

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT

Hungarian Armored and  
Rifle Regiments

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an armored regiment in Tapolca, another armored regiment in Retsag, other military and air units, a night driving device, and miscellaneous matters of non-military interest. The report comprises six pages.

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ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC				
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ENCLOSURE

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9 October 1956

COUNTRY: Hungary

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I. Military

1. (a) [redacted] the "independent armored regiment" (Őnálló harckocsizó ezred) [redacted] consisted basically of three T-34 tank companies, one SU 76 mm self-propelled gun company, and one AAA battery. 25X1
- (b) This regiment was subordinate to an unidentified rifle corps with headquarters in Székesfehérvár (N 47-12, E 18-25). 25X1
- (c) The estimated current regimental strength [redacted] was 600 officers and enlisted men. The regiment was allegedly upgraded from an independent tank battalion in February 1955 and was to be brought up to an authorized strength of 1,240 officers and EM by the end of 1956, when it would be an "A" unit. 25X1
- (d) This regiment was located in the Bem caserne in Tapolca (N 46-53, E 17-26). 25X1
- (e) The tank firing range [redacted] was located in the vicinity of Dorog (N 47-43, E 18-44) and the summer camp at Zalahaláp (N 46-54, E 17-27). 25X1

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- (1) [redacted] regiment in  
Tapolca had the following major items of equipment:

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- (1) 62 T-34 tanks (six of which were of Czechoslovak manufacture and in good condition). The Soviet T-34's which made up the bulk of the 62 tanks were of World War II vintage and were in almost unusable condition.
- (2) 12 SU-76 mm SP guns.
- (3) Ten or 11 Csepel Diesel three-and-a-half-ton trucks, converted into repair shop vehicles.
- (4) Four Vippon trucks.
- (5) Three GAZ-67B jeeps.
- (6) Four Csepel Diesel three-ton trucks.
- (7) Four or five unidentified 250 cm. Soviet motorcycles, which source called IZS motorcycles.
- (8) One US World War II GMC truck.
- (9) Two German (probably World War II vintage) POL trucks with a capacity of 6,000 liters each.
- (10) One tank retriever which was actually a regular T-34 tank minus the turret.

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2.

- (a) An unidentified armored NCO (school) regiment (páncéles tiszthelyettes képző ezred), which was directly subordinate to the Ministry of Defense.

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[redacted] It was located at Rétság (N 47-55, E 19-08). [redacted] This "regiment" was an NCO school which presented a course lasting one year. It was organized into three school tank battalions and one school SP battalion. Each of the three companies per school battalion had a strength of approximately 130 men.

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- (b) A so-called "A-type" rifle regiment was subordinate to [redacted] unidentified rifle corps in Székesfehérvár. It was composed of three line and one school battalion. [redacted] its complete strength to be 1,200 to 1,300 officers and EM. 25X1
- (c) An unidentified armored training regiment was located at the "Kenyérmező" camp in Esztergom (N 47-47, E 18-45). 25X1
- (d) An unidentified artillery regiment and one unidentified rifle training regiment were both located at the Lövész caserne in Zalaegerszeg (N 46-29, E 17-05).
- (e) Troops located at Diósjenő (N 47-56, E 19-02) appeared to be members of a heavy artillery unit of unknown size which was armed with Soviet 152 mm guns. There were also other troops there who were members of an assault artillery unit of unknown size; this unit was armed with Soviet (sic) 55 mm "light" guns.
- (f) An unidentified AVH regiment was located in Szombathely (N 47-14, E 16-37).
3. [redacted] there had been no movement of military units into the area [redacted] during the last six months. [redacted] 25X1
4. The unidentified armored NCO (school) regiment cited in 2(a) above did not have more than 800 officers and EM in 1954. At the end of 1955, however, its strength was increased to 1,600 officers and EM. The unidentified AVH (security police) regiment in Szombathely had from 700 to 800 officers and EM in 1955; its personnel strength was increased to approximately 1,400 in about February 1956. This unit was located at a caserne built sometime at the beginning of 1954 and was located on Septel ut in Szombathely. [redacted] 25X1
5. Most personnel from the 1932 class and a few from the 1933 class were discharged [redacted] The bulk of the personnel then consisted of 1935 and 1936-year class members with a few holdovers from the 1933 and 1934 classes. These holdovers were mostly vehicle drivers who had their military service extended to three years as technical specialists. 25X1

In spring 1955 a new regulation was issued by the Ministry of Defense in Budapest stating that all conscript members of Hungarian armored units had to serve three years of conscripted service regardless of their job assignments. Previously only conscripts with technical specialty assignments, such as the drivers referred to above, had been retained for three years of conscripted service. All others had been discharged after two years of service.

