

1st EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP in COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING
"DAYS of TRUTH – DoT" in Oparany / Czech Republic 2004

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September 16 -19, 2004 it finally happened: in a little town close to the Bohemian city of Tabor the two Czech western-shooting clubs AWS and CzCASS set up the First CAS European Championship.

Thunderman (SASS# 29821), Hogo Fogo (SASS# 51898) and George Roscoe (SASS# 29822) really did a great job working out the 12 stages including 7 copies from the last End of Trail which was not the worst idea. A lot had to be done building movable scenes, shoving tons of material to the different shooting bays, positioning the targets and so on.

This was what you could see but lots of hours went into the enormous paperwork. Besides, some of the papers arrived from the printer in the very last minute. The invitations had been out for month and the returns dropped in all over the time. That does not make it easy for the organizer to set up proper posses. But in the end everything was nice and collected.

For us guys from the (political) west it was always a strange feeling crossing the former "Iron Curtain", but now, since the Czech Republic is part of the European Union it is no problem no more. No long waiting time at the border police, so the way to Oparany was and will be an easy task for the participants of nine nations: USA, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungaria and Germany.

Everybody had the same opinion: it was worth going all the way and joining this fine match with its 12 challenging stages that consumed about 300 rounds only in the main match.

On Thursday a few stages were provided for practicing, so whoever wanted could have a warm up.

Friday to Saturday you had to pass 6 stages every day, but with 12 stages on 12 bays with 12 posses it was no problem staying right on time, so there was no stress situation for no one, besides you produced more misses then hits.

Sunday saw some side matches like "El Presidente"-speed shoot, team shoots and the like. Everything nicely rounded out.

The presence of the American television team "Outdoor Channel" under the lead of 5 x World Champion in SASS-Modern Class, "Tequila" really set a sign for how important European activities are for the rest of the world.

Worth to mention I feel is the special category "Little Traditional" for all those who had no chance to purchase a second SA-revolver in time. Possibly pretty hard to understand for Americans but in Europe pretty normal because many laws over here are unbelievably restrictive and you have a long way to go if you want to possess one more handgun. The "Little Traditional" gave some guys the chance to participate a big match and for sure: next year will see them with two revolvers!

A special thanks to the busy and well trained Range Officers from different participating countries. All shooters behaved very save. For me as the Range Master

there was luckily nothing to be done. This is as far as I believe the most important in a match. Imagine only the smallest accident would happen. The whole sport could be endangered in moments. Better not even think about something like this.

The evening program saw live C&W music and lots of the world famous Czech beer. A raffle was held with many nice prizes and on Sunday morning you could watch a gun juggler and fast draw artist entertaining you for quite a while with some astonishing tricks.

There were many possibilities for discussions around and about CAS and some of us had the chance meeting people personally which we only knew from mail or phone.

It was clear for everyone: we have to keep on working for this fine sport of Cowboy Action Shooting in Europe. The international start over here was made back in 2001 in Germany, but this event in the Czech Republic carried the very important name:

**1st European CAS Championship
Days of Truth
DoT**

PS: There's rumor going around: DoT 2005 maybe in Oslo / Norway. Good idea!