

AH
9 August 1951
VII/245-247

RUMANIAARMED FORCESPolitical propaganda

in 1950
Political propaganda meetings were held at the platoons of the Fourth Border Guard Regiment. The political officer read aloud articles from various Communist papers ("Scantetia" and *others*) mostly or books describing life in the USSR. All propaganda was directed against the United States and Great Britain. The political officer said:

"In the ¹⁹⁴⁵U.S. workers work under the threat of machine guns. They have very little to eat and are poorly dressed.

"In the U.S. the wealth of the country is concentrated in the hands of some 60 families.

"The American soldiers have very little military training, they get very little food and are poorly dressed. They fight in KOREA only lest they should be court-martialed and shot.

"As soon as a new war ~~will~~ begin, all workers in the U.S. and other "imperialist" countries will start a revolution, in order to overthrow their regime and make peace with USSR.

"USSR is invincible. She has the best army in the world, the best armament and the most efficient atomic bomb.

"TITO is a valet of the "Imperialist-Fascists". He will soon be liquidated by the Yugoslav people. Very soon a revolution against TITO will be initiated.

"There are in all countries of the world well organized partisan troops, who in case of a war will enter into action, overthrow all "Fascist-Imperialist" regimes, so that USSR may reign over the world."

Although the Recruiting Board, acting in accordance with instructions from above, picked up the newly recruited soldiers one by one, only 65 per cent of the total number of the recruits were sent to military units (selected from the workers' and peasants' stock;) the remaining 35 per cent *were* ✓ assigned to ~~perform forced labor in~~ labor battalions on the Danube canal. The Communist propaganda in the army had an influence ~~in a maximum~~ one to two per cent of the soldiers.

22/22

if

AH
9 August 1951
VII/245-247

ROMANIA
(cont'd)

the
In case of a war with the West, the majority of the Rumanian soldiers will desert ~~the army~~ and surrender in mass to the Americans, who will finally liberate them from the Communist yoke.

As a result of the Communist propaganda the soldiers ~~comment~~ comment among themselves:

"Rumania has received from the United States *(who)* perfect machinery, food, etc., while from Russia she *(the)* has received only various ailments, and a lot of bandits, ~~stealing~~ *stealing* harvest and compelling our people to work like slaves on the "kolkhozes."

b) Staff

Until August 1950, Lt.-Col. TEODORESCU Stefan was Commander of ~~the~~ "Instruction Center No. 266." He was replaced by Major MEDELET (fnu).

(from)
Each company had a "political officer", and each combat group had an "agitator" *(from)* chosen among the soldiers, generally a member of the Communist Party or the U.T.R. (Union of the Labour Youth.)

from
In addition, each company had a "secret agent" chosen among the soldiers, generally a member of the Communist Party or the U.T.R., who spied on his comrades and reported his findings to the political officer.

The eighth company's political officer was Lt. IFRIE Ion who, although a member of the Communist Party, was not a very convinced Communist.

In October 1950 the fourth Border Guard Regiment was stationed in the city of TIMISOARA, and the first Battalion of the fourth Border Guard Regiment was billeted in the village of BESINOVA, District Timis Torontal.

The Commander of the fourth Border Guard Regiment was Major SOLESANU (fnu).

The Commander of the first Battalion was Lt. ANDREI Ion, a former printer from the city of FAGARAS, a fanatic and cruel Communist. He imposed hard punishment on the soldiers.

AH

9 August 1951
VII/245-247

RUMANIA
(cont'd)

The seventh platoon was billeted at the village of TEREMIA-MARE, District Temis-Torontal (in the present Border Guard organization; a platoon is the smallest unit of a Border Guard regiment.)

Commander of the seventh platoon was Lt. TRANCA Nicolae, born at the village of PIATRA OLT; member of the C.P. and a fanatic Communist.

The seventh platoon comprised 70 soldiers and two corporals. The mission of the seventh platoon was to supervise the Rumanian-Yugoslav border over a distance of five kilometers. This zone stretched between the highway leading from the village TEREMIA-MARE towards the city of KOKRIN (Yugoslavia) and the highway leading from the village TEREMIA-MARE towards the city of KIKINDA (Yugoslavia.)

Political officer of the seventh platoon was Lt. PAMPIL Gheorghe.

