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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Potsdam

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

50X1-HUM

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 2 May 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 5

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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REFERENCE COPY

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- About 180 officers and more than 800 EM, apparently the complement of the entire artillery unit in the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam (N 53/Z 63), assembled in front of the headquarters building of the installation at 9:45 a.m. on 10 March 1951 and were addressed by a colonel. A 122-mm artillery piece, which fired the first shot on Berlin, was displayed in the barracks yard. 60 sergeants and 124 EM were promoted that day. Activities of troops in the installation were described as follows:

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12 March. Cleaning of guns and vehicles from 9:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 to 3 p.m.; indoctrination from 5 to 7 p.m.

13 March. Trained personnel cleaned guns and motor vehicles from 9:20 to 12 a.m. while the recruits changed quarters preparatory to their integration into the units; athletic activities from 1 to 3 p.m.; and indoctrination from 5 to 7 p.m.

14 March. Same routine as on 13 March. When the recruits were reassigned to the units, a sergeant said that it would not be long before "new children" would arrive from home.

15 March. No training activity from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; preparation of artillery pieces and vehicles after 4 p.m. The troops left with 32 artillery pieces toward Wildpark at 8:45 p.m. Four passenger cars, two radio trucks, and 32 trucks left at 9:15 p.m. Four trucks, each towing as well as carrying a field kitchen, left at 11:50 p.m.

16 March. The troops returned at 8 a.m. and cleaned guns and vehicles until 7 a.m.

17 March. Same routine as on 15 March.

19 March. Same routine as on 15 March. All German barracks employees had to unload treads for caterpillar tractors which had arrived on six trucks. A driver said that these trucks had come from Kirchmoeser.

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20 and 21 March. Same routine as on 15 March.

22 March. Cleaning of guns and vehicles from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:15 to 3 p.m. Instruction after 5 p.m.

24 March. Six units with a total of twelve 122-mm guns, twelve 152-mm guns, six field kitchens, six gun-barrel trailers, and two radio trucks left toward Wildpark at about 5 a.m. Twelve trucks with new ammunition trailers left at 6:30 a.m. Trucks [redacted] 50X1-HUM each carrying four officers, went toward Wildpark at 9:40 a.m. [redacted] the troops went to Altengrabow for several days of firing practice. About 200 soldiers remained at the installation and cleaned equipment in three ordnance sheds and two garages.

27 March. The troops who remained at the installation engaged in fatigue duty until 5 p.m. and received theoretical instruction until 7 p.m.

28 March. The troops reportedly returned between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. Twenty-four caterpillar tractors with guns, six caterpillar tractors with gun-barrel trailers and two radio trucks were in the barracks yard at 8 a.m. Twelve trucks with trailers and six field kitchens were parked in another yard. (1)

2. It was said that 20 new officers would be billeted in the officers' hotel opposite the Delius Kaserne.
3. [redacted] the ration strength of the engineer unit in 50X1-HUM the Delius Kaserne was 32 officers and 360 EM on 9 March. The engineer troops were seen training with practice mines and bazookas at Bornstedterfeld.
4. A shipment of 18 officers and 64 EM left the Delius Kaserne on 7 March, going to Rethenow, allegedly for processing to the U.S.S.R. (2)
5. Between 6 and 13 March, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne, also called the Panzer-grenadier Kaserne, continued to house the komandatura, MVD personnel, a motion picture studio, a prison, and club rooms. (3) 50X1-HUM
6. The 3d Garde Ulanen Kaserne continued to quarter a guard unit of about 150 men.
7. The Unteroffizier Schule was occupied by about 150 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and about 60 signal troops with black epaulets who seemed to be engaged in line maintenance.
8. Units of 150 and 120 soldiers respectively marched into the General's Quarter in Neuer Garten on 7 and 8 March. The troops wore red-bordered black epaulets and belonged to the military police unit stationed in Neuer Garten. [redacted] 50X1-HUM the number of Russian women employed and billeted in the General's Quarter had increased to 90. 50X1-HUM
9. The Ruinenberg Kaserne housed a military post office and a driving school of about 150 soldiers with motor transport insignia. No heavy weapons were observed.
10. The former Friesecke & Hoepfner Firm, situated at the intersection of Ernst Thaelmannstrasse and Zubeilstrasse, was occupied by about 400 troops who wore black epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets. Four two-axle trailers each carrying a hinged, telescopic metal mast and two reels with silver-colored wire, 2 to 3 cm in diameter, were parked in the southern section of the installation. Trucks [redacted] 50X1-HUM were observed in the factory yard. Jeep [redacted] was parked at the gate on Thaelmannstrasse. 50X1-HUM

