

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Brandis Airfield

25X1 EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1

25X1 DATE OF CONTENT [redacted]

25X1 DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 26 February 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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[redacted]

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- 1. The following air activity and aircraft [redacted] at Brandis airfield between 27 December 1952 and 19 January 1953:

27 December. There was a 2/10 overcast and good visibility. At 9 a.m., a Po-2 plane took off from the middle of the runway. At 9:10 a.m., a parachute jump was made from the plane at an altitude of about 800 meters. After dropping about 200 meters, the parachute opened. Five parachute jumps [redacted] on this day. All parachutists landed safely on the middle of the runway. At 11 a.m., a local flight was made by a Li-2 plane.¹

28 to 30 December. There was no air activity. Usually, the weather was foggy.

31 December. There was a compact overcast and visibility of 3 km. At 9:20 a.m., 3 ground attack aircraft, 1 radio truck, 1 tank truck, 1 fire truck, 2 trucks and 1 sedan [redacted] parked at the east end of the runway. At 9:30 a.m., the first take off was made by a ground attack plane which made a local flight of about 20 minutes. At about 2:30 p.m., air activity was discontinued. Dives were made from an altitude of about 600 meters down to an altitude of 200 meters.

1 and 2 January. There was no air activity.

3 to 8 January. There was no air activity during snowfalls or fog. Aircraft stationed at the field included 30 Li-2s, 36 to 40 attack aircraft, 2 biplanes and 1 high-wing monoplane.²

10 to 19 January. There was no air activity during mostly foggy weather or snowfalls.

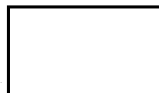
- 2. In early January 1953, [redacted] the members of the newly arrived ground attack unit were easy to discern from those of the air transport unit. They wore cleaner clothes, displayed better discipline and behaved more courteously to the civilian population. All the men looked like Europeans, while the members of the air transport unit seemed to be Asiatics. From the well performed landings and formation flights [redacted] that the crews of the ground attack unit were trained pilots. Some aircraft had yellow and some red propeller hubs. [redacted] the unit was to be stationed at the field permanently as he learned from a carpenter on 19 January that the unit had cabinets made. Two Po-2s and 1 Yak-14 plane were assigned to the ground attack unit.

- 3. In late December 1952, the board fence at the field was topped by barbed wire about 30 cm high.

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- 25X1 4. Three AA guns were [redacted] along the fence at Brandis airfield opposite the town of Leulitz. They were dug in only slightly although excavation work had been done in this area prior to arrival of the guns. On 15 January, 7 or 8 men stood around each gun.
5. On 11 January, a radio [redacted] in the northwestern corner of the field, directly east of, and about 100 meters south of the northern end of, the fence. The radio station included a mast, 10 meters high, braced with eight wires on top. Four bracing wires, which were fixed to the top of the mast, formed a larger angle with the mast than the other four wires. The outer wires were thicker than the inner wires. A truck carrying a power unit was [redacted] beside the mast. 25X1
6. On 10 January, [redacted] three officers on the way to Brandis. They wore a badge of a lengthy triangle enamelled blue representing a black "3" on top of a small parachute, and golden wings.³
7. Winter maneuvers commenced near Brandis airfield on 13 January and still continued on 19 January. The soldiers of a unit involved in the maneuvers [redacted] near Polenz wore red-bordered black epaulets and tank insignia. Two tanks were [redacted] in the wooded area south-east of Polenz on the road to Altenhain. According to an ex-soldier of the German Army, they were T 34 tanks. On 14 January, four AA guns of about 76 mm arrived at the edge of the woods south of the Polenz-Altenhain road and moved into emplacements there. The guns were towed into revetments made of snow. About 120 men practiced attacks in the shrubbery on the northern slope of Frauenberg. On 14 January, a general riding in a jeep took part in the maneuvers. According to a forest worker, a large number of tents was located in the woods south of Leulitz. At about 10 a.m. on 16 January, about 500 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets marched on the Trebsen-Polenz road and, later, along the Altenhain road into the woods. They were 18 to 21 years old, had close-cropped hair, and carried rifles. At noon on the same day, two 12-man squads wearing red-bordered black epaulets and each commanded by an officer marched to Polenz. The two officers entered a restaurant to have some drinks and stayed there for one hour, while the EM had to wait outside. The size of the unit practicing near the airfield was estimated to a total of 800 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets and mainly artillery insignia. Between 13 and 19 January, eight tanks involved in the maneuvers [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Five of the tanks bore the white [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]. Motor vehicles [redacted] at the same time and involved in the maneuvers [redacted] which picked up water daily and was driven by a soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets; trucks [redacted] driven by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] that the flying units stationed at the airfield were to take part in the maneuvers since the runway was cleared shortly before and the soldiers of the air base were not permitted to go out on the maneuver days.⁴ 25X1



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1. [Redacted]

2. [Redacted] Comment. According to the number and the models of the aircraft [Redacted] an air transport regiment and a ground attack regiment are stationed at Brandis airfield. While the transport regiment has been stationed at the field for a fairly long period, the ground attack regiment arrived from Dessau airfield as late as 26 December 1952.

3. [Redacted] Comment. For sketch of the badge, see Annex.

4. [Redacted] Comment. The tanks of which the [Redacted] on [Redacted] belong to all three divisions of the First Gds Mecz Army; the [Redacted] to the 8th Gds Mecz Div. Hence, it is still undetermined what units took actually part in the maneuvers. Further information is also required on whether the maneuvers in the Brandis area are connected with the subsequent shipments from Brandis to Schoenfeld airfield [Redacted] made in the area south of Berlin.

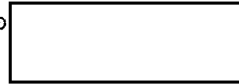
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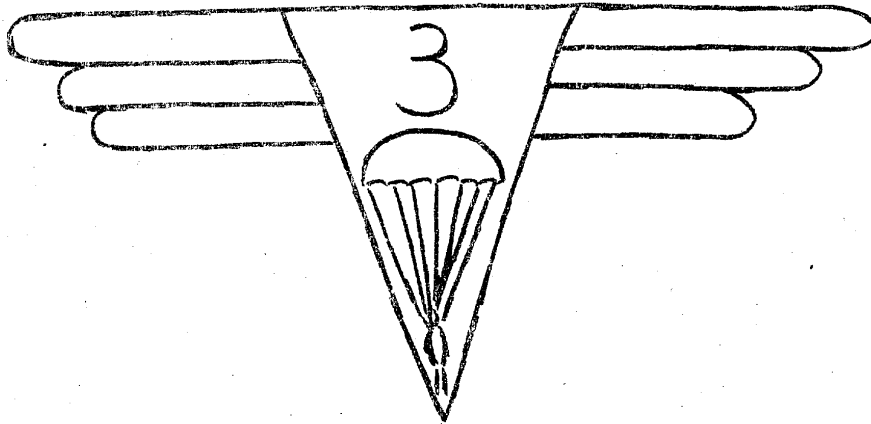
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Annex to



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Badge Observed at Brandis Airfield



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