

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/08/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R011500030009-6

25X1

25X1

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

25X1

TOPIC Military Information from Prenzlau

25X1

[Redacted]

DATE PREPARED 25 March 1952

[Redacted]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

1. On 16 January 1952, [Redacted] Captain Zemynov (fnu), superior officer of Unit Chernin in Prenzlau (N 54/Q 14), that he had a letter [Redacted] and learned that a colonel, rather than Lieutenant Colonel Chernin (fnu), Zemynov's superior officer, was in command of the tank regiment referred to as Unit Chernin. This unit conducted firing practice with live ammunition with five T-34 tanks in the Zehdenick (N 53/U 70) area, from 8 to 13 January 1951. The officers were quartered in earth bunkers. The firing practice which involved all officers of the unit was witnessed by a colonel from the division headquarters in Cranienburg (N 53/Z 77) and an army general from Eberswalde (N 53/V 08). [Redacted] Major Borizov Shoravlov, commanding officer of Tank Unit Shoravlov, had been transferred to the U.S.S.R. for reassignment at the beginning of January 1952. Captain Zemynov said that all officers serving with units in the Soviet Zone of Germany for a prolonged period of time would be transferred to the U.S.S.R. and be replaced by younger officers.

25X1

[Redacted] Units Chernin and Shoravlov each consisted of a mortar company and a "field" company, and that each company was commanded by a major. All field kitchens of the two tank units were completely overhauled by German firms. To avoid any contact between German workers and Soviet soldiers, German employees were escorted by Soviet guard details to where they were to work together with Soviet soldiers in the barracks installations. In mid-January, [Redacted] five earth bunkers, about 1 meter aboveground and 1.80 meters underground, were under construction along the road to Luisenthal, southeast of the barracks installation on the south side of Berliner Strasse. The bunkers were provided with embrasures facing west and had splinterproof tops.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

2. On 9 February, the barracks installation on the north side of Berliner Strasse was occupied beyond capacity by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank and artillery insignia. Eight T-34/85 tanks and six JS tanks,

25X1

25X1

3. On 9 February, the barracks installation on the south side of Berliner Strasse was occupied to capacity by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

25X1

with tank and artillery insignia. Four groups of 10 men were instructed on four 80-mm mortars in the barracks yard. Four ZIS-3 model 42 76.2-mm guns were also noticed in the yard. Trucks [redacted] each towing a 37-mm AT gun, were leaving the billeting area. About 60 soldiers drilled on the training field southwest of the installation.

25X1

25X1

4. Prior to 11 February, four units of about 140 soldiers each fell in every morning in the yards of the eastern and western sections of the barracks installation on the south side of Berliner Strasse. Each unit was headed by 5 to 8 officers. [redacted] Major Kazionek (phonetic spelling) (fnu) was commanding the troops in the eastern section and Major Chernin (fnu) those in the western section and that both officers were predominantly engaged in administrative work. Most of the vehicles in the garages in the eastern section of the installation were signal vehicles, two or three-axle armored scout cars and numerous trucks predominantly [redacted] T-34 and JS-3 tanks, SP guns, light AT guns, heavy mortars and numerous trucks were parked in the garages in the western section. [redacted] most of the tanks of the unit were stationed in the barracks installation on the north side of Berliner Strasse where the unit commander was also stationed. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

[redacted] at the end of November and at the beginning of December, about 400 troops were returned to the U.S.S.R. for discharge after three years of service. They left for the U.S.S.R. in small groups and were replaced by about as many recruits. Officers including one Lieutenant Colonel Vosenko (phonetic spelling) (fnu) were also transferred to the U.S.S.R. for reassignment. Training activity in the two barracks installations comprised infantry training, close-combat training and basic training with various heavy weapons. Only the trained personnel left for daily practice on the training field south of the barracks installations. During the week from 20 to 28 January 1952, routine activity was performed at night, beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 6 a.m. The troops slept during the day. All German women employed in the officers' billets had been discharged some weeks previously. *

* [redacted] Comment. The report generally confirms the two barracks installations to quarter the 175th Tank Regt, the 83d Gds IV Tank SP Regt and the unidentified mortar regiment of the 25th Tank Div and, presumably, also an unidentified AT artillery unit or artillery unit. [redacted]. The Gds Major Chernin (fnu), mentioned in the present report, was previously reported. He may have been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. His position has not been definitely determined. He is believed to be supply officer of the 175th Tank Regt, with Captain Zemyonov (fnu) as his assistant. Colonel Shepel (fnu) is known to be the regimental commander. [redacted]

25X1

25X1