

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT
SECRET

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COUNTRY USSR, Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT Soviet Army Maneuvers in Germany, 15 - 20 Jul 51

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1. The area of the 15 - 20 Jul 51 maneuvers was located near a flax factory about one kilometer west of Brambach (5013N-1218E), across the River Elbe, in the Lodderitz-Kuehnau forests south of the Elbe, and near Zerbst (5158N-1205E), north of the Elbe.
2. Participants in the maneuver were the 57th Guards Rifle Division (friendly forces) which attacked across the Elbe, and the 20th Guards Mechanized Division (hostile forces) which defended the north side of the river.

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[Redacted] the following units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division participated.

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

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ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AEC	X	FBI	X												

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number of Men</u>
170th Guards Rifle Regiment	About 500
172nd Guards Rifle Regiment (Only headquarters, since two battalions were on border duty, and the third battalion did not participate)	About 30
174th Guards Rifle Regiment	About 1100
17th HT-SP Regiment	About 500
655th Howitzer Regiment	About 250
128th Artillery Regiment	About 200
932nd Separate AAA Battalion	About 100
64th AT Battalion	About 150
89th Signal Battalion	About 200
67th Engineer Battalion	About 200
Motorcycle and rear units	About 200

In addition, IL-2, MIG-8 and MIG-15 aircraft were used for counterattacking the attacking forces during the maneuver.

3. The 67th Engineer Battalion which participated in the maneuvers had US GMC amphibious trucks, boats for about 20 men and heavy bridging equipment. The bridge that the engineers constructed during the maneuver is shown as the MLP bridge, page 25, figure #18, Technical Report #9. Source also saw equipment similar to that shown in figures 25 and 27, Tech Int Report #97.
4. Prior to the attack across the Elbe, [redacted] the 932nd Separate AAA Battalion, had the 170th Guards Rifle Regiment (57th Guards Rifle Division) on its right flank, and the 655th Howitzer Regiment (57th Guards Rifle Division) on its left flank, and the 20th Guards Mechanized Division opposing it across the Elbe. The 932nd Separate AAA Battalion prepared for the movement to the maneuver area on 15 Jul and for half of 16 Jul. At 1600 hours on 16 Jul, the battalion left Eisenach by truck and traveled one and one-half days to reach the maneuver area. [redacted] traveled to Halle on main roads and the rest of the way on side roads. At night, black-out driving was enforced; headlights were covered with black paper or black canvas with only a small square of light exposed. The convoy traveled at 15 to 20 kilometers per hour and arrived at the assembly area at 2400 hours on 17 Jul. Other units arrived within one hour but some may have been in the area before our unit. A precise timetable had been worked out by the division headquarters and all the moves were well organized. All units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division, except the 17th HT-SP Regiment, arrived by truck. The 655th Howitzer Regiment, the 174th and 170th Guards Rifle Regiments came from Eisenach; the 128th Artillery Regiment and the 172nd Guards Rifle Regiment came from Gotha; the 67th Engineer Battalion came from Bad Keesen. The 17th HT-SP Regiment traveled by its organic power for 12 kilometers from its barracks to Eisenach, was entrained and shipped to Halle and traveled from there to the assembly area by organic transportation. It is standard procedure in all movements for the unit to use its own trucks, except for tank and SP units which are shipped by rail to save wear on the tank tracks. On return movements, all units are shipped by rail.
5. The mission of the 57th Guards Rifle Division was to cross the Elbe, seize a bridgehead five kilometers deep and hold this until reinforcements arrived. The 932nd Separate AAA Battalion had the mission of protecting the 174th Guards Rifle Regiment from enemy air attacks while that regiment was on move, crossing the Elbe, and in subsequent operations.

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6. After all the units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division arrived at the assembly area at about 2400 hours on 17 Jul, the 932nd Separate AAA Battalion marched about 30 to 40 kilometers during the night and stepped in the woods about 800 to 1000 meters from the Elbe. Guns then were prepared for firing, AAA defense set up and positions camouflaged. Regimental and divisional headquarters worked through the night to perfect the plans for the scheduled attack while the troops slept.

7. At approximately 0900 hours on 18 Jul the 17th HT-SP Regiment, the 655th Howitzer Regiment, the 128th Artillery Regiment, and the 64th AT Battalion laid down an artillery barrage (with blank shells) aimed at the other shore of the Elbe. At the same time, the 932nd Separate AAA Battalion simulated fire upon IL-2, MIG-8 and MIG-15 aircraft of the hostile forces. Engineers immediately began to build, under fire, an NLP ponton bridge of a capacity of 70 tons and three meters wide, across the Elbe; squads and platoons of the 174th Guards Rifle Regiment crossed the river in Engineer boats. In approximately one hour the ponton bridge was finished and riflemen of the 174th Guards Rifle Regiment crossed on foot. After the rifle regiment had crossed the river, two batteries of 37 mm guns of the 932nd Separate AAA Battalion were towed across by Studebaker trucks [redacted] don't know which

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8. During the day, the 57th Guards Rifle Division engaged units of the 20th Guards Mechanized Division, and little by little the defenders retreated; by 1600 hours the 57th Guards Rifle Division had secured its five kilometer bridgehead. The combat was conducted without bayonet charges. After the bridgehead was secured, the maneuver ended.

