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

TOPIC Military Information from Halle

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[redacted]

[redacted]

DATE PREPARED 27 February 1952

PAGES [redacted] ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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[redacted]

1. On 7 January 1952, a field exercise involving about 200 troops with red-bordered black epaulets and four T-34 tanks was observed in the training field of the Flak Kaserne, Halle-Woermlitz (M 52/D 92), on the road to Beesen. The infantry troops practiced advancing in groups of about 15 men each, with the groups giving mutual fire support, while the tanks advanced in the spaces between the groups. The field exercise was interrupted about 50 meters before Roepzig, and the troops involved assembled in four units for a critique. T-34/85 tanks which left the Flak Kaserne toward Beesen on 15 January, [redacted] marked with a red star heading in by a white line; [redacted] marked with a red star without a border line. The trucks [redacted] occupied by 12 officers with tank insignia; and trucks [redacted] each carrying 20 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The trucks were seen driving toward the training area at the Brandberge (hills). Troops seen in the western section of the billeting area included: 25 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets and drilled with 4 x 76.2-mm model 42 field guns; and 13 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia, and who practiced under the supervision of an officer with a heavy machine gun with AA sight, mounted on a two-wheel carriage. A total of about 300 troops were seen drilling at squad level with and without rifles in the western section of the billeting area on 21 January. Six T-34 tanks and 3 JS-2 tanks were seen leaving the billeting area on that day. From 6 to 8 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and carrying carbines squatted on each tank. About 400 troops were engaged in field training without heavy weapons in the training area south of the barracks installation on 22 January.

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[redacted]

2. On 23 January, the former Provinzial Irrenanstalt (provincial insane asylum) on the western perimeter of Halle and east of the airfield was occupied by a unit of soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets. No training activity was noticed.

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[redacted]

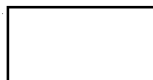
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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

Document No. [redacted]
 No Change in Class.
 Declassified
 Class. Exempt For: TS [redacted]
 Auth: [redacted]
 Date: 11-9-78
 CIA-RDP82-00457R011200080008-5

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3. A column which moved out of the Flak Kaserne, Halle-Boernitz, on 8 January consisted of SU-35 SP gun No 139, with 2 men squatting on it; [redacted] occupied by 15 officers; and [redacted] JS-2 tank [redacted] marked with a red star, [redacted] was seen in the western section of the billeting area, while 20 soldiers practiced close-combat and 35 soldiers drilled with 5 x 52-mm model 43 AT guns in the barracks yard. T-34 tank [redacted] was seen fording the Saale River west of the bridge at Beesen on 9 January. The ammunition dump for the Flak Kaserne was located on Hill 107.8, 1 km north of Beesen, and measured about 200 meters square. In its center, the dump contained a watchtower, about 6 meters high which was continually occupied by a sentry. Weapons involved in an advanced combat practice in the training area south of the Flak Kaserne on 25 January included: JSU-12.7 SP gun [redacted] T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 5 x 76.2-mm field guns of model 42; 9 x 82-mm mortars; and 6 x 50-mm mortars. [redacted] a radio station of two pack radio sets with 2-meter antennas was seen just south of the barracks installation. One officer and 4 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia were observed at the radio station. A total of 300 troops received close-order drill at squad level, with and without rifles in the western section of the Flak Kaserne. A unit of about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia, and carrying rifles, submachine guns, entrenching tools and practice targets was seen marching from the western section of the billeting area to the drill ground south of the Saale River on 30 January. A column of nine T-34 tanks left the western section of the billeting area in a northerly direction toward Passendorf with the first, fourth and seventh tanks mounting antennas. Thirty soldiers were seen practicing with four 76.2-mm field guns of model 42 in the billeting area. [redacted]

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4. On 26 January, about 70 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen practicing with 6 x 82-mm mortars and 3 x 57-mm AT guns in the Doelau Heath training area near the Luftnachrichten Kaserne on Heide Allee. About 500 troops were engaged in field training with carbines, submachine guns and light machine guns in the area north of the Brandberge. Six trucks, each carrying 20 soldiers and towing a total of 5 x 57-mm AT guns, left the installation toward the Brandberge on 26 January. [redacted]

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[redacted] The troops wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia, and were armed with carbines and submachine guns. About 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and carrying hand arms were observed engaged in field training on Doelau Heath on 26 January. About 300 troops with red-bordered black epaulets and armed with small arms received combat training at platoon level in the airfield area on 31 January. [redacted]

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5. Between 19 and 31 January, the Weil Kaserne was occupied by only a unit of about 60 men who were red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets. Soldiers were only occasionally seen in the barracks yard.

