

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

TOPIC Military Information from the Letzling Heath Area 25X1

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[Redacted]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 21 January 1952, the camp in the woods south of Huetten, at the Letzling Heath (M 53/Y 52) troop training grounds, was occupied by only small guard units. [Redacted] primarily tank troops had been quartered in the camp until the beginning of January, when they departed toward Haldensleben. Everything was quiet in the camp on 21 January, and there was no vehicular traffic. The four-mast radio station on the northern edge of the camp was still in existence. About 60 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, carrying carbines, submachine guns and practice targets, were seen marching southward from 4 two-family houses and 1 three-story barracks building, about 50 meters long, which were located about 500 meters east of Huetten on the road to Meseberg. No activities were noticed in the area of the large camp in the woods, nor at the motor vehicle parking lots and the fuel dump at Born. A few vehicle tracks were seen in the fresh snow on the road toward the camp, but no vehicular traffic was noticed. *

2. The four-mast radio station previously observed between the two approaches to the barracks installation on the western edge of Millersleben (M 53/Y 51) and the settlement was no longer there on 21 January, but a radar set with "ears" was located there. About 400 troops were seen drilling with small arms at squad level in the barracks installation. Four JS-3 tanks drove from the area north of the billeting area in the former ammunition depot toward the barracks installation. [Redacted] Reports by artillery pieces of two different calibers were heard from the direction of Millersleben. Rounds were fired at 10 to 15 minutes intervals. [Redacted]

3. On 21 January, the barracks installation on the northeastern perimeter of Millersleben was occupied by about 1,200 troops. [Redacted] Gate guards were red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About 300 soldiers were engaged in various types of training in the billeting area. [Redacted] were seen entering the billeting area. Each truck carried 15 to 16 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, and towed a model 43 57-mm AT gun. [Redacted]

Document No. 5
No Change in Status []
[] Declassified
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Auth.: []
Date: 11-9-78 [Redacted]

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4. No troops were seen in and around Huetten, south of Born, on 14 and 15 January. Only a guard detail of 5 officers and 15 men with red-bordered black epaulets was observed in Planken, east of Huetten.

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[redacted] troops were not expected to return to the Huetten-Planken-Born area before the beginning of March. *

5. On 15 January, the barracks installation on the western perimeter of Hillersleben and the settlement there quartered about 2,000 troops, including some with red-bordered black, black-bordered red, and black-bordered black epaulets. A radar set with "ears" was noticed near the fence around the billeting area.

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6. On 23 January, the barracks installation at Staats (N 53/Y 64) was about 90 percent lighted during the evening hours. *** Many military vehicles were seen passing through Staats, coming from the direction of Stendal (N 53/Y 85) and proceeding toward the Letzling Heath troop training grounds. [redacted] each truck towing a 45-mm AT gun, [redacted] each truck carrying 20 soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets and towing a 45-mm AT gun. *

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7. [redacted] the barracks installation there was occupied by about 400 troops equipped with numerous tanks. From 6 to 8 tanks were seen with the troops who went out every day out for field training. ***

8. A convoy which passed through Doebbelin, 5 km southwest of Stendal, on 26 January consisted of 28 trucks, 12 of which towed 76.2-mm artillery pieces. The convoy came from the direction of Stendal and proceeded toward Letzling Heath, wherefrom it returned during the evening hours.

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9. On 18 January, the barracks installation at the western edge of Hillersleben and the settlement were occupied to capacity. All buildings in the billeting area were fully lighted during the evening. [redacted] there were triple-decker bunks in the houses pertaining to the settlement. Fire from infantry arms and tank guns was heard from the area north of the installation and north of the camp and the former ammunition depot. The billeting area of the barracks installation on the northeastern edge of Hillersleben contained three, and possibly more, large garages which were under construction. The garages had a total length of about 300 meters. **

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* [redacted] paragraphs 1 to 3, and 4 to 6 confirm that Camp Huetten was vacated by troops about the middle of January 1952 and thus proved that the previous assumptions that the camp might be a permanent billeting area for components of a mechanized regiment of the 19th Gds Mecz Div was erroneous.

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** [redacted] The two barracks installations in Hillersleben are believed to quarter a mechanized regiment and the unidentified Gds AAA regiment of the 19th Gds Mecz Div. The artillery components of the mechanized regiment are probably quartered in the installation on the northeastern edge of Hillersleben. However, the number of troops in this installation is believed to have been exaggerated. [redacted] there were 600 troops and his estimate of the total number of troops in the two installations was 2,200 to 2,500. [redacted] paragraphs 1 to 4 of the present report stated in the reference report that he observed

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14 T-34 tanks and 4 SU-100 SP guns among other vehicles in the barracks installation at the western edge of Millersloben. It is unlikely that a mechanized regiment should have T-34 tanks, SP guns and JS tanks. The presence of such weapons would indicate the possibility that the installation might quarter also the tank training battalion of the division.

25X1 [redacted] Comment. The identity of the unit in the barracks installation at Staats has not been fully established. The 16th (?) Gds Tank SP Regt of the 207th Itz Rifle Div has been carried there to date, but information 25X1 [redacted] in Stendal indicate that components of the regiment returned to the Albrecht-Der-Naer Kaserne, Stendal, at the end of December 1951.

It now appears that the regiment may have been split up in two elements. The availability of suitable training facilities in the Staats area is probably a reason for the split up of the regiment.

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