




CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**



COUNTRY Czechoslovakia  
 SUBJECT Description of the Sixth Artillery Regiment at Brno/  
 Attitudes of Czech Soldiers/Antoprapor Kaserne  
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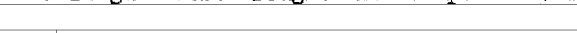


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1. The Sixth Artillery Regiment of the Czech Army was named the "Clement Gottwald Regiment" because the late president had once served in that unit. The Regiment's permanent base was a kaserne in the northwest section of Brno. It consisted of only two "weapons" batteries of 120 men each. These were known as the "Sixth and Seventh" Batteries. There was also a communications battery and one assigned to the handling of recruits. The commandant of the Regiment was Lt. Colonel Hornik and his second-in-command was Major Kral. All in all there were about 300 men assigned to the camp.
  
2. The weapons used were all of Soviet manufacture. The standard artillery piece in use was the Soviet 122 mm general purpose field piece. The Regiment actually used only six of these guns for training but there were quite a few more of them covered and in storage sheds. Seven men were required to operate this gun, and in our training each man was required to learn to do the job of all seven positions. The guns recoiled in oil and were able to fire all types of shells. The plates carrying firing and maintenance instructions were all written in the Russian language and it was necessary that their translations be memorized by the soldiers. 50X1
  
3. Early in 1949 about 16 Soviet anti-aircraft guns were brought into camp. They were of smaller caliber than the 122's.  They were mounted on two rubber tires and could be set up and fired in various trajectories. 50X1
  
4.  instructors were regular Czech Army officers but the training program was actually supervised by a small group of Soviet Army officers. One Soviet officer was actually attached to each battery and the others supervised various training activities. These Soviet Army officers wore Czech Army uniforms and insignia, the only difference being a small red star on the left breast pocket. None of the Soviet officers  were above company grade. 50X1
  
5. The Regiment used the field firing range at Medlanky, which was about two miles north of the kaserne. This is a hilly, thickly forested area and contains an underground ammunition dump.
  
6. Because of an acute shortage of shells for training purposes, the Regiment adopted a unique method of anti-tank practice firing at close range, moving targets.

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Tank-shaped targets would be moved across the firing area and the gun teams would go through regular rapid aiming and firing procedures except that the lanyard would be connected to an ordinary infantry rifle which was rigidly attached to the barrel of the artillery piece. The rifle was "zeroed in" with the sights on the artillery piece and would presumably hit the target where the artillery shell would have landed. This system, of course, could only apply at short range and was used at distances up to 200 meters. Credit for a perfect shot was given if the bullet penetrated the dummy tank's turret.

7. Political indoctrination was considered a vital phase of training. Half an hour of every morning was devoted to compulsory propaganda lectures in which the glory and invincibility of the USSR was preached. Politics have another facet in the Czech Army.

8. Despite the intense indoctrination received by the Czech soldier, he could not be counted on in combat with Western nations. At least 75% of the officers and men would take the first opportunity to surrender or defect. It was often discussed among close-knit groups of conscripts that this fact must be realized by the Soviets and that therefore our Czech units would never be used in a conflict with Western nations but only in some isolated theater of Communist expansion, such as Southern Asia, where we would be fighting another race on unfriendly soil. This idea was common before the Korean conflict began. Czech civilians, incidentally, are still quite friendly toward the Czech Army. It is the "other army" of Security Police which they hate.

9. Adjacent to but slightly west and north of the kaserne of the Sixth Artillery Regiment was the larger Autopravor Kaserne which housed a light tank unit. During 1949 new corrugated iron buildings were constructed on the east side of this area to house light tanks and other vehicles. These sheds were placed side by side so that several tanks could be driven out simultaneously. The unit stationed here was a light tank battalion with complete maintenance facilities and troop quarters. The unit was also equipped with Skoda jeeps and half tracks. This installation is on the post that used to be assigned to a horse cavalry unit.

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