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6. Between 19 and 31 January, [redacted] the SOG headquarters was located on Maxim Gorki Strasse. Duty hours there began at 9 a.m. daily. Except for guard personnel, 1 officer and 9 men with red-bordered black epaulets, some officers holding ranks from major upwards and some male and female Russian civilians were observed at the SOG headquarters.

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7. On 30 January, the Flak Kaserno, Halle-Loermitz, quartered about 200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. About 300 unarmed troops were seen receiving close-order drill.

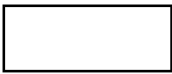
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8. On 31 January, the Luftnachrichten Kaserno on Meide Allee quartered about 5,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with tank insignia and a few, with artillery insignia. Unarmed soldiers were seen drilling at squad level. No training activity was noticed on the adjacent training area, probably because of the heavy snow. A column of T-34 tanks,

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[redacted] moved into the installation on 16 January. The rear sides of the tank [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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9. On 4 January, about 350 troops were seen practicing with light machine guns on tripod mounts and heavy machine guns on 2-wheel carts, and also receiving close-order drill in the airfield area at the Luftnachrichten Kaserne. T-34/85 tanks [redacted] left the installation and were subsequently seen driving with T-34/85 tanks [redacted] in the training area at the Brandberge. [redacted]

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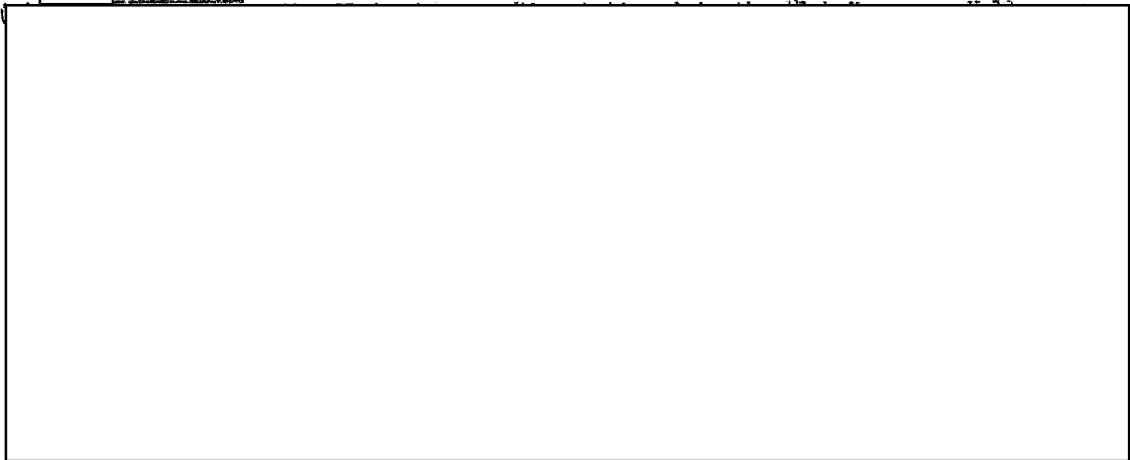


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[redacted] Comments.

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(2) The Provinzial Irrenanstalt belongs to the collective billeting area of the Luftnachrichten Kaserne and the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. No detailed information regarding this installation has been received to date. 25X1

(3) The Luftnachrichten Kaserne and the Fliegerhorst Kaserne are believed to quarter the remaining components of the 21st Gds Weez Div. [redacted] The heavy infantry weapons observed for the first time in and around the barracks installation indicate that an infantry unit may also be stationed there. 25X1 It is possibly the 69th Gds Weez Regt which was transferred from Leipzig-Schoenau to Halle. [redacted]

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(4) The identity of the units in the Weizl Kaserne has not been determined since the withdrawal of the MCB regiment. However, it is believed that the unit observed belongs to the SOG agency on Maxim Gorki Strasse.

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