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CONSULATE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BRAZIL

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(U) 1st Cav. Division

DEC - 5 1966

21 November 1966

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

DIRM 1.J.11

16 Nov 1966

COUSARMA RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZIL

Santiago do Boqueirao, Brazil

16 Nov 66

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

Personal Observation

(U) The 1st Cavalry Division Hqs. is located in the center of the small city of SANTIAGO DO BOQUEIRAO (29118-5453W), State of Rio Grande do Sul. I visited this Division on 16 Nov 1966.

I was accompanied on this visit by AARMA Major Schuler.

The C.O. of the 2nd Lt. Tank Bn. was Lt. Col. JAMES F. WALTERS.

The C.O. of the 1st Rec. Bn. was Lt. Col. JAMES F. WALTERS.

The C.O. of the 1st Motorized Cav. Regiment was Col. DANIEL M. BERTS.

(U) There were 17 sets of quarters in SANTIAGO DO BOQUEIRAO for officers and a similar number for sergeants. At the officers club, 5 sets of 20's were almost finished for transient officers or newly arrived officers awaiting quarters.

(U) The Division was based with a large element from the so-called Zone da Serra or Zona da Colônia, that is the northern part of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, a high percentage of soldiers of German, Italian, and Polish descent.

1. (C) STRENGTH AND DEPLOYMENT.

a. The Division Hqs, the 2nd Arty Bn. Horsedram 75, the 14th Cav. Regiment, the Signal Co., and the garrison hospital with a 40 bed capacity are all located in the city of SANTIAGO. Additionally, the 1st Cav. Regiment is located in ITAQUI (28098-5633W), the 3rd Cav. Regiment in SAO LUIZ GONZAGA (28218-5458W), the 2nd Light Tank Bn. and the 1st Mechanized Reconnaissance Regiment in SANTO ANGELO (28188-5416), with the 2nd Rech. Maintenance Co., and the 1st Regiment of the Motorized Cavalry located in SANTO ROSA (27528-5429W).

I visited the hospital and they seemed well on the way to recovery. Available roads are also a problem for this division. Traveling from ITAQUI, 1st Cav. Regiment to the Division Hqs, in a rainstorm was a dirt road, required for a jeep using a wheel drive 7 hours to cover the 120 miles.

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DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS

NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

(U) Division Hqs in ITAQUI, including 7 - 1962, 1 Brazilian made 1960; 4.7. History of 40 men (normally 120); 1000, of 51 men; 4 Chev, 22 Jan Trucks; 1 Chev. 31st. Horse, 4 1/2 Ton trucks, and 2 tank truck.

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b. The Strength of the Division is around 5000 men. It is the only one of the Cavalry Divisions in Rio Grande do Sul that has tanks.

2. (C) EQUIPMENT. Equipment of the units visited is discussed in separate reports. There have been no major changes in the equipment of this division. No new equipment has been received other than vehicles and SSB radios. No new equipment is expected in the near future. All units are engaged in strenuous efforts to keep their ancient material operational with varying success.

3. (C) AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. Extends from the Ibicui river south to NONOAI (2721S-5247W), near the Sta. Catarina border.

4. (C) CHECK POINTS. No check points were encountered in moving around this Division's areas. They apparently are in effect only along the Uruguayan border. NOT along the Argentine border.

5. (C) COMMAND.

a. At the time of my visit the Division Commander was Brig. General RAMIRO TAVARES GONCALVES (See IR 2 809 0436 64, 17 Dec 64), and his Chief of Staff was Col. RUBEN CONTINENTINO DIAS RIBEIRO who is shortly expected to be promoted to Brig. General and assume command of the 2nd Cav. Division.

b. The C.O. of the 1st Cav. Regiment was Lt. Col. BONDON GUIMARAES
The C.O. of the 3rd Cav. Regiment was Lt. Col. ALBERTO CARLOS FURTADO MAZERON
The C.O. of the 2nd Lt. Tank Bn. was Lt. Col. JOAO FERREIRA
The C.O. of the 1st Rec. Mech. Regt. was Lt. Col. LEO ETCHIBOYAN
The C.O. of the 1st Motorized Cav. Regiment was Col. CANTIDIO BRITAS

6. (C) QUARTERS. There were 29 sets of quarters in SANTIAGO DO BOQUEIRAO for officers and a similar number for Sergeants. At the officers club, 5 sets of BOQ's were almost finished for transient officers or newly arrived officers awaiting quarters.

7. (C) RECRUITMENT. Recruitment was local with a large element from the so-called Zona da Serra or Zona da Colonia, that is the northern part of Rio Grande do Sul where there is a high percentage of soldiers of German, Polish and Italian extraction.

8. (C) PROBLEMS. As in other units the main problems of the 1st Cavalry Division derive from obsolete or obsolescent equipment with the material and morale problems consequent on these factors. SANTIAGO DO BOQUEIRAO is a PTB stronghold but according to the Division Commander this did not present a serious problem. The Division had recently completed large scale maneuvers in the RINCAO (Coord Unk) area, and these had gone off well. A running horse team towing a gun had produced an accident in which one soldier was killed and 8 wounded. I visited the latter in the garrison hospital and they seemed well on the way to recovery. Abominable roads are also a problem for this division. Travelling from ITAQUI, 1st Cav. Regiment to the Division Hqs, in a rainstorm over a dirt road, required (in a jeep using 4 wheel drive) 7 hours to drive the 100 miles.

9. (C) RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINES AND BORDER PROBLEMS. Discussed in separate report.

10. (C) Division Hqtrs includes the following: 16 Jeeps, including 7 - M1942, 1 Brazilian made VEMAG; N.P. Platoon of 60 men (normally 40); Hqs Co. of 81 men; 4 Chev. 2½ Ton trucks; 1 Chev. Sta. Wagon, 4 1½ Ton trucks, and 1 tank truck.

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