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9. [redacted] all units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division crossed the Elbe in order to secure the bridgehead, leaving no combat reserves. However, rear service units, ie, ordnance, truck repair, field kitchens and food and clothing supply remained on the other side of the river. Food was brought to the troops around 1500 hours by field kitchens.

10. Genmaier (fnu) Seryugin, Commanding General of the XXIX Guards Rifle Corps, was in direct command of the maneuvering forces. The following persons also were present and watched the crossing of the maneuver; Genleit (fnu) Goryachev, Commanding General of the 8th Guards Army; GCGC Commanding General Vasily Ivanovich Chuikov; and Marshal Ivan Stepanovich Konev, Supreme Inspector, USSR Ground Forces Ministry of Armed Forces.

11. At about 1700 hours on 18 Jul, directly after the end of the maneuver, Marshal Konev conducted a critique. He praised the 57th Guards Rifle Division for doing a good job on the whole, but claimed that there was some delay and confusion in the execution of the planned time-table. He said that the troops were not sufficiently trained and organized for river crossings and that the bridge had been built too slowly. The critique ended at 1900 hours. On 19 and 20 Jul, all units were entrained in Dessau and Rosslau, and completed the return to their stations by train within one day.

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Enclosure (A) 15 - 20 July Maneuver Area

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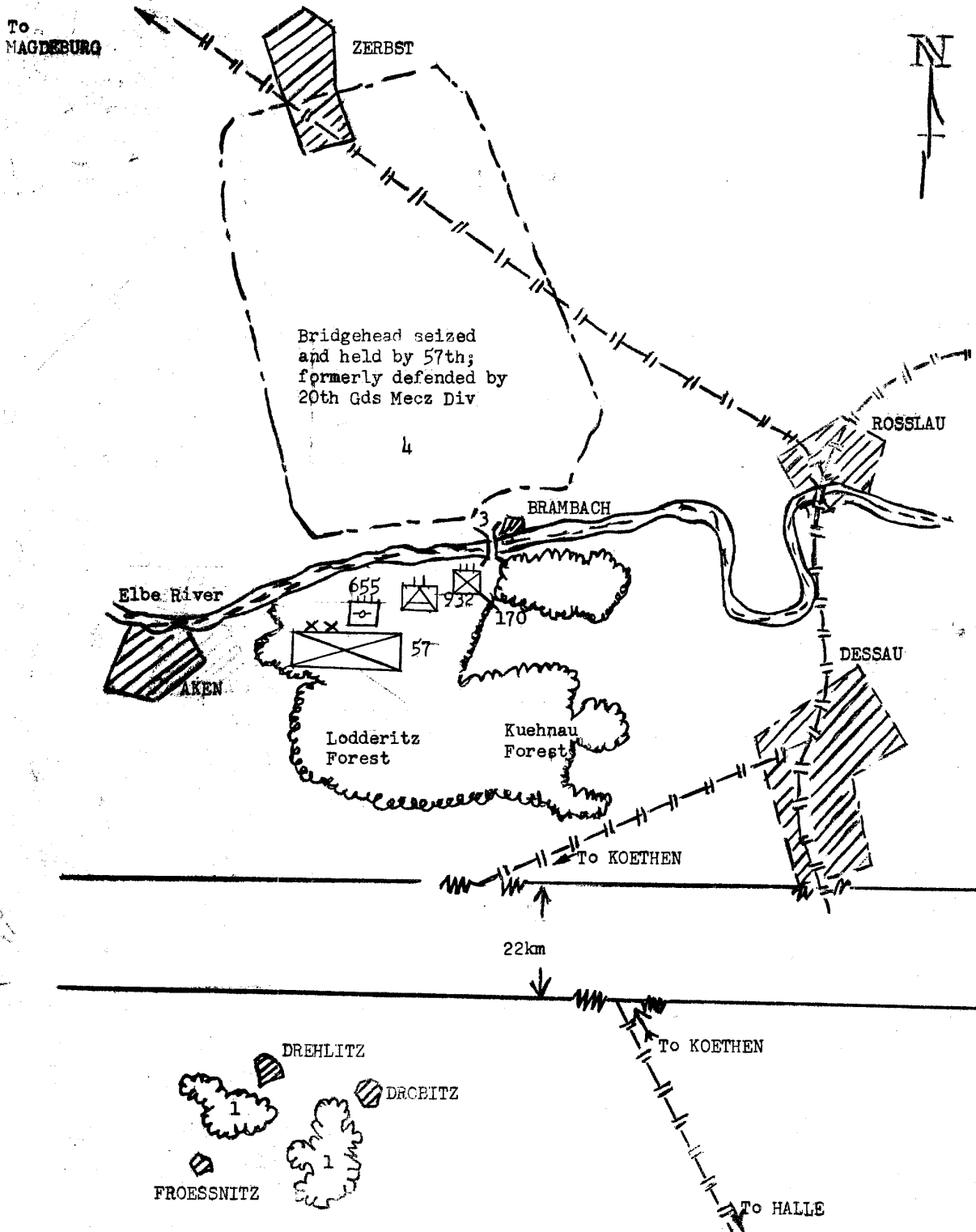
ENCLOSURE (A)

Sheet P-6 - MAGDEBURG

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Central Europe 1:100,000

15-20 July 1951 Maneuver Area



- 1 - Initial Assembly Area
- 2 - Jump Off Area
- 3 - Crossing Point
- 4 - Bridgehead

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