

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

BRAZIL

(U) 1st Cavalry Regiment

CONSULATE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2 809 0805 66

21 November 1966

DEC - 5 1966

DIRM 1.J.11

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

Itaqui, 15 Nov 66

Itaqui, Brazil, 15 Nov 66

A

1

CUSARMA RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZIL

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

Personal Observation

Troop housing,
Supply & Stables

(U) On 15 November 1966, accompanied by AARMA Major Schuler, I visited the 1st Cavalry Regiment at ITAQUI (28098-5633W), State of Rio Grande do Sul.

6. (C) ORGANIZATION. This unit, like most Cavalry Regiments, is organized into a Rifle and Service Squadron, a Heavy Weapons Squadron, and 2 Rifle Cavalry Squadrons.

7. (U) WEAPONS. The standard weapon is the Brazilian Manufactured 1914 Remington. In the Rifle Squadron there are 12 BAR's and in the Weapons Squadron 2 81mm Mortars and 2 Machine Machine Guns. There are also a number of 2.40 Machine Guns. Sergeants are all armed with 1914 Sub-machine guns and officers carry their own individual side arms.

8. (C) TRAINING. Courses are taken in once a year in January and followed in September or November. At the time of my visit, the 1st Cavalry was in the Division maneuvers 2 weeks before at MEXICO (Coord 1966).

1. (C) COMMAND - At the time of my visit the Regimental Commander was Lt.Col. RONDON GUIMARAES, who had been in command for about a year.

2. (C) STRENGTH - This unit had 144 men, 21 officers and 31 Sergeants.

3. (C) RECRUITMENT - 25% of the men were recruited locally in the ITAQUI area, and 75% came from the northern part of Rio Grande do Sul State, The so-called Zona da Serra or Zona de Colonia. A high percentage of the latter are of German, Polish and Italian ethnic origin. Approximately 15% are illiterate and the regiment conducts a school for them.

12. (C) FACILITIES. The unit has 1 motor, 1 hospital, and an 8 bed infirmary. There are various camps are conducted at the Division Hospital at MEXICO (Coord 1966).

13. (C) INSURANCE. There are provided from the Army Command. The U.S. Consulate of Rio Grande do Sul, but added that all had made 100% from the U.S. Consulate. The unit had 1 1/2 year old horses. He said he had enough

USCINCSO
COMUSARMA

AmConsulate, P.Alegre

GP-3

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND53328

CONFIDENTIAL

2 809 0305 66

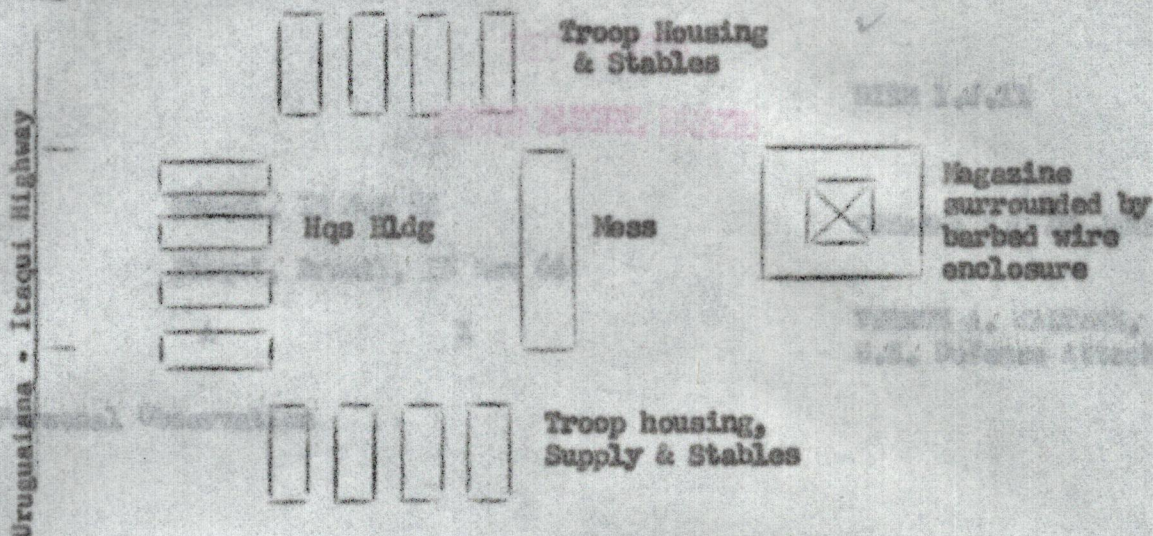
2

2

CONFIDENTIAL

OUSARMA RIO DE JANEIRO BRA

4. (C) LOCATION - This unit is located 6 KMs south of the center of the town of ITAQUI. Its barracks are located on the East side of the road leading to URUGUAYANA (29453-57054).



5. (C) SUBORDINATION. This unit is a component of the 1st Cavalry Division and is directly subordinate to it and through it to the Third Army.

6. (C) ORGANIZATION. This unit, like most Cavalry Regiments, is organized into a Hqs and Service Squadron, a Heavy Weapons Squadron, and 2 Rifle Cavalry Squadrons.

7. (C) WEAPONS. The standard weapon is the Brazilian Manufactured 1934 7mm Mosquetao. In the Rifle Squadron there are 12 BAR's and in the Weapons Squadron 4 81mm Mortars and 8 Madsen Machine Guns. There are also a number of 2.34 Bazookas. Sergeants are all armed with IMA Sub-machine guns and officers carry their own individual side arms.

8. (C) TRAINING. Conscripts are taken in once a year in January and relieved in November or December. At the time of my visit, the CO said that he had taken his unit to the Division maneuvers 2 weeks before at RINCAO (Coord Unit) and they had ridden 55 KMs a day with almost no stragglers. They had moved mainly at night to avoid observation.

9. (C) COMMUNICATIONS. This unit had a radio shack containing 2 Brazilian M-300 radio sets which enabled them to maintain CW communications with the 1st Cav. Division, and the 3rd Army. They were expecting SSB voice equipment.

10. (C) VEHICLES. This unit had 1 GMC 2 1/2 ton truck, 2 Brazilian Chevrolet 3/4 ton trucks and 4 Brazilian Willys Pick Ups and 4 Jeeps.

11. (C) MEDICAL. The unit had 1 Doctor, 1 Dentist, and an 8 bed infirmary. More serious cases are evacuated to the Division Hospital at SANTIAGO DE BOQUEIRAO (29113-5453W).

12. (C) HORSES. Horses are procured from the Army Remount. The C.O. complained that many of his horses are old, but added that all had made 165KM trek to and from RINCAO. Maneuvers included 1 15 year old horse. He said he had enough horses for all his men who did not ride in vehicles.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND53328