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|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------|------|
| COUNTRY | East Germany | REPORT | [REDACTED] | 25X1 |
| TOPIC | Activity in the Area of Mechanized Division Potsdam | | | |
| EVALUATION | [REDACTED] | PLACE OBTAINED | [REDACTED] | 25X1 |
| DATE OF CONTENT | [REDACTED] | | | 25X1 |
| DATE OBTAINED | [REDACTED] | DATE PREPARED | 27 January 1955 | |
| REFERENCES | | | | 25X1 |
| PAGES | 4 | ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) | | |
| REMARKS | [REDACTED] | | | |
| This is UNEVALUATED Information | | | | |

[REDACTED] 25X1

1. [REDACTED] 170 recruits arrived in the former concentration camp of Oranienburg in early December 1954 and [REDACTED] 20 soldiers were reassigned to Dresden at the same time. 25X1
2. Between 1 and 10 December 1954, no AA guns were seen in the barracks yard of the former concentration camp. A total of 300 men were regularly engaged in infantry drill and training with 3 or 4 T-34s outside the kaserne.¹ 25X1
3. Until mid-December 1954, the former concentration camp in Oranienburg quartered a tank and a mechanized unit. The latter unit also included artillery and engineer troops. [REDACTED] 20 tanks belonged to this unit. [REDACTED] approximately 500 men were discharged after late October, but [REDACTED] the vacancies were replenished by replacements by mid-December. Some of the replacements were allegedly from Burg. More recruits were said to be expected in February 1955.¹ 25X1
4. On 27 December, Lieutenant Colonel Klebsch (frn), the former ranking officer in the concentration camp in Oranienburg and commander of the mechanized unit, was reassigned. The name of his successor could not be determined. The soldiers from Burg, who had received a one year infantry training there, wore red collar patches.¹ 25X1
5. During the last week in November, no training activity was noticed in the former concentration camp in Oranienburg. Some of the soldiers engaged in construction work. On 1 December, carbine firing was heard from the kaserne. Fresh imprints of tank tracks were seen in the training area north of the kaserne. On 4 December, no activity was noticed in the installation. Soldiers with carbines and practice targets and several other groups at training with prismatic compass were seen in the training area east of Lehnitz Lake.² 25X1
6. On 12 December, soldiers entering and leaving the installation wore blue and black-bordered blue collar patches. No training activity was noticed. Numerous officers and soldiers were seen on their way

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to town or to the kaserne. On 27 and 28 December, no training activity was noticed in the installation and in the vicinity. Thirty soldiers with suitcases returned to the installation on 28 December.²

7. On 20 November, the following materiel was seen in the General-Wever Kaserne in Potsdam: 9 SU-100s, 12 x 57-mm AT guns, 24 two-axle BA-64 armored scout cars, approximately 25 sidecar motorcycles, approximately 25 trucks and several radio trucks. Weapons and vehicles were in sheds except for 2 x 57-mm AT guns which were used for training in the yard. On 9 December, a company from this installation was seen firing at mobile targets on the field firing range along Michendorfer Chaussee. The soldiers wore blue service color. On 17 December, 3 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns left the kaserne and went toward Bornim. Each truck was occupied by 15 soldiers who wore light-blue service color. On 4 January 1955, 4 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns and carrying 8 men each drove toward Marquardt. They were followed by another truck with 25 soldiers who wore blue service color.³ 25X1
8. On 4 December 1954, 6 columns of KVP at platoon strength were seen in Potsdam between Ruinenberg Kaserne and Bornstedter Feld. Entrenching work was done on Bornstedter Feld. The troops seen wore blue service color. On 16 December, two companies wearing blue service color and carrying field equipment practiced on Bornstedter Feld with 4 SU-76s. One company with 2 SP guns occupied the positions which had been dug on 4 December. On 18 December, soldiers engaged in fatigue drill. At about 1600, approximately 40 troops with luggage and wearing blue service color, went from the kaserne to main railroad station in Potsdam. In the morning of 29 December 60 to 80 soldiers, apparently returning from furlough, arrived at the kaserne. In the afternoon, approximately 140 soldiers with luggage left the installation for the main railroad station. On 30 December, 40 to 50 trucks stood in the yard at Pappelallee. A platoon with rifles drilled in the yard near the main entrance. Between 14 November and 30 December 1954, soldiers with dark red service color were repeatedly seen at the kaserne. [redacted] other units were temporarily stationed in the kasernes in Potsdam, 4 and 2 25X1
9. In the former Reithof on Brentano Weg, where several units from the Ruinenberg Kaserne had previously been seen drilling, there were 100 new trucks seen parked on 30 December. The vehicles were apparently of German make. It could not be determined whether the trucks belonged to KVP units or if they belonged to Soviet units in the Polizei Kaserne.⁵
10. On 10 December, 7 x 37-mm AA guns were parked in the former Reithalle in the Garde du Corps Kaserne on Behlert Strasse. A platoon of unarmed soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets allegedly fell in for instruction in the yard in front of the installation. One platoon each engaged in athletic exercises and small caliber firing which could be seen from Koenig Strasse. The installation quartered a total of 350 to 400 men. On 16 December, a 37-mm AA gun with a crew of 4 men each stood in the four barracks yards on Behlert Strasse. Groups of 12 men each were seen near the guns. On 18 December, 3 x 37-mm AA guns and three platoons of soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen. The soldiers received instruction. On 29 December, no training activity was noticed. On 3 January 1955, a platoon with red-bordered black epaulets practiced firing on the range at the new Koenig Strasse. Twenty-four soldiers engaged in fatigue drill in the yard on Behlert Strasse. Raw construction work on the building along the new Koenig Strasse and along Behlert Strasse was completed.⁶
11. On 29 December and 4 January, 80 KVP engaged in athletic exercises at the former Luftschiffhafen. Construction work was done on several two-story buildings.⁷

