

COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Hungarian Engineer Battalion in the Engineer Training Camp at 25X1

Kisbodák

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 21 March 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS

[Redacted] 25X1

25X1 1. From 31 March to 28 June 1951, the engineer battalion [Redacted] conducted its summer training in the engineer training camp near Kisbodák. The camp consisted of an undetermined number of tents and three solid barracks buildings. The address of the battalion was Honvedség Kisbodák. [Redacted] 25X1

25X1 [Redacted] the unit [Redacted] was an engineer battalion which was stationed in the Frigyes Barracks in Gyöer (P 48/Y 44). While in Camp Kisbodák, the battalion was subordinate to the camp headquarters in Kisbodák. In early June 1951, the battalion went through a ceremony, during which the flag was dedicated and the commanding officer delivered a speech, mentioning that the flag was that of an engineer brigade rather than that of the battalion. The soldiers would be inducted into components of this brigade in case of war. This was the only time the engineer brigade was mentioned. [Redacted] 25X1

25X1 [Redacted] a battalion from Komárom (P 43/Y 75), several engineer battalions from Baja (Y 6/S 28), and an engineer battalion from Mosonmagyaróvár (P 48/Y 16) were also stationed in the engineer camp at Kisbodák. The camp was located on the west bank of the Danube River, about 2 km east of Kisbodák. *

2. The engineer battalion was organized into a headquarters of about 24 men; 3 companies of about 100 men each which were organized into 3 platoons each; and 1 guard company of about 70 men. According to the ration strength, the battalion totaled 465 men. About 50 percent of the personnel were members of the 1927 and 1928 classes, about 30 percent were of the 1924 and 1925 classes, and the remainder were of older classes. Almost all of the soldiers of the guard company were members of the 1929 class who had reported for active service in the fall of 1950. ** The personnel wore green service color. Officers and NCOs had branch-of-service insignia which consisted of an anchor with an anchor cable, pickax and spade. Officers of the battalion included Captain István Berta, the commanding officer, whose headquarters was located in Gyöer; Senior Lieutenant Gál (fnu), deputy commanding officer; Junior Lieutenant Mezőe (fnu), adjutant; Senior Lieutenant Istvan Nagy, supply officer; and Senior Lieutenant János Toth, the commanding officer of the 3d Co, a reserve officer who was discharged on 28 June 1951.

25X1 3. The battalion was equipped with 7 x 3-ton trucks, 3 x 1.5-ton trucks and 4 jeeps. About the same number of motor vehicles were seen with the engineer battalion from Mosonmagyaróvár, whereas the battalions from Komárom and Baja were equipped with more motor vehicles. *

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4. Record practice with small arms was held twice at the target ranges in Mosonmagyaróvár, the battalion being temporarily quartered in the barracks installation on the south side of the road to Level (Q 48/Y 06). A Hungarian major general, allegedly Major General Vocroes (fnu), inspected the camp twice. He was accompanied by a Soviet officer from Budapest. 25X1

5. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] About 95 of 1,000 soldiers inducted at Kapuvár were assigned to the engineer unit in Győr, where they were issued uniforms in the Frigyes Barracks. On 1 April 1951, about 400 recruits were transported from there by rail to Mosonmagyaróvár and then by truck to the engineer training camp in Kisbodák. 25X1

* [REDACTED] Comment. The report confirms information [REDACTED] 25X1

The permanent station of this engineer battalion is Győr. The present report also confirms motorized engineer battalions in Komárom and Baja.

** [REDACTED] Comment. It is known from several previous reports that numerous members of older classes, who had been deferred from active service, were inducted for short periods of training in 1951. This program apparently is designed to have all able-bodied men available for the instantaneous mobilization of units in case of war. 25X1

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