

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Bernau Post and from Exercises in the Schoenow Area

618426

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

PREPARED 22 March 1954

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

This is UNEVALUATED Information

[REDACTED] 25X1

1. At about 7 a.m. on 25 February, about 15 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] 25X1
 5 heavy JSU-152s, [REDACTED] 1 tank hull, an undetermined 25X1
 number of trucks occupied by soldiers, 2 jeeps and radio truck [REDACTED] were
 seen in the Schwanebeck area. The SP guns and trucks passed through Schwanebeck,
 while the tanks bypassed the village on either side. The unit was followed as
 far as Zepernik. At about 9 a.m., firing with cartridges was heard, presumably
 from the Schoenow training area. At about 6:30 a.m. on 26 February, a unit of
 about 10 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] 5 or 6 heavy 25X1
 SP guns, presumably JSU-152 [REDACTED] 2 jeeps,
 about 4 trucks with troops [REDACTED] and 1 radio truck passed
 through Schwanebeck. The column was followed by a T-34/85 tank hull, without
 armament and 5 trucks with soldiers and 2 limbered field kitchens. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] At about 2 p.m. the same day, the unit again passed through 25X1
 Schwanebeck toward Birkholz. On the morning of 1 March, a unit which included JSU-
 152 [REDACTED] jeep [REDACTED] and truck [REDACTED] was seen at the Schoenow training 25X1
 grounds. [REDACTED] 1
2. Between 15 February and 1 March, the former SS pigeon station in Bernau (4243)
 was occupied by 300 to 400 soldiers. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black
 epaulets and artillery insignia. Four 76.2-mm AA guns were still emplaced at
 the installation. [REDACTED] 25X1
3. Prior to 25 February, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne (4241) still quartered an
 estimated 2,500 troops. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets,
 including some with artillery or tank insignia, black epaulets and, about 60
 soldiers, wore blue-bordered black epaulets. The strength of troops decreased
 by about 1,000 men up to 1 March. It seemed that the troops referred to were at the
 Schoenow training grounds where, about that time, exercises, also with tanks, were
 conducted. However, troops have not been observed to leave the quarters in Bernau.
 There was intensive vehicular traffic between the training grounds and the
 Luftnachrichten Kaserne. There was only little drill at the installation. Columns
 seen marching toward the training grounds via Zepernik carried small arms only.

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Two BA-64 armored scout cars [redacted] were also seen moving in this direction. [redacted]

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On 3 March, a large percentage of the troops in the Luftnachrichten Kaserne seemed to have been absent. [redacted]

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4. Between 25 February and 1 March, the strength of troops at the clothing depot (4244) No 1 also decreased. About 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with artillery insignia, were still at the installation. The other soldiers were believed to have been at Schoenow training grounds. Troops at the installation engaged in drill and marches, presumably for field training. [redacted]

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A column of about 20 trucks [redacted] and about 12 trucks with limbered 120-mm mortars, 2 trucks loaded with four light mortars, 2 or 3 ammunition vehicles, jeep [redacted] and pertinent troops moved out of the clothing depot at about 4:30 p.m. on 3 March. A second column of 24 prime movers including 22 with limbered 100-mm AT guns, about 30 trucks carrying about 500 to 600 troops [redacted]

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[redacted] 2 or 3 field kitchens, 4 jeeps [redacted] 3 or 4 radio trucks, sedan [redacted] 1 ambulance, 1 tank truck, 2 other sedans and several van-like trucks followed the first one. The columns moved along the Schoenow-Schoenwalde road and turned to the training grounds. After the troops had moved out, the installation still quartered about 1,000 soldiers.

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5. At about 4:20 p.m. on 3 March, about 30 trucks with 16 guns and 2 field kitchens moved out of the Luftnachrichten Kaserne and proceeded toward the autobahn. More trucks including 3 towing guns stood ready to move out of the installation. 1

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6. In the afternoon on 4 March, T-34 tanks [redacted] and 6 trucks [redacted] were loaded in Bernau. The shipment also included 6 boxcars with an estimated 70 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets and came from the Luftnachrichten Kaserne. About 30 trucks, 1 field kitchen, 1 ambulance and about 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were also assembled at the railroad station. The loading was completed at about 8 p.m. After 8 a.m. on 5 March, about 15 trucks [redacted] and about 10 37-mm AA guns from the vidzeug station were loaded at the railroad station. At about noon, about 50 new, empty two-axle trucks [redacted], 1 ambulance, 1 field kitchen and about 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen at the railroad station. The troops did not carry small arms. After 10 a.m., two twin-engine planes circled over the town and railroad station for about two hours. 2

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7. Comment. In late February and at the beginning of March, training activity of units of the 6th Gds Mech Div and the 71st Light Arty Brig [redacted] intensified at the garrison training grounds in the Schoenow area. [redacted] elements of the 63th Gds Tank Regt [redacted] of the division also went to the training area from East Berlin. The strengths of troops at the installations makes it appear that some of the units bivouacked on the

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training grounds. The movement of mortars from the clothing depot No I on 3 March cannot be interpreted, as the 71st Light Arty Brig [redacted] stationed there is not equipped with such weapons.

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2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] elements of the 34th Tank Tng Bn of the 6th Gds Mech Div were loaded on 4 March and, according to the weapons, units of the 120th (?) AAA Regt of the division were loaded on 5 March. Other units of the division were simultaneously loaded in Eberswalde and Bad Freienwalde. [redacted] It is believed that these units of the division transferred to field exercises. Shipments of the 25th Tank Div from Prenzlau ran to Mirow at the same time.

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