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FLD 695

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	Kommando Pinnow of KVP Bereitschaft Prenzlau		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	7 September 1953
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
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1. The kommando Pinnow of KVP Bereitschaft Prenzlau was subordinate to Armeegruppe Nord in Pasewalk. It was quartered in the former Luftwaffenunteroffizier Schule north of the Felchow-Angermuende road, about 350 meters south-southeast of Pinnow railroad station. The unit received a new structure at the end of June and the beginning of July 1953. All sick and politically unreliable soldiers were discharged or expelled from the KVP. Also discharged were KVPs with a three-year term of service but who had shown no interest in the service for some time. Retransfers were made, allegedly to replenish various cadre units. The new organization and strength of the first Kommando was as follows:

	Officers	NCOs	EM
Headquarters	25		10 (women)
Kommando Schule	7	20	84
Motor vehicle company	2	6	25
Motor vehicle course	2	6	25
Supply platoon	2	9	20
Headquarters platoon	1	3	20
Military band platoon	1	6	8
S-1 company	4	10	35
S-2 company	3	8	20
S-3 company	4	10	50
S-4 company	4	10	30
S-5 company	4	8	25

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S-6 company	2	10	20
I through III battalion, each	33	77	279
The three battalions were organized into:			
Headquarters	6		
Supply platoon	1	1	3
S-2 platoon	2	4	15
Motor vehicle platoon	1	2	8
First through third rifle company, each	5	14	63
Fourth company (machine gun)	4	8	20
Fifth company (medium mortar)	2	10	30
Sixth company (AT and AA machine gun)	2	10	14

2. Officers [redacted] included the following:

Major General **Hermann** Rentsch, commanding officer of Armeegruppe Nord
 Colonel Riedel (fnu), commanding officer of Bereitschaft Prenzlau
 Colonel Klinke (fnu), deputy;
 Captain Duscha (fnu), deputy;
 Captain Ernst (fnu), chief of staff
 Captain Mertens (fnu), administrative officer
 Senior Lieutenant Sonneberg (fnu), commanding officer of I battalion
 Senior Lieutenant Haack (fnu), commanding officer of II battalion
 Senior Lieutenant Mueller (fnu), commanding officer of III battalion
 Senior Lieutenant Horst Leibe, commandant of Kommando Schule.²

The Soviet advisors of the first Kommando bade farewell between 5 and 7 July 1953. The advisor [redacted] was transferred to Erfurt.

3. The unit was equipped with 30 H-3-A trucks, 2 Phaenomen Granit-27 ambulances, 12 Phaenomen personnel carriers; 10 Phaenomen jeeps, 1 ZIS-150 workshop truck, 1 G-5 (H-6) tank truck with trailer, 3 BMW sedans and 30 AWO motorcycles.
4. The unit was made up of 5 percent of the 1936 class, 7 percent of the 1935 class, 30 percent of the 1934 class, 30 percent of the 1933 class, 20 percent of the 1932 class and 8 percent of the 1931 and older classes. Twenty percent came from Saxony-Anhalt, 30 percent from Saxony, 20 percent from Thuringia, 15 percent from Mecklenburg, 10 percent from Brandenburg and 5 percent from Berlin. Twenty percent were reliable Communists, 20 percent were indifferent, 40 percent were secretly opposed against the regime, and 20 percent were openly hostile against the regime.

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5. From 17 to 30 June, the unit was in alert stage II. No weapons were issued. Except for the special companies which were to remain as guards at the installation, the Kommando had to get ready for departure on 10 July 1953. It was rumored that the unit was to participate in a maneuver in Poland. Ammunition, equipment and luggage were loaded and, in the night of 13 July 1953, the troops were told that they would be transferred to Berlin, for ~~commitment~~ against western agents and provokaters along the borders of the Eastern sector. The Kommando arrived in the tent camp at Berlin-Friedrichsfelde at about 3 a.m. on 13 July. A major component of the Kommando was driven to the Polizeipraesidium (police headquarters) in the Neue Koenig Strasse at about 9 p.m., while the second company of the II battalion was quartered in a school on Rheinsberger Strasse. At 12 p.m. on 14 July, the company replaced a unit from Prenzlau which, allegedly since 17 June 1953, had been employed in the area of Swinemuender Strasse and Bernauer Strasse, Berlin. 3

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1. Comment. Compare with a previous report on the same unit. Detachments and discharges reduced the strength of personnel by 40 percent. A report of 20 July indicated that Armeegruppe Nord was to discharge 20 percent of its personnel and to detach to other units 30 percent. Other reports also showed that this quota had not been reached.
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2. Comment. The officers mentioned in the report are confirmed in their positions, except for Senior Lieutenant Haack (fnu). Still at the beginning of July, Senior Lieutenant Seifert (fnu), was reported to have been commanding officer of the II battalion.
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3. Comment. Elements of the regiments employed in Berlin were replaced by units from Prora at the beginning of August 1953.

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