

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)  
 SUBJECT The Brandenburg Small Arms  
 Storage and Servicing Depot

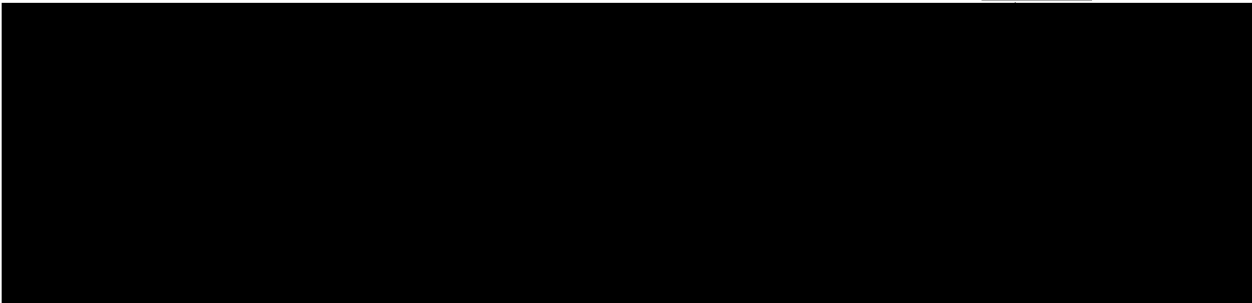
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1. The former Excelsior works at Brandenburg, which up to the end of the war manufactured bicycles and motorcycles, has been dismantled by the Soviets and is at present serving as a storage and servicing depot for booty war material consisting mainly of small arms.
2. The factory premises lie in the western part of Brandenburg, immediately north of the junction of the district railroad (Stadtbahn) where it branches out to Belzig (Z30) to the south and to Rathenow (Z15) to the north. The works has its own branch line leading in from Brandenburg station. Three or four hundred yards to the north of the works is the former Neuendorfer training ground (now an airfield). The main entrance to the works is on the Brandenburg-Wilhelmsdorf road.
3. The following arms and war material are at present stored in the depot:
  - a. French, Italian, and German carbines
  - b. sporting guns
  - c. machine carbines
  - d. German light MG's, type 08/15
  - e. German heavy MG's, type 08
  - f. all kinds of anti-tank weapons
  - g. aircraft MG's
  - h. optical instruments, range-finders, and field-glasses
4. The quantities of the above items cannot be assessed beyond describing them as very considerable. The various types of arms and equipment are being sorted out and graded by both Soviets and Germans.
5. In the servicing and repair shop small arms are broken down, inspected, fitted when necessary with new or cannibalized parts, reassembled, greased, and either returned to storage or crated for immediate dispatch. The workshop has been stripped of all good machines and tools. As a result, for example, fourteen fitters are obliged to share one primitive vise with which each is supposed to be able to achieve a daily output of 35 carbines. In actual fact each man is able to service only 20 pieces. Similarly, men engaged in the servicing of 08/15 light MG's can only turn out two or three each instead of the required daily output of five.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. The following are random details of MG's and other weapons which have recently arrived at the factory, or have been serviced and stored, or dispatched:

a. 08/15 light MG's

In the two weeks up to 20 November 1948, two hundred of an amount of three hundred were turned out. Each gun has only one bolt and was tested after repair with ex-German aircraft tracer ammunition. In this group of guns it was found that the strikers were too short and orders were given for new ones to be fitted. The guns were then packed and crated. On an average, one truckload is sent off every week. The truck is accompanied by uniformed Soviet Zone German police.

b. Pistols and Machine-Pistols

In the week or ten days before 20 November 1948, it is reported that 5,600 automatic weapons (type 08 Parabellum and Mauser) were overhauled and made ready for delivery to the Soviet Zone police. As of 20 November 1948, a further 5,000 pistols was being overhauled and was to be sent off in a few days. The following machine carbines were in storage and overhauled ready for issue:

8,700 Schmeisser  
650 American (with wood grips)  
370 American (without grips)  
700 of unknown origin and make

c. Aircraft MG's

Aircraft MG's (designation unknown) are being overhauled, crated and sent off to Soviet Air Force fighter airfields where they are believed to be installed in fighter aircraft.

d. Spare parts for heavy and anti-tank guns

In the last few days a considerable quantity of spares for heavy guns, anti-tank guns, and heavy grenade throwers arrived, and fills a former workshop measuring 30 x 70 yards.

e. Optical Instruments

These are serviced and cleaned on revolving brushes and dispatched to unknown destinations.

7. Consignments of arms have been sent to Eisenach (H76) and Halle, among other places.

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