

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT [redacted]

TOPIC Military Information from Bernburg

EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [redacted] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 5 January 1953

REFERENCES [redacted]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [redacted]

REMARKS [redacted]

This is UNEVALUATED Information

[redacted]

25X1

1. From 20 October to 13 November 1952, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne on the west side of Elberstaedter Strasse, Bernburg, was occupied by an engineer unit, probably with a signal platoon, and a tank unit, totaling an estimated 600 to 700 troops. On 20 October, at the Waldau railroad stop, sections of a steel bridge were being loaded on trucks by troops wearing black-bordered black and red-bordered black epaulets. The supervising officer wore tank insignia. The trucks [redacted] subsequently went to the installation. On 1 November, 36 T-34/85 tanks were lined up in the training area west of the installation, apparently for an inspection. 25X1

On 4 November, 3 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were seen en route on Highway No 71, coming from Bernburg and proceeding toward Magdeburg. On the first tank, [redacted] 25X1

On 8 November, about 30 troops practiced the construction of telephone lines near the ammunition depot. 25X1

[redacted] the engineer unit stationed in the barracks installation in Bernburg was ordered to construct bunkers on the Dessau and Koethen airfields. From 15 November to 2 December, numerous trucks continually hauled logs and beams to the installation. The lumber was stored and later large details processed them into corduroy roads of various sizes and trucked away. No training activity other than basic training of recruits was observed. During the period of observation, several officers, probably replacing discharges, arrived at the installation. A colonel who apparently had been in Germany for the first time, was seen with the tank unit. It could not be determined whether he was commanding officer of the unit. 25X1

[redacted]

25X1

1. Comment. Information contained in the present report confirms the unidentified engineer regiment of the GDFG in Bernburg. However, the occupation strength of the installation is fairly definitely believed to be underestimated, as, [redacted] the regiment numbers about 1,000 men, in addition to the tank unit of about tank company strength. [redacted] the tank unit is equipped with either 10 JS tanks and 4 T-34 tanks or with 10 T-34 tanks and 4 JS tanks. 25X1

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The number of tanks mentioned in paragraph 1 appears too high. The corduroy roads were possibly completed for a large exercise; they serve to make swampy areas passable for wheeled and track-laying vehicles.

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