Non-commissioned officer was S/M VAIDA Vasile, anti-Communist, eager to escape from Rumania.

was
Non-commissioned officer in charge of dog training, AUGUSTIN, Stefan.

c) Regulations

The soldiers are prohibited to say their evening prayers, as is the custom in Rumania. They must hide when they say their prayers, and if they are caught praying or crossing themselves they are punished.

The border guard soldiers have no right to talk to the peasants or young peasant girls of the neighboring villages, nor are they allowed to enter a village shop.

any
Each soldier must report to the officer the sum of money received from home. He must also report to the officer when he spends any part of that money. Every soldier must keep a book and enter the amount of money received and all expenditures.

AM
9 August 1951
VII/245-247

ROMANIA
(cont'd)

At weekly inspections the officer in charge checks not only the contents of the soldier's trunk, but also his money. If the amount in his possession exceeds the amount he had reported it is assumed that the soldier has been bribed by some person eager to cross the Rumanian border illegally, and the soldier is immediately arrested.

ded When new recruits are assigned to the border guard units, they are put under observation by the political officer and his agents. This observation lasts one to two months. During this period the newly recruited soldiers have no right to carry a ~~charged~~ gun, and when they are on duty, they always have to walk several steps ahead of senior soldiers.

If the new soldiers while on guard move away from the sentry for more than 10 meters, guards have order to shoot ~~at the recruit~~ without warning.

? d) Out service

The Yugoslav Border Zone is 25 km deep, *and is* ~~This zone is under~~ Securitate and militia troops control. Only people provided with a ~~special permit (called the Zone Permit, issued by militia)~~ are authorized to enter or to stay in this zone.

From 1800 until the next morning all civilians must stay indoors.

At night militia troops inspect the houses in the villages. All inhabitants must appear in person, and if one of the family, even a four to five year old child is missing, militia immediately informs the border guards by telephone, ordering double vigilance. All other family members are arrested. Security police suspects that peasants help people to cross the Rumanian border illegally, and that their children serve as guides.

If a stranger, not holding a "zone permit" is found in a house, all inhabitants are arrested.

In addition to militia and Securitate, also guards of the Cavalry platoon are on duty in the border zone.

AH

9 August 1951

VII/245-247

RUMANIA
(cont'd)

In almost every village within reach of the border there are anti-aircraft observation posts on wooden towers four m high provided with aircraft machine guns, telephone and binoculars, and manned by five army soldiers.

e) Zone area

The zone area supervised by Border Guard soldiers is 500 meters deep (from the frontier into the Rumanian territory.) In that zone farmers are allowed to work their land only in groups; each group is supervised by a guard who has order to shoot if a farmer moves away from the group. Tractors may plough the land only with a guard seated at the driver's side.

may In an area 250 meters deep from the border line into the Rumanian territory no trees are to be seen; all vineyards have been uprooted, and only plants not higher than 30 centimeters can be raised.

In an area 10 meters deep along the frontier the ground is ploughed by border guard troops *twice* a month. This area must remain uncultivated and serves only for observation purposes. The political officer regularly inspects the ground; ~~and~~ if he finds footprints leading toward the Yugoslav frontier, the soldiers ~~who were~~ on guard in this section *early* are punished.

In an area 15 meters deep along the frontier there are iron observation towers 800 meters distant from each other. They are 12 meters high. A ladder leads to the top of ~~the~~ tower. All towers have a telephone connection with the commander of the platoon.

f) Protection of the frontier ⁱⁿ at day time

Filed In an area 500 meters ^{deep} from the border line into the Rumanian territory, border guard sentries are on duty. Each sentry unit consists of two soldiers and a trained dog. The sentries follow an itinerary ~~fixed~~ in advance and called "sentry graphic." They inspect all farm houses, holes in the ground and other hiding places.

AH
9 August 1951
VII/245-247

RUMANIA
(cont'd)

In addition, during day time two soldiers provided with "Kaiser" rifles, binoculars and telescope rifles keep guard in the observation towers. The soldiers in the observation towers have two tasks:

- a) To prevent ^{refugees from} crossing the Yugoslav border
- b) To watch what is happening on Yugoslav territory: traffic, railroad communications, movements of troops, new constructions, farming, etc.

g) Protection of the frontier at night

In an area 5 km deep along the border line, guard units consisting of two soldiers each are patrolling. They are armed with rifles and handgrenades.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: March 1951

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : fairly reliable
Information : partly confirmed by other sources.