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6.

[redacted]  
[redacted] Hungarian infantry troops received an increase of motor vehicles in September 1955. [redacted]

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7.

In the vicinity of [redacted] caserne in Tapolca [redacted] an unidentified Hungarian Air Force unit which was equipped with "Parduc" type one-engine fighter planes. The number of planes with this unit in the beginning of 1956 was increased from 30 to 70 of the "Parduc" type.

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8.

Starting with autumn 1955, live ammunition was being received by [redacted] regiment in Tapolca. The bulk of ammunition, however, was received in February 1956. It was delivered in approximately four railroad cars and consisted of various types of ammunition for all weapons organic to and present at his unit. Large unknown quantities of 85 mm and 76 mm shells were received in this shipment, as well as small arms ammunition and F-1 and F-42 hand grenades. The bulk of the above-mentioned shells was loaded into T-34's and SU-76's which were administratively deadlined and kept combat ready.

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9.

10. (a)

[redacted] a prototype night-driving device which was brought [redacted] by an unidentified officer who allegedly came from Budapest. [redacted] top-ranking NCOs briefly drove at night with the aid of this device affixed to a T-34. [redacted] the device [redacted] a square, steel-sided box about 35 cm. high, with a square glass top measuring approximately 50x35 cm. The device was mounted on a metal stand about 40 or 50 cm. high and placed on the right side of the driver. The seeing lenses of the tank periscope were covered with a piece of unidentified black glass. "Wires" leading out of the "box" were connected to the tank's batteries. [redacted] a T-34 tank fitted with this device [redacted] looking down at the top of the device [redacted] a very poor reflection of the road ahead of the tank, to a distance of 30 to 40 meters ahead of it. [redacted]

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[redacted] the night driving device was nearly useless. [redacted] the device would be perfected in the near future and that unspecified, similar equipment in Soviet hands was already perfected to a point where it was practical. [redacted]

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- (b) [redacted] no [redacted] new weapons at [redacted] any [redacted] Hungarian unit within the last six months. However, in 1954 [redacted] tanks were present in large numbers in Cegléd (N 47-10, E 19-47) and were referred to as T-24 Soviet tanks (sic) among Hungarian tank personnel. The major external difference between the T-24 (sic) and the T-34 was that the T-24 (sic) had four road wheels and a 76 mm gun mounted on it. Otherwise it resembled the T-34 very closely.

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20.

[redacted] every military installation had an AA gun emplacement manned 24 hours a day. [redacted] caserne in Tapolca there was an AA gun emplacement which consisted of two Soviet M 1939 85 mm AA guns. The guns were manned around the clock allegedly by personnel of the organic regimental AAA battery. [redacted]

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## II. Civilian

1.

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[redacted] there were shortages in the supply of meat in almost all parts of Hungary. Pork was especially hard to get and usually meat could be bought only on Fridays or Saturdays. During 1955, there were general but small price reductions on all articles. [redacted] during the same period pay rates remained unchanged.

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4. [redacted] a highway from Szombathely to Torony (N 47-14, E 16-32) was being worked on and was partially completed at the time of his defection. [redacted] construction on it was stopped due to a labor shortage. [redacted] subway construction in Budapest was also stopped sometime in 1955 due to a shortage of raw materials. 25X1
5. [redacted] the mail of conscripts was censored for about six months after they were inducted. 25X1
6. [redacted] World War II air raid shelters were being reconditioned and [redacted] new buildings were all built with air raid shelter provisions. [redacted] all military and civilian personnel received inoculations every six months against typhus and dysentery. Both military and civilian personnel also received shots once a year against cholera and plague. [redacted] civilians had to pay two forints per inoculation. 25X1
7. [redacted] 25X1
8. [redacted]
9. [redacted] in 1955 large numbers of civilians were evicted in Szombathely. Their apartments were taken over by Soviet dependents who came to Szombathely from Austria at that time. The evicted civilians were given living space in other parts of the city. [redacted] there was a large colony of Soviet military personnel and their dependents in Szombathely. 25X1

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