

TELELOFAX 17

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops and Troop Movements in Altenburg and Gera 50X1

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT _____

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 17 May 1951

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

_____ 50X1-HUM

Altenburg.

1. With the exception of the unit which _____ 50X1-HUM
left on 18 March 1951, the Neue Kaserne in Altenburg (N 51/K 27) was
still occupied by the same troops until 31 March. Seven 150-mm artil-
lery pieces and motor vehicles _____ 50X1-HUM
were seen in the billeting area. Guns of the same type and vehicles
with numbers of the same series were observed with the troops who de-
parted on 18 March. *
2. No changes were observed with regard to the occupation of the Alte
Kaserne up to 31 March. Some troops in the billeting area were attending
driving school. Truck _____ towing an AT gun was identified. 50X1-HUM
3. Troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and equipped with 250 to 300
motor vehicles, including armored reconnaissance cars, bivouacked in the
Leina Woods near Altenburg between 24 and 31 March. They had come from
the direction of Dresden. _____ 50X1-HUM
The troops departed
toward Lohma on 31 March. _____

Gera.

4. _____ in 50X1-HUM
Gera (N 51/K 06), _____ about 50 percent of the troops from the in-
stallation left for Ohrdruf on 4 and 5 April. On the evenings of 3 and 9
April, almost all windows of the three barracks buildings were lighted.
Officers and men seen in the billeting area wore red-bordered black
epaulets with artillery insignia. Three tractors towing artillery pieces,
apparently 57-mm AT guns, were seen in the billeting area on 7 April.
_____ 50X1-HUM

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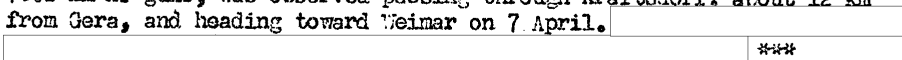
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- 5. No troops were observed in the barracks installation in Gera-Tinz on 9 April. Only 12 windows were lighted in the billeting area that night.
- 6. The building at 12 Lindenstrasse seemed to be a Soviet troop quarters. Sentries in front of it wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. A gun crew of 10 men went into the building on 10 April. They were assigned to four heavy guns which were emplaced in the area between Colliserstrasse and Lindenstrasse apparently for training purposes. The guns were of about 150-mm, had barrels about 3.5 meters long, a multi-baffled muzzle brake, a square protective shield, and disk wheels with solid rubber tires.
- 7. A troop train consisting of 1 coach and 8 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying 12 trucks and 8 guns, apparently 76.2-mm AT guns, was observed passing through Kraftsdorf, about 12 km from Gera, and heading toward Weimar on 7 April.

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* Comment. A train carrying troops with 4 heavy guns and 3 AT guns was observed leaving Altenburg toward Leipzig on 18 March 1951.

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** Comment.



The major motor columns of both armies which were observed in the Rathenow area in late March 1951 are believed to have also been connected in some way with the troop movements in Thuringia. It is possible that elements of the two armies may have conducted a large-scale command post exercise in the western portion of the Soviet Zone of Germany during the second half of March 1951, perhaps in conjunction with elements of other armies. Also in May 1950, a command post exercise involving elements of all armies in the Soviet Zone of Germany was held in Thuringia.

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*** Comment. The information indicates that troops of the 20th Gds Liecz Div from Gera and, possibly also from Zeitz, moved to Ohrdruf in early April 1951.

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