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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Bernburg

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED 9 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE 25X1X

1. On 27 and 28 November 1951, the Adolf Hitler Kaserne in Bernburg (M 52/D 76) was occupied to capacity. Sentries wore black epaulets. Some soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen leaving the billeting area. Troops practiced the construction of barbed-wire obstacles and emergency bridges in the barracks yard, where there were several piles of square timber and other construction material. Vehicles were seen leaving the billeting area.

2. The residential area bounded by Doesseberg, Ilberstedterstrasse, Julius Brummestrasse and An der Roesse, which is situated next to the fenced billeting area of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne, was also surrounded by a wire fence. Soviet dependents were seen in the now restricted area. Unidentified construction was being done in the old ammunition depot west of the transmitting tower of the Halle broadcasting station. A fence was set up around an area which was bounded by the Nienburg-Bernburg railroad line on the north, by the Bernburg-Neugattersleben road on the east, by the transmitting tower on the south, and by the path from Saldau to point 74, paralleling the road to Neugattersleben, on the west. About 70 to 100 soldiers with black epaulets were erecting a fence.

3. On 23 November, the barracks installation in Bernburg seemed to be occupied almost to capacity. All soldiers observed wore black epaulets with the exception of two who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 150 soldiers were seen receiving infantry training outside the billeting area. *

4. A double page from a copybook which was found at the officers' billets on Julius Brummestrasse on 14 November contained notes on the combat history of the writer's unit. The notes were dated 23 November 1950 and read: Upon a motion of the workers of the Ural Lits, the 743d Indep Engr Bn was activated in the Ural area in February and March 1943. The Fourth Tank Army was activated on 10 July 1943. The engineer battalion saw its first combat action west of Orel on 26 July 1943. It was redesignated as the 131st Indep Gds Engr Bn on 23 October 1943. The offensive on the right bank of the Dnieper River, for the liberation of the Ukraine, began on 24 February 1944. The town of Kamenodolsk was seized on 25 March 1944 and Romanovc on 17 February 1944. The battalion was awarded the guards flag. It participated in the seizure of Lvov between 14 June and 27 July and, for this achievement, was awarded the order of the Red Star. The battalion

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25X1A

- 2 -

started advancing with the components of the First Ukrainian Front on 12 June 1945 and threw a bridge across the Oder River between 25 and 30 June 1945. For the capture of Petrikau, the battalion was awarded the order of Bogdan Kimmelnitsky 3d class and, for the seizure of Steinau, Neustadt, Neisse and Ratibor, the order of Aleksander Nevsky. The battalion participated in the battle for the liberation of Prague from 5 to 9 May 1945. It was awarded the order of Kutuzov 3d class for the battle of Prague and Berlin. During its combat history, the 131st Indep Gds Engr Bn received 27 unit citations by Comrade Stalin. **

25X1A

* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. The information confirms the Adolf Hitler Kaserne as quartering components of the unidentified engineer regiment of the GOFB up to 28 November 1951. Same source previously reported that the ammunition depot just northwest of Bernburg was being improved, possibly for the storage of engineer equipment and ammunition. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. The 131st Gds Engr Bn is an old component of the former X Gds Tank Corps, the present 10th Gds Tank Div. The document described in the present report shows that, in 1950, the battalion still had its numerical designation of World War II. The battalion is believed to be stationed in Krampnitz. The combat route described in the document agrees with wartime information on the combat history of the X Gds Tank Corps which was surnamed Ural Volunteers.

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Military Rail Movements in Wolmirstedt

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 9 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE 25X1X

1. At 8 a.m. on 25 November 1951, tanks Nos 602, 604, and 607 and two trucks, loaded with boards and practice targets, were unloaded at the Wolmirstedt (M 53/Y 61) railroad station by about 50 soldiers and left toward Letzling Heath.

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2. Vehicles seen moving to the Wolmirstedt railroad station at 8 p.m. on 30 November included tanks Nos 607 and 340, SP gun No 02 and three trucks carrying ammunition boxes. The vehicles were entrained on 1 December. Five more tanks, including Nos 052, 053, loaded with boxes and bundles, were entrained at 8 p.m. on 1 December and the train left toward Magdeburg.

3. Two groups of 5 or 6 officers and 150 soldiers arrived at the Wolmirstedt railroad station aboard the 5:30 p.m. train from Kolbitz, one group on 1 December and one on 2 December. They proceeded toward Magdeburg aboard the 5:45 p.m. express train. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Some of them wore bands around their heads and arms. *

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* Comment. the three tanks unloaded on 25 November belong to the 10th Gds Tank Div, while the tanks entrained at 8 p.m. on 1 December belong to the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army. The movements indicate that, as at other troop training grounds in the Soviet Zone of Germany, small detachments conducted firing practice with live ammunition.

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