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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Rosslau-Meinsdorf

EVALUATION

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CON.

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 27 July 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The Occupation of the barracks in Meinsdorf (M 52/E 17) seemed to be **greater** after 24 June 1950. Almost all windows were illuminated during the evening hours. Soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia, and with artillery and tank insignia; black-bordered crimson epaulets; and black-bordered black epaulets, some with engineer insignia. (1)
2. Thirty trucks [redacted] were unloaded from a 50X1-HUM train in the barracks area on 22 June 1950. (2)
3. Twenty-five trucks [redacted] were unloaded 50X1-HUM from a train at the freight station on 25 June 1950. (3)
4. About 1,000 young soldiers arrived at the installation aboard two trains during the night of 25 June 1950, allegedly coming from Brest Litovsk. It was said that the soldiers belonged to the 1928 and 1929 classes and that they were inducted three months ago. (4)
5. A convoy of 26 trucks [redacted] including 50X1-HUM 15 trucks loaded with pontoons, entered the Meinsdorf barracks on 27 June 1950, coming from the direction of the Rosslau railroad station. (5)
6. Eight officers and 80 unnamed EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia left toward Wittenberg aboard the regular passenger train on 1 July 1950. Their baggage had been hauled to the station [redacted]. The EM carried suitcases, blankets and musical instruments. 50X1-HUM
7. [redacted] 250 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia, were transferred from the barracks to Wittenberg on 30 June 1950. (6) 50X1-HUM
8. About 150 to 200 troops, most of them wearing red-bordered black epaulets, but some wearing black-bordered black epaulets, were seen digging fire trenches and cutting trees in the woods between the road to Lukow and

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

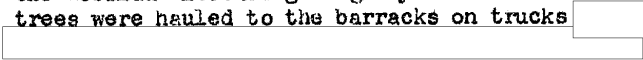
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the Rosslau-Wittenberge highway between 20 June and 1 July 1950. Felled trees were hauled to the barracks on trucks

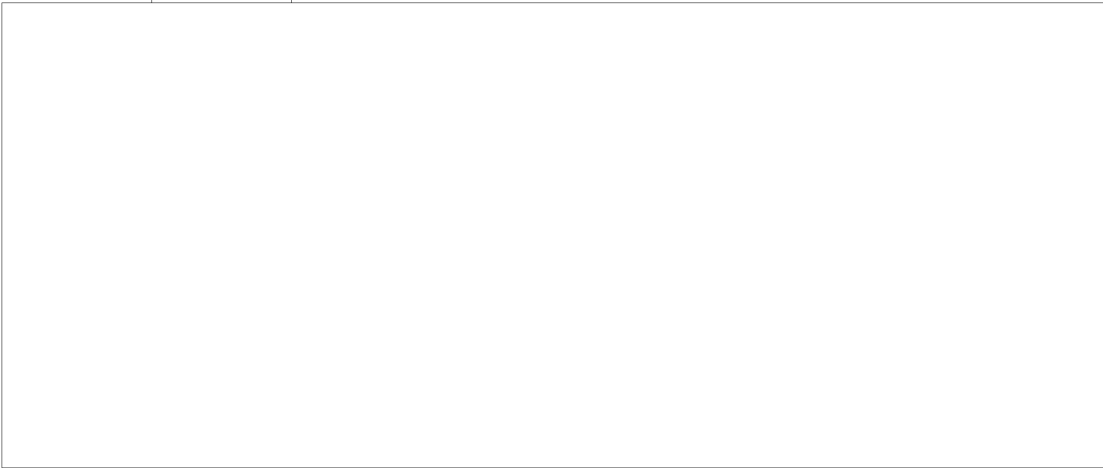


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9. Units of up to 150 soldiers, most of them wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, but some wearing tank insignia, were seen drilling at the sports field in late June 1950.

10. The engineer units which had been on maneuvers along the Elbe River returned to the barracks on and after 23 June 1950. Only about 15 pontoons, guarded by soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets, were still laying on the bank of the Elbe River on 1 July 1950. The guards used truck as a guardroom. (1)

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12. An employee of the Rosslau cooperative stores said that the Soviet kommandatura in Zerbst requisitioned the former industrial harbor and the warehouses of the German Armed Forces on the Elbe River on 26 June 1950. The bakery, the warehouses and the administration building used by German offices had to be evacuated by 1 July 1950. Five six-story warehouses, each about 40 x 15 meters, three storage buildings, each about 20 x 8 x 6 meters, and an administration building were in that area. No Soviets had moved in by 1 July 1950.

13. All three engineer units, commanded by lieutenant colonels, were back in their barracks by 25 June 1950.

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14. An engineer general, an engineer colonel and several lieutenant colonels were again seen in the barracks. (9)

15. It was said that the engineer general was also in command of other engineer units in Potsdam. The engineer units allegedly did not belong to the tank division. (9)

16. About 200 troops with 10 to 12 tanks returned from field exercises prior to 25 June 1950. (10)

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17. A train of fifteen cars carrying bridge building equipment and trucks seen on the Dessau-Rosslau railroad line on 27 June 1950, heading toward Rosslau. (11)

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Comments.

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(1) The Weinsdorf barracks were more heavily occupied because the elements of the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GORF returned to their installation from exercises on the Elbe River.

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(2) The train carried equipment of the 6th Gds Tank Div, possibly engineer equipment.

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(3) [Redacted]

(4) The arrival of about 2,000 recruits [Redacted] in April 1950. [Redacted] Arrival of more recruits strengthens the assumption that a replacement distribution center of the Third Gds Mecca Army is located in Dessau-Rosslau.

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(5) Presumably an engineer unit [Redacted]

(6) The statement that troops from Weinsdorf were transferred to Wittenberg is probably true.

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(7) A component unit of the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GORF [Redacted]

(9) [Redacted]

[Redacted] the general also commands the engineer brigade or regiment of the GORF in Potsdam, it is possible that the headquarters of an engineer brigade, commanded by a general, is located in Rosslau, and that the brigade may be the superior headquarters of the GORF engineer units in Rosslau and Potsdam.

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(10) Probably tank elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div, which returned to their post from the Werder-Markendorf maneuver area.

(11) A train carrying an engineer component of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div [Redacted]

[Redacted] Engineer troops of this division were at the engineer training area in June 1950, in Bad Koesen.

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