

HUNGARYM.J.  
8 Nov  
I. - 9174Warning to Border Crossers.SOURCE MUNICH: No information available.DATE OF OBSERVATION: Mid-October, 1952.

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The bulk of those wanting to escape from Hungary used to cross the border in the vicinity of MOSONMAGYARÓVÁR. However, the frontier area stretching between MIKLÓSHALOM /MIKLÓS-HALOMI tanyák/ and HEGYESHALOM has recently become one of the most dangerous crossing points. The frontier chasseurs of the State Security Police KÁVH/ received orders between September 10 - 15th to fortify this frontier area especially. In this neighbourhood there are eight watch-towers about 200 metres apart. Between the watch-towers and the border proper there stretches a strip of bushes and shrubbery. Formerly this strip was followed by a five-metre belt of dug and ~~XXXXX~~ raked soil. The a strip of grassland, again some five metres wide, skirted by a 35 cm pathway along which the frontier guards used to communicate. Then came the first barbed-wire fence. Between this and the second one there was some more grassland, some six metres wide, in which the land-mines are placed 10 metres apart. Past the second barbed-wire fence comes Austria and freedom.

That is to say this was the position until recently. The following alterations have now been carried out. The harrowed strip has also been studded with mines so that there are now two mine-fields on top of each other. The most dangerous contraption, however, is a thin wire, barely visible in the 25 cm tall grass, laid about 2 metres this side of the harrowed strip of land. This wire, when touched by a body weighing over 45 kilos, operates an alarm signal, such as the usual bell-board found in hotels, where numbers indicate the room from which the bell has been rung.

There are such bell-boards in each one of the eight watch-towers. Immediately on touching the wire a number appears indicating the short frontier section where the contact was made. Spotlights are directed from the tower towards the spot concerned and patrols are firing rockets. As soon as the alarm has been sounded, telephone messages are sent to the frontier posts at HEGYESHALOM and LEVÉL and the whole frontier area is combed right through.

The movements of the local population have also been restricted, namely to sectors of an average width of 10 kilometres. The inhabitants of MOSONMAGYARÓVÁR for instance are not allowed to visit LEVÉL without special permission. In consequence of these measures, crossing the frontier in this area has become one of the most hazardous enterprises.

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EVAL COMMENT: In accordance with a good number of previous reports on very similar security measures, see Items Nos. 10353/52 as well as 524, 1449, 3096, 3097, 3471/52 and 12470/52. According to Item No.1852/52, the HEGYESHALOM area is subjected to particularly severe vigilance by the AVH border police. Strict control of the movements of the populace in the border zones in keeping with Item No.1330/52.

ANS: S.Y.  
April 14