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File 221

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Potsdam

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. From 9:30 a.m. to noon on 27 December 1950, the recruits of the artillery unit in the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam (N 53/2 63), were engaged in driving practice while the trained personnel cleaned guns and vehicles. The batteries of the artillery unit left the installation individually at 12:30 a.m., marching to the target range in Katharinenholz, carrying rifles and submachine guns. They were followed by trucks [REDACTED] loaded with practice targets and 15 boxes with hand grenades. On 28 December, the recruits underwent a preliminary examination in truck driving from 9 to 11:30 a.m., received instruction in the automotive-engineering classroom from 1 to 3 p.m., had dinner and recess from 3 to 5 p.m., and received political indoctrination from 5 to 7 p.m. The schedule for the trained personnel included the cleaning of guns and vehicles from 9 a.m. to noon, dinner and recess from 3 to 5 p.m. and political indoctrination from 5 to 7 p.m., with all officers attending. On 29 December, recruits were again engaged in truck driving practice from 9:20 a.m. to noon. It was learned that 26 out of 190 student drivers failed the pre-examination on 28 December and had to repeat the course. Classroom instruction on the operation of motors was given to the recruits from 1 to 3 p.m. on 29 December. On the same day, the trained personnel were undergoing guard drill from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and fatigue duty from 1 to 3 p.m. The driver's test for the recruits was taken on 30 December, and at 8 a.m. 12 trucks, each with its assigned driver and 14 recruits, were lined up in the yard of the Delius Kaserne. Twenty-six officers, allegedly of the kommandatura in Potsdam, and six officers of the artillery unit inspected each vehicle. The trucks left the installation at 9:10 a.m., each truck being occupied by two officers and 15 EM. The first of the trucks returned at about 1 p.m. It was learned that 26 men had failed the driving test. The theoretical examination was to be held on 31 December. *

2. On 30 December 1950 and 2 January 1951, the northern section of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne, Potsdam, was observed to house a Kech office staffed by Soviet and German personnel. Motor vehicles were parked in the garages and repaired in the workshops of the installation. Trucks [REDACTED] were identified in barracks traffic. **

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3. The southern section of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne, Potsdam, was surrounded by a board fence along which poles with arc lamps were placed at intervals of about 25 meters. A wooden barracks quartering the guard personnel was located in the northeastern corner of the billeting area and separated by another fence. Gate guards at the entrance to the installation wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Source learned from a workman that each of the five large buildings facing Pappel Allee had about 90 office rooms. The door on the south side of each building was closed while the door on the north side was guarded by sentries. Soviet personnel referred to these five buildings as general's building No K, II, IV, V, and VI. Source stated that the offices in each building were headed by a general. About 200 officers were served meals daily in the messhall. They were from all branches of service, including navy and air force, most of them, however, being LVD, artillery, and infantry officers. The EM quarters and some officer billets were located in the southern section of the installation. Most of the officers were billeted in the restricted area on the east side of Nedlitzerstrasse. Passenger cars [redacted] were identified at the installation.
4. The Soviet kommandatura and the apartments of Soviet families were located in a restricted area adjoining the Adolf Hitler Kaserne to the east. Empty garages were situated west of the installation. **

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[redacted] Comment. The report indicates that the artillery components of the unidentified artillery division in Potsdam in the Delius Kaserne were at the post at the end of December 1950.

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* [redacted] Comment. This is the first information on a Koch office in the Adolf Hitler Kaserne. For a sketch of the installation see Annex. Several previous reports indicated that the installation housed a high-echelon headquarters.

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Other sources were of the opinion that officer training courses were being conducted there. [redacted] However, the present report indicates that the Adolf Hitler Kaserne houses a high-echelon headquarters, which, according to the composition of officer personnel may be a supply or rear service headquarters of the GDFG.

