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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Military Information from Halle

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DATE PREPARED 26 March 1952

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PAGES

REMARKS

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[Redacted]

1. [Redacted] the Halle (M 52/D 92) freight yard, the following rail movements between 8 and 12 March 1952: 25X1

8 March. A troop train of 10 boxcars and flatcars carrying soldiers and vehicles which arrived from a northerly direction at 3 p.m. and left toward Erfurt at 6 p.m. (1) Another troop train was unloaded at 8 p.m. The train consisted of 12 boxcars with about 30 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and 38 flatcars carrying 13 long-barreled guns, 4 howitzers of a caliber between 75 and 100 mm, field kitchens, repair-shop trucks and other trucks, [Redacted]

[Redacted] The unit left toward the barracks installation in Boermlitz. (2) 25X1

9 March.

At 10 a.m. Four tank cars with gasoline from Kuenchenbernsdorf [Redacted] in Wietleben. (3)

At 7:20 a.m. A troop train which came from Magdeburg-Buckau and proceeded to Rossleben. The train consisted of 45 to 50 boxcars and flatcars and carried troops and vehicles, including 9 radio trucks, 2 field kitchens, 4 trucks loaded with signal equipment, and 1 sedan. [Redacted] (1)

At noon. A shipment of 3 boxcars and 7 flatcars carrying soldiers, 1 field kitchen and 9 trucks, which was coupled to the regular freight train from Magdeburg-Buckau to Rossleben (1) 25X1

10 March.

At 7 a.m. A troop train of 49 boxcars and flatcars carrying soldiers, 4 busses, 2 tank trucks and 1 sedan, [Redacted]

The train came from the direction of Magdeburg and proceeded toward Erfurt. (1) 25X1

At 10 a.m. A troop train of 6 boxcars with soldiers and 19 flatcars carrying vehicles, including 4 ambulances, 4 repair-shop trucks, 2 tank trucks, 2 busses and 1 field kitchen. [Redacted] The 25X1

train came from a northerly direction and proceeded toward Erfurt. (1)

At 11:20 a.m. A 112-axle train, 1,055 tons, of 10 boxcars and 39 flatcars loaded with about 30 trucks, 2 field kitchens, several repair-shop trucks, 4 sedans, arms and equipment. The train came from the direction of Magdeburg and proceeded toward Erfurt. (1)

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12 March.

At about 1 a.m. A troop train of 10 boxcars with soldiers, 2 boxcars with equipment, and an unknown number of flatcars with 13 T-34 and JS tanks and 14 trucks, [redacted] (4) One boxcar from Dresden-Altstadt to Halle, consigned to the Zolomieski Depot, [redacted] on Saarbuergerstrasse. (5)

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2. Three additional troop trains which could not be identified passed through the Halle freight yard during the night of 9 March. They came from the direction of Magdeburg and went toward Erfurt. (1)

3. From 30 to 40 heavy-duty flatcars for tank [redacted] were marshaled at the Halle railroad station prior to 12 March. (6)

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[redacted] Comments.

(1) Six of the troop trains [redacted] included: the train at 7:20 a.m. on 9 March 1952 carrying a headquarters signal unit of the Third Shock Army; the train at 7 a.m. on 10 March 1952, which was loaded, with vehicles of the 6th Gds Tank Div and the 11th Gds Mecz Div; and the train at 10 a.m. on 10 March 1952 carrying a headquarters unit of the Third Gds Mecz Army. Some of these troop trains are believed to have also been observed [redacted] while passing through Koethen and on the Halle-Bitterfeld-Leipzig railroad line.

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[redacted]. The trains bound for Rossleben carried units which probably were to participate in the command-post exercise beginning in the Naumburg-Rad Bibra-Lossa area on 3 March 1952. There is no definite indication whether the troop trains proceeding toward Erfurt belonged to the same movement, but this is believed possible as these trains apparently carried no heavy weapons.

(2) The train, which is believed to have come from Ohrdruf, carried a component of the 21st Gds Mecz Div from the Flak Kaserne in Jocrmlitz. At least four trains with [redacted] had been dispatched from Halle to Ohrdruf between 16 February and 5 March 1952. [redacted]

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(3) [redacted] the Hq 