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12. (U) 2nd Light Tank Battalion
22 November 1966

CONSULATE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEC - 5 1966

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

17 Nov 1966

OUSARMA RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZIL

6. (G) ORGANIZATION. This unit is organized into a Regt and Service Company and 3 Tank Companies. Santo Angelo, Brazil, 17 Nov 66

VERNON A. WALTERS, BRIG GEN, US
U.S. Defense Attache

7. (G) VEHICLES. This unit is equipped with the following vehicles:

Personal Observation

- 50 M-3-A1 M3 tanks with continental tires (22 operational)
- 1 Gas tank truck
- 1 U.S. 1942 Jeep
- 19 Brazilian built later model jeeps and pick ups.
- 21 1/2 ton trucks (Chevy. and Studebakers) (7 operational)

(U) This report forwards information on the 2nd Light Tank Battalion located in the city of SANTO ANGELO (28188-5416W), State of Rio Grande do Sul. I was accompanied on this visit by AARMA Major Schuler.

8. (G) TRAINING. This unit paraded on the occasion of my visit. Close order drill and manual of arms were noticeably creditable. Drafts were incorporated in the unit in May. Sergeants looked particularly professional.

9. (G) MISSION. Is provide armored punch for the 1st Cav. Division and to be available to exploit any breakthrough or to move swiftly and effectively against any enemy penetration and deter insurgency.

10. (G) COMPOSITION. All tanks were theoretically equipped with U.S. M1A2 radios all of which are imperative for lack of parts and crystals. Tank intercoms operate. Unit has 2 Brazilian M-3A1 radios that provide voice and CW contact with the 1st Cav. Division, 2nd Army and 3rd Army.

1. (G) LOCATION. This unit is located in the town of SANTO ANGELO in northwestern Rio Grande do Sul. It occupies the southern half of the military area at the north end of town on the east side of Ave. Venancio Aires.

2. (G) SUBORDINATION. This unit is a component of the 1st Cav. Division which is at SANTIAGO DO BOQUIRAO (29118-5453W), and is directly subordinate to it and through it to the 3rd Army.

3. (G) COMMAND. At the time of my visit, on 17 Nov 1966, this unit was commanded by Lt. Col. JOAO NARCISO PINHEIRO FERREIRA. He is an old hand (19 yrs) in Rio Grande do Sul. His Exec. Officer was Major CEZAR.

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OUSARMA RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZ

4. (C) STRENGTH. This unit has a strength of 505 men, 19 officers and 41 Sergeants.

5. (C) REQUIREMENT. All of the enlisted men of this unit are recruited in the immediate area. (This includes many Sergeants). Curiously, this unit, as well as the 1st Light Tank Bn. in CAMPINAS, State of Sao Paulo, is composed of INFANTRY and NOT Cavalry personnel. Soldiers were taller and more robust looking than in areas further north. Illiteracy is around 20%. The Battalion operates literacy schools.

6. (C) ORGANIZATION. This unit is organized into a Hqs and Service Company and 3 Tank Companies. Its organization is very similar to that of U.S. World War II Tank Battalions.

7. (C) VEHICLES. This unit is equipped with the following vehicles:

- 56 M-3-A1 US built Tanks with continental/gasoline engines (42 operational)
- 1 Gas tank truck
- 7 U.S. 1942 Jeeps
- 19 Brazilian built later model jeeps and pick ups.
- 21 1 1/2 ton trucks (Chev. and Studebakers) (7 operational)
- 12 2 1/2 ton trucks (3A operational)
- 1 Brazilian built Chev. Sta. Wagon

Vehicles inoperative due to shortage of spare parts and extensive obsolescence.

8. (C) TRAINING. This unit paraded on the occasion of my visit. Close order drill and manual of arms were ~~extremely~~ creditable. Draftees were incorporated in the unit in May. Sergeants looked particularly professional.

9. (C) MISSION. To provide armored punch for the 1st Cav. Division and to be available to exploit any breakthrough or to move swiftly and effectively against any enemy penetration and deter insurgency.

10. (C) COMMUNICATION. All tanks were theoretically equipped with U.S. SCR 245 radios all of which are inoperative for lack of parts and crystals. Tank inter-coms operate. Unit has 2 Brazilian R-300 radios that provide voice and CW contact with the 1st Cav. Division, 3rd Army and adjacent units.

11. (C) EFFECTIVENESS. Very low by US standards. While population of vehicles deadlined may seem high, it represents miracles of ingenuity and resourcefulness to keep even limited numbers of these museum pieces operative.

12. (C) HISTORY. This unit was activated in NATAL (0547S-3514W), State of Rio Grande do Norte, in 1942. It moved to CACAPAVA (2306S-4543W), State of Sao Paulo in 1944, and finally to its present location in 1946.

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