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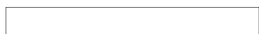
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12. On 22 December, it was learned that a two-week course for officers of Division Potsdam was to be held at Klietz training grounds. [redacted] a large number of officers and 50 percent of officer candidates from the Husaren Kaserne were to attend the course. [redacted] they had to observe a strict discipline regarding salutes from that time on and that EM were not to be on intimate terms with the officers.⁸ 25X1
13. [redacted] 25X1
14. After 20 December 1954, Ferchels-Mahlitz training grounds near Klietz was again placed off limits. [redacted] nearby villages received notice that the restriction would be intensified between 25 December and 10 January 1955. On 20 December 1954, the camp north of the auxiliary airfield was occupied by a KVP unit, which was unloaded with approximately 60 tanks and 50 trucks in Grosswudicke. Prior to 2 January, firing was daily heard from the training grounds. 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment. The report confirms the 1st Mecz Regt and the medium tank regiment of Mechanized Division Potsdam. The heavy tank SP regiment and the tank training battalion of the division are held in Burg. It is believed more probable that the replacements from Burg were tank troops wearing light-blue service color. Lieutenant Colonel Kleboch (fnu) is known as commander of the 1st Mecz Regt. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. It appears that these as well as the other units started their regular training only after completion of the furlough over Christmas and New Year and not as early as 1 December 1954. 25X1
3. [redacted] Comment. The General Wever Kaserne is believed to quarter the reconnaissance battalion, the signal battalion of Mechanized Division Potsdam and small headquarters units. The reconnaissance battalion is believed to be equipped with more than 10 tanks and with only 6 or 7 AT guns. It is possible that these elements also include components of the 2d Mecz Regt, especially since approximately 200 men from the Ruinenberg Kaserne were reportedly transferred to the General Wever Kaserne. [redacted] 25X1
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4. [redacted] Comment. It appears that training activity with the 2d Mecz Regt in the Ruinenberg Kaserne has already started more intensively in the first half of December than with the other units. 25X1
5. [redacted] Comment. If the vehicles were actually of German make, the trucks are believed to belong to the KVP. They were, however, not provided for the 2d Mecz Regt only. 25X1
6. [redacted] Comment. The AA regiment in the Garde du Corps Kaserne appears to have started weapons training with recruits in early December. 25X1
7. [redacted] Comment. The installation referred to is the athletic officers' school of the KVP. 25X1

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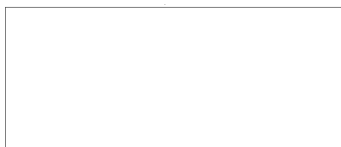
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8. Comment. It is unusual that the course in Kietz was held over Christmas and New Year. It is rather believed that  the course was started in early January. The tank unit reported probably is the training unit which may have come either from Burg or Oranienburg.

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9. Comment. The mortar regiment of Mecz Div Potsdam, which has so far been commended by Lieutenant Colonel **Guenter** Waterstraat, is quartered in Premnitz. In July 1954, one Major Wagner (fnu) was deputy PF officer with the 2d Mecz Regt in Potsdam, one Lieutenant **Rusching** (fnu), in 1953, was FdJ (Free German Youth) secretary with the 3d Mecz Regt in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken. It is possible that changes of personnel were carried through in Premnitz.

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