

ELD 598

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Zerbst Airfield

EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 28 August to 11 September 1953

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 7 October 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

[redacted]

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[redacted] 1. [redacted] Zerbst airfield [redacted] on
 28 August 1953. At 3 p.m., five MiG-15s landed at the field. According
 25X1 [redacted] additional swept-back jet fighters were parked at
 25X1 the field.
 25X1 [redacted]

25X1 2. Some aircraft have been withdrawn from the field since early August 1953.¹
 25X1 On 2 September, there was no air activity. The hangars were closed. Only
 25X1 five MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were parked in the northeastern section of the
 field. The preparations for night flying activity started at 6 p.m.

3. A wooden shed, 6 meters square, which was under construction, and three
 small tents were observed next to a set in the radar station northwest
 of the field.²

4. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between
 4 and 8 September:

4 September. At 4 p.m., four MiG-15s were observed aloft. One aircraft
 towed a sleeve target which was fired at by the other three aircraft.
 Three additional swept-back jet fighters took off at 4:15 p.m. One of them
 towed a sleeve target. Northwest of the field, attacks were made at the
 sleeve target. Discharges of aircraft armament could also be heard. A
 total of 23 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s including the alert flight were parked at
 the field.

7 September. Between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m., 12 take-offs and landings by
 swept-back jet fighters were made. There was good visibility. The aircraft
 flew individually at large intervals. Their position lights were switched
 on. When the aircraft returned to the field, a searchlight located at the
 southern end of the runway illuminated the runway. Lamps were observed on
 both sides of the runway.

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25X1 8 September, [redacted] the field [redacted]
 25X1 One MiG-15 landed at 12:40 p.m. Two single-engine aircraft and 16
 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were parked at the field.

5. AA emplacements with AA guns were observed along the southern edge of the woods in the northwestern section of the field, between the runway and the highway to Dobritz.³ Air force officers and their dependents were quartered in the buildings on Goethe Strasse in the northern section of Zerbst.

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6.



[redacted]

7. between [redacted] on 11 September, no air activity was observed at the field. There were intermittent rain showers. Eight MiG-15s, probably the alert flight, were parked at the field. The radio installation with tall masts on the western edge of the field was removed. No change was observed on the radar station.⁴

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8. The Zerbst-Dobritz road along the southern edge of the field was blocked by wooden barriers and a ditch about 70 cm deep. A traffic sign at the intersection of the Zerbst-Dobritz and Zerbst-Pulspforde roads indicated that the Pulspforde road was blocked beginning at kilometer marker 4.5.

9. At 1:40 p.m. on 11 September, an officer with red-bordered golden epaulets and 8 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, all of them with artillery insignia, were observed leaving the airfield and proceeding toward the eight apartment houses on the Zerbst-Dobritz road, at the corner of Goethe Strasse. As the soldiers carried a 10-liter boiler, mess cans and three empty rucksacks [redacted] they were on the way to pick up food. A sentry wearing black-bordered blue epaulets with aviation insignia was posted at the apartment houses. Ten female members of the Soviet Armed Forces were also observed along the road to the apartment houses. [redacted]

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10. As compared with previous observations, there was light vehicular and passenger traffic on the road between the airfield and Zerbst. Light officers wearing blue-bordered golden epaulets and carrying suitcases were seen on the road coming from the direction of the town. Contrary to previous observations, [redacted] officer and soldiers used light motorcycles, bicycles and horse-drawn vehicles.

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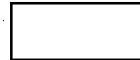
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1. [redacted] Comment. One of the two fighter regiments from Zerbst airfield was transferred to Jueterbog-Altes Lager between 6 and 10 August 1953. A portion of the unit was shipped via trains [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] with a total of 1 converted boxcar, 72 boxcars, 65 flatcars and 2 tank cars. The trains were dispatched from Lindsau railroad station which is located north of Zerbst.
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- 25X1 2.  Comment. A Kniferest-type set and a Dumbo-type set were observed at the radar station on 10 June 1953. The Dumbo-type set is the only one still located there. 
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- 25X1 3.  Comment. According to available information, a light AA battery is located at the AA gun emplacement in the northwestern section of the field.
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- 25X1 4.  Comment. This radio installation was last reported in April 1953. It consists of two masts, 18 to 20 meters high and about 35 meters apart, and a two-wire antenna. The removal of the antenna system is possibly connected with the transfer of the regiment to Jueterbog.

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