

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT**

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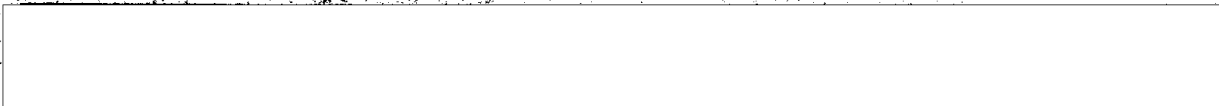
COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	31st Heavy Artillery Brigade at Dedice near Vyskov	DATE DISTR.	2 August 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Location: The brigade is stationed together with a tank unit in the Kosi Horka military camp. The camp is north of Dedice (P50/N71) on the western side of the Dedice-Vesperk (sic) road. Boundaries are: western - a field lane from Dedice to Hamilton; west of this lane and parallel to it is the Dedice-Hamilton district road; eastern - the Dedice-Vesperk road leading to the artillery range; northern - the village of Hamilton (P50/N61); southern - the Dedice-Radslavice district road. The survey battalion is located in the Ziska barracks on the western side of the Vyskov-Brno highway near the Vyskov airfield.

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2. Organisation: Brigade headquarters
 HQ company
 I battalion
 II battalion
 III battalion
 Survey battalion (Merický delostrelecký oddíl - MDO)¹
 Artillery reserve officers' school (Skola důstojníků v záloze - SDZ)
 Artillery NCO school
 Artillery Survey NCO school

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3. a. The brigade was subordinate to the 2nd Military District.

b. Until August 1953 the brigade used a [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] was then replaced by the so-called "open secret name"; 31st Heavy Artillery Brigade. The new name was entered in unit military identification books. When a member of the unit was requested by some authority to produce his identification book he had to cover by his hand the name of the unit.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X", Field distribution by "O")

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d. The brigade was equipped with Mark 37 S guns, caliber 152 mm.

4. Personnel:

General J. Malec, Commander in Chief of all Czechoslovak artillery units.

Colonel Frantisek Vitek, commanding officer of the 31st Heavy Artillery Brigade. 25X1

Lt.-Colonel Oldrich Bedrnik, deputy commanding officer, and CO of the 1st Battalion. 25X1

Major Kratochvil (fmu), chief of staff. 25X1

Major Cerny (fmu), mess. officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Safranak (fmu), transport officer.

Lt. Korensky (fmu), chemical warfare officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Sreboda (fmu), quartermaster officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Nudela (fmu), survey officer. 25X1

1st Lt. David (fmu), signal officer. 25X1

2nd Lt. Ruzicka (fmu), physical training officer. 25X1

1st Lt. Sural (fmu), political affairs officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Hycko (fmu), librarian. 25X1

Captain (Madr. M.D.) Vorec (fmu). 25X1

Captain Adamek (fmu), 1st battalion deputy commanding officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Jan Harts, 1st Battalion chief of staff. 25X1

Lieutenant Mlcek (fmu), 1st battalion deputy chief of staff. 25X1

1st Lt. Bubnik (fmu), 1st battery commanding officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Mach (fmu), 1st battery platoon commanding officer. 25X1

1st Lt. Prochaska (fmu), 2nd battery commanding officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Dufek (fmu), attached to 2nd battery. 25X1

Lieutenant Fiser (fmu), attached to 2nd battery. 25X1

1st Lt. Brezina (fmu), 3rd battery commanding officer. 25X1

Lieutenant Vojacek (fmu), attached to 3rd battery. 25X1

Major Gadas, 2nd battalion commanding officer. 25X1

Major Jurcek (fmu), 3rd battalion commanding officer. 25X1

Captain KASA (fmu), 3rd battalion chief of staff. 25X1

1st Lt. Miroslav Nechutny, NCO school commanding officer. 25X1

1st Lt. Zdenek Lupac, NCO school political affairs officer. 25X1

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Lieutenant Karel Mandlik, attached to NCO school. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

1st Lt. Josef Dvořák, attached to NCO school. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

Major Kopecky (fnu), commanding officer of the Artillery Survey NCOs' school. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]

5. Selection of students for the reserve-officer school and NCO school.

Candidates were selected from men who had completed one month of service in a receiving center (prijímac). The recruiting officers declared that the political past of the prospective candidates would not be taken into account at all, because the candidates would begin a new life and the final opinion would depend on their behavior at the school. Candidates had to fill in questionnaires pertaining to their personal history and to previous political activities. They also were asked to express their wish concerning future assignment(s) in the army. Following these questionnaires the candidates for both schools were chosen. Among students chosen for reserve officers' school were many school teachers. As a rule, soldiers displayed little interest in getting into these schools and most of them tried to avoid the selection as much as they could. By the end of a month candidates had an interview with their battalion or battery commanders who informed them about the decision. During the school only those students who proved incapable for studies or who were reported by their former civilian authorities as enemies of the people's democratic régime were sent back from the schools to their units. The majority of the students were anti-Communists who concealed their true political feelings.

6. The artillery reserve officer school curriculum:

Studies began on 1 December 1952 and lasted probably till 15 October 1953. Studies were divided into three terms: theory - December-March; practical training - April-July; methods of instruction - August-mid-October. The following subjects were taught: political indoctrination, gunnery, tactics, physical training, drill, army regulations, military surveying, artillery equipment, ballistics, military engineering, chemical warfare, medical service, motor transport service, and rear-echelon services.

Daily program:

6.00 a.m. - reveille
6.05-6.25 - morning calisthenics
6.25-6.50 - washing and clean-up of billets
6.50-7.20 - breakfast
7.25-7.35 - morning inspection
7.40-7.55 - preparation for morning classes
8.00-12.35 - classes
12.35-12.40 - preparation for lunch
12.40-1.25 p.m. - lunch
1.30-2.45 - rest period
3.00-4.45 - classes
4.50-5.40 - maintenance of small arms or a class
5.40-6.00 - daily evaluation of achieved results
6.00-6.05 - preparation for supper
6.05-6.40 - supper
6.45-7.35 - cultural activities (singing, chess playing, etc)
7.40-9.35 - individual studying
9.40-9.55 - roll call and reading of daily bulletin
9.55-10.00 - marching and singing in the barracks yard
10.00-10.45 - off duty time
10.45-11.00 - preparation for bed
11.00 - lights out

7. Miscellaneous:

Food was plentiful and well prepared. Leaves were granted only as a special reward for good service or mass work. Passes were granted for Saturday nights and Sunday

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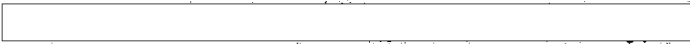



afternoons only. Accommodations were brick barracks without central heating. In winter months there was a shortage of coal. Morale was bad in general, due to the fact that leaves and passes were so scarce. Besides that, soldiers hated especially the excessive political indoctrination which they had to attend. During 10 months, two students committed suicide because they found out about their wives' infidelities and were refused leaves.

8. Klement Gottwald Tank Training Center

The Tank Training Center was situated in the same camp as the 31st Heavy Artillery Brigade. In the Center was a school for tank officers. The equipment consisted mainly of T-34 tanks. Besides those there were Stalinec tanks, Soviet self-propelled 125-mm guns, and some old-type English and German tanks.

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- 1.  Comment. Possibly "artillery reconnaissance battalions" is meant.

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