1 Annex: 1 - sketch on ditto.

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Legend to Annex of KGI-11419

- 1 - Repair shop
- 2 - Garages
- 3 - Empty garages
- 4 - Former armory
- 5 - Wooden barracks, quartering the guard personnel
- 6 - Guardhouse
- 7 - Kommandatura
- 8 - Soviet residential area
- 9 - Low wooden buildings
- 10 - Volkspolizei garages
- 11 - Volkspolizei quarters
- 12 - Low wooden buildings housing civilians
- 13 - Settlement for civilians
- I, II, IV, V and VI - so-called general's building
- III - Officers' mess

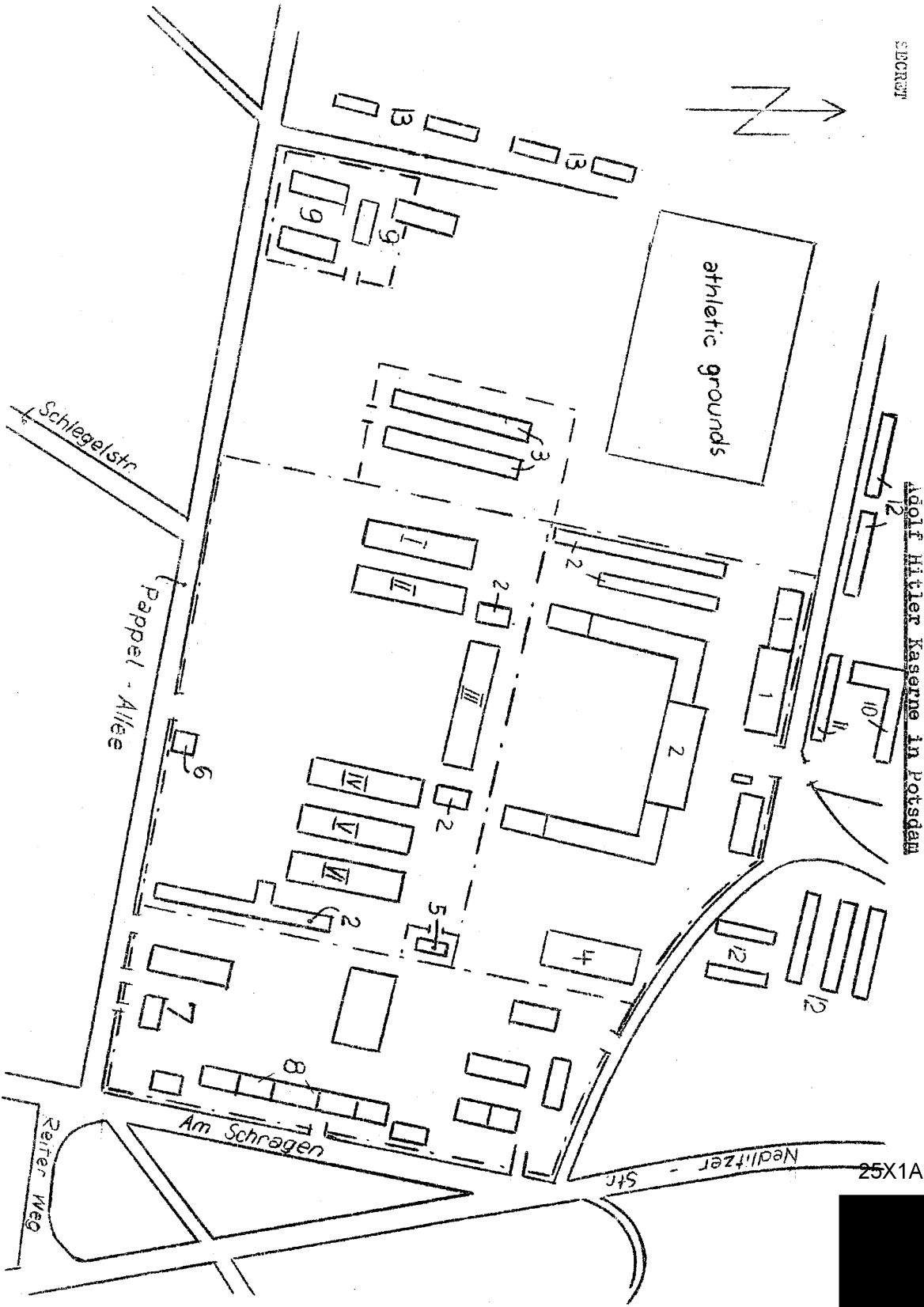
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For legend, see attached list.

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