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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military information from Prenzlau

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 29 December 1950

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

- 1. On 16 November 1950, the two buildings of the Artillerie Kaserne, Prenzlau (N 54/Q 14), which fronted on the northwest side of the road to Berlin, were virtually unoccupied. The two other barracks buildings and the headquarters building seemed to be occupied. About 250 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets were engaged in fatigue duty. Some officers observed wore tank insignia. The six garages facing the road and the long garage at the northeastern edge of the billeting area were almost empty, except for six small vehicles, apparently armored reconnaissance cars, the turrets of which were covered with canvas. Tanks, apparently of model JS, were seen in five other garages. A T-34 turret mounting a gun barrel was observed on a revolving stand in the northwestern barracks section. It was probably used for aiming practice. The two garages which form a rectangle in the western corner of the billeting area sheltered 30 trucks. Motor vehicles were identified in barracks traffic. Officers with suitcases arrived at the installation in a taxicab. *

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- 2. The southern section of the Artillerie Kaserne on the southeast side of the road to Berlin appeared to be vacant. The garages there were empty. The northern section of the barracks installation was occupied. The heating system was in operation. An estimated 500 troops were seen engaged in various duties in the billeting area, while about 250 troops were simultaneously observed outside the billeting area or marching into the installation. Most of the troops wore red-bordered black epaulets and only a few black-bordered black epaulets. Artillery insignia were prevalent, while signal and motor transport insignia were seen only sporadically. Tank officers were seen between the two barracks installations. About 80 percent of the EM were young. They had closely cropped hair and seemed to be recruits. About 40 groups, each of about 10 soldiers, received basic drill in the barracks yard. About 50 young soldiers practiced the construction of field fortifications in the area adjoining the installation to the south. About 30 trained soldiers worked on ten AT guns standing in front of the garage in the center of the installation. The AT guns were of a heavy caliber. A mortar of

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about 80 mm was seen in the eastern section of the billeting area. About 20 trucks were standing in two open garages located in the western section of the barracks area. More trucks were parked in front of other garages and at the barracks buildings. A radio truck with extended antenna, braced by guy lines, was parked on the southern edge of the billeting area.

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3. The former German dependents' settlement northeast of the Artillerie Kaserne seemed to be only lightly occupied by officers and some families. The settlement was guarded by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets.
4. An ammunition dump was located on the road to Sternhagen, about 1 km south of the Artillerie Kaserne. The section of the road as far as the dump had a concrete surface. The dump covered an area of about 200x300 meters and was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. It contained a small guardhouse at the entrance and solid storage buildings, each 30 to 40 meters long and 10 to 15 meters wide. The latter bore "No Smoking" signs in Russian. Fire extinguishers were attached to the outside walls of the buildings. About 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were on duty in the dump. About noon, the troops left the dump, marching in two groups of about 80 men each to the Artillerie Kaserne on the south-east side of the road to Berlin. **
5. Sporadic shots fired by carbines were heard from the gravel pit southwest of the barracks installation.
6. A training area with several watchtowers was located south of the ammunition dump.
7. A tank colonel, a lieutenant colonel, and a major wearing red-bordered black epaulets arrived aboard the passenger train from Berlin and went toward the Soviet **komsandatura**.
8. On 18 November, the Artillerie Kaserne on the northwest side of the road to Berlin was occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The troops observed were exclusively engaged in fatigue duty. Soldiers carrying furniture were seen through the windows of all barracks buildings. About 60 soldiers were working at the garages. About two thirds of the troops observed were young soldiers and about one third trained personnel. Eight barrels with muzzle brakes were seen in the large garage in the northeastern corner of the billeting area. One of the two **garages** facing the road was occupied by JS tanks and the other one by smaller vehicles with turret-like superstructures. More tanks were observed in the central garages of both rows of garage buildings. About 30 trucks were parked at the barracks buildings. Other trucks were in the open garages in the western corner of the barracks installation and in front of other garages.
9. The northern section of the Artillerie Kaserne on the southeast side of the road to Berlin was occupied to capacity, while the southern section was apparently only lightly occupied. Most of the soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets and only a few black-bordered black epaulets. Artillery insignia was prevalent, while signal and motor transport insignia were observed only sporadically. Most of the soldiers were young and had closely cropped hair. In the forenoon the troops were exclusively engaged in fatigue duty, such as the moving of furniture. In the afternoon about 250 troops, apparently recruits, were drilling in the barracks yard. No heavy weapons were observed. The two southernmost garages were empty.

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About 40 trucks were parked in the billeting area. Other trucks stood in the garages, the doors of which were open.




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- 10. About 50 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen moving about 150 boxes into the low storehouses of the ammunition dump which is located about 1 km south of the Artillerie Kaserne. A senior lieutenant of the tank corps and six to eight artillery officers were observed there.
- 11. In the northeastern part of the training area, about 3 officers and 100 PM were seen digging excavations, about 6x6 meters and about 1 1/2 meters deep. The excavations were presumably to shelter tanks or vehicles. **

*  Comment. The two barracks installations along the road to Berlin are occupied by elements of the 25th Tank Div, according to motor vehicle number analysis, possibly also by headquarters units of the 4ourth Gds Socz Army.

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**  Comment. The information is known from previous reports.

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