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11. [redacted] the unit quartered in the factory area trained recruits with the above mentioned equipment. The recruits were transferred at intervals of two or three months. They were trained in the billeting area for the first 6 to 8 weeks, and then practiced with the equipment in the Lutho Meadows for two or three days. Four of the two-axle trailers were seen arranged in a square during such exercises. After the training period, the recruits left toward Potsdam on 12 trucks, followed by 16 trucks towing the trailers, four field kitchens, and a bus occupied by German civilians. [redacted] German civilians, who lived near the factory and were fed by the Soviets, participated in each exercise. 50X1-HUM
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12. Troops observed in the restricted area in Wildpark-West wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. The tracks of track-laying vehicles led from the southern gate of the restricted area to Glindow or Werder via Baumgartenbrueck. The barrage balloon and the tent previously observed at Entenfang pheasantry were no longer seen. Motor vehicles [redacted] left through the northern gate of the restricted area. (4) 50X1-HUM
13. About 30 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets were quartered in the old postal building of the former German Air Force telephone exchange at Kuhfort, south of the Wildpark-Werder road, on the southern extension of Fasanenweg. Trucks [redacted] were observed at the postal building behind which were concrete shelters. 50X1-HUM
14. The barracks installation on the south side of Pappelallee between Ruinenbergweg and Brandhorstweg quartered about 800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. (5) Some of the troops belonged to a driving school, and trucks [redacted] belonging to it were identified [redacted]. A barracks building bordering on the south side of Pappelallee was destroyed. 50X1-HUM
15. The western section of the Luftnachrichten Kaserne in Potsdam-Solm was occupied by a rear unit of the Volkspolizei. Brickwork on the buildings was completed. The barracks yard was being repaved. Only a few Soviet soldiers were seen in the eastern section of the installation on 20 March. (6) 50X1-HUM
16. [redacted] conferences were held in the Panzerjaeger Kaserne at 23 Jaegerallee on 14, 21, and 28 March. The meetings began at 3 p.m. each day. All German employees had to leave the building for the duration of the conferences. Military personnel observed in the installation between 2 and 3 p.m. on 21 March included 14 colonels, 24 lieutenant colonels, 36 majors, and 4 sergeants with a gold chevron on their left sleeve. Some of the officers wore tank and artillery insignia. [redacted] some of the officers had come from Brandenburg. [redacted] the officers also included some from Krampnitz and Rathenow. 50X1-HUM
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17. The Adolf Hitler Kaserne housed a Soviet agency which supplied all units in the Soviet Zone of Germany with the documents required for the issuance of equipment, ammunition, clothing, and ration supplies. All officers entering the installation were cleared and furnished with a pass at the gatehouse. Officers observed were of all branches of service, including the LWD, air force, and navy. Passenger cars [redacted] were seen on the parking lot of the installation. (3) 50X1-HUM

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18. Trucks [redacted] each with two drivers and six other soldiers, were unloaded at the Potsdam freight station and moved to the Kavallerie Schule in Kramnitz on 18 March.

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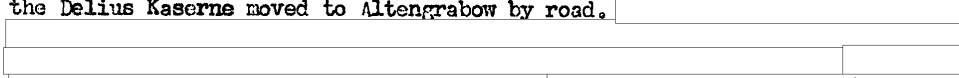


[redacted] Comments.

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(1) Since no troop trains were observed on the Potsdam-Altengrabow line on 24 and 27 March, it is believed that units of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig from the Delius Kaserne moved to Altengrabow by road.

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(2) The departure of a similar shipment [redacted] on 1 March 1951.

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(3) [redacted] it is believed that the Adolf Hitler Kaserne houses Rear Service offices of the GDFG.

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- (4) The balloon battery, which probably belongs to the unidentified artillery division in Potsdam, is believed to have been at Altengrabow in mid-March 1951. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- (5) [redacted] the barracks installation on the south side of Pappelallee was completely destroyed. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- (6) The eastern section of the Luftnachrichten Kaserne in Potsdam-Golm quartered about 1,500 artillery troops in early February 1951. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
The troops were probably at Altengrabow [redacted] by the present report.

[redacted]

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