

# ARTILLERY FORTRESS IN THE MATERNICE FOREST

## DIFFICULT WAY TO PLACING THE FORTRESS

Surrounding of Hronov should be protected by fortress Jírová Mountain – the third biggest in Czechoslovakia. Its reason was to stop the enemy through Náchod to the inland. This key task was the main role in design of the fortress. All the fortress should have had nine objects in the highest degree of endurance which should have been connected with underground. Dominant dimension Turov with possible enemy watchtower was the big problem for situating the fortress. Place it in front of the dimension Turov meant important prolonging of the line, more costs and necessity to leave advanced position on the range. But the new place on the dimension Na Perném near Chlívce was not ideal. Fortress Dobrošov stayed behind maximum shooting range. Personal presence of general Husárek and Krejčí brought definitive placing to the Maternice forest.



„The twenty years old guys were very different from the other soldiers of the second world war.

They went into the war as volunteers. They were elite in the best meaning of this word. They could stay at home in protectorate, get married and calmly work for Hitler's Reich like most their cocitizens.

But something what is called sense for duty, responsibility, patriotism or unwillingness for shame did not allow it to them.“

## SET OF THE FORTRESS

Parts of fortress were two cannon log cabins, one could fire to the east, the other to the west. Next there were cannon rotating and telescopic tower, mortar cupola, entering log cabin and four fortified infantry log cabins T-JH-S 8,9,10 and 15. Underground shape was influenced by elongated shape of the fortress.

Placing of cannon objects itself on both wings was not usual. Supply columns should have travelled from railway station in Červený Kostelec through Kostelecké Končiny and Zbečnín hidden from enemy watchers. 650 soldiers from Vth battalion of border guard regiment 17 should have been the staff for the fortress. This staff should have been reinforced by one and half company for fight on the fortress surface. Building of the fortress couldn't be assigned until Munchen dictate, the construction should have been started in 1939.



## FORTRESS EQUIPMENT

*In the final stater heavy artillery should have had eight 10 cm howitzers mark 38, four 12 cm mortars and one mortar 9 cm situated in the shooting window of infantry log cabin. The fortress should have fired in the way Náchod gate, Hronov, Zbečník, Stárkov, Odolov and Rtyně. Because of many deaf spaces in fortress forecourt there was planned equipment with casemat mortars isolated objects T-S 18 and T-S 23 in neighbourhood. The underground should give all necessary occipital background for the staff. Part of it were filter room, power station, stores for fuel and ammunition, barracks and infirmary. Ammunition should have been transported on narrow-gauge trolleys.*

