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Austria (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

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PLACEMENT PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 25 July 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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SOURCE [Redacted]

2. Three platoons of 1 lieutenant and 50 soldiers each, who wore black-bordered red epaulets without branch-of-service insignia, marched from the former insane asylum in Bauer Gehling (O 49/8 26) to the drill field southeast of the installation at 8 a.m. on 17 May 1951. Two of the platoons were armed with submachine guns and the third with rifles mounting folded bayonets. The platoons subsequently practiced attacking, advancing toward a fire trench which was protected by wire entanglements. The soldiers fired blank cartridges and threw practice hand grenades. After the attack practice was over, the soldiers in prone position formed a circle of about 100 meters in diameter and watched a demonstration of the detonation of demolition charges in the center of the circle. They wore steel helmets. At about 9.30 a.m., four more platoons of about 50 soldiers each arrived from the installation and started practicing AT defense at close range, organized in teams of five and using a dummy tank of clay and bricks as target. Each five-man team consisted of 1 soldier with a flame thrower, 1 soldier carrying a submachine gun and practice hand grenades, and 3 soldiers carrying submachine guns and greyish bottles, 30 cm high. Each team, starting about 100 meters from the dummy tank, would crawl toward the target and, about 15 meters from the target, would throw the bottles against the dummy tank whereupon a dense smoke was generated which, in calm weather, lasted for at least five minutes. During this period, the soldiers who carried the hand grenades threw about 10 of them against the dummy tank while the flame thrower operator released 8 to 10 jets of liquid fire, producing billows of black smoke. The teams took turns, with each exercise lasting about 20 minutes. The flame thrower operator carried a container about the size of a gasoline can and topped by a small steel bottle with a valve, strapped on his back. He held in his hand the release mechanism which resembled a submachine gun with butt and trigger and was connected with the container by two fuel pipes. Other teams of soldiers of the unit, which totaled about 200 men, practiced the demolition of wire entanglements by using remote-control charges. The soldiers were obviously well disciplined and seemed to be thoroughly trained. After dinner, trucks each carrying 30 soldiers and mounting a machine gun with AA sight moved from the barracks installation to the training area. There, the troops jumped from the vehicles upon a whistle signal, except two men remaining with each AA machine gun, and took up defensive positions. The dismounting was practiced at least 20 times. Ten of the soldiers on each truck carried

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rifles and the other 20, submachine guns. In addition, each group of 30 men had a light machine gun with a round magazine. During the training, about 15 officers arrived at the drill field from the installation.

2. About 15 wooden barracks-type buildings were in the area of the former insane asylum. Many motor vehicles, including 63 trucks and 14 tank trucks, but no armored vehicles, were observed in the yard. A senior lieutenant from the installation was seen leaving for Linz (N 49/W 88) via Amstetten (O 49/W 26). He stopped at the zonal border near the bridge across the Enns River where a sentry who wore black-bordered red epaulets reported to him. *

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3. Jeep [redacted] was parked in front of the komendatura on Frensbacherstrasse, Amstetten, where two officers wearing red service color were also observed. Two-ton truck [redacted] was parked in front of the railroad station. Its driver wore black-bordered red epaulets.

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4. On 24 April 1951, a Soviet soldier leaving Vienna to return to his unit from furlough, stated that he was serving with the 95th Division in St Poelten (O 49/W 88) and that Major General Kozolapov, (fnu), was his commanding general. **

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- * [redacted] Not less than two motorized rifle battalions, probably belonging to the 290th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, are stationed in "auer-Oehling. The trucks observed at the training area belong to this division. The training observed by source is virtually in accord with Soviet practice during World War II.

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- ** [redacted] In World War II, a Colonel P.P. Kosolapov was in command of the 359th Rifle Div. He is probably the present commanding general of the 95th Gds Mtz Div which can thus be considered confirmed in St Poelten until 24 April 1951.

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