage.
15. Engine repair shop, 295'x 65'. Two turning wyes are nearby.
16. Car repair shop, 210'x 140'.
17. Choke point.
18. Double-track spur line, probably Russian broad gage, serving truck-rail loading areas.
19. Truck-rail loading area, 4030'x 455', 3-4 tracks. Includes loading platform, 1960'x 45', with truck ramp at each end.
20. Siding, 3850' long, 4-5 tracks.
21. Truck-rail loading area, 3020'x 250', 3-4 tracks. Includes loading platform, 2000'x 50', with truck ramp at each end.
22. Siding, 2900' long; 2-3 tracks.
23. Pribenik R.R. station and yards, 2930' long, 5-6 tracks wide.

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REQUIREMENT: Prepared in answer to RR/HTA/E/R48/56 requesting information on the railroad yards at Cerna, including length and width of yard, number of tracks, location and size of platforms, cranes, locomotive and car sheds, and other facilities.

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REFERENCES:

25X1

- Target Mosaic:
- Map: World Aeronautical Chart 232
- Other: Air/A Czechoslovakia IR-518-56

COORDINATES: 48°25'N, 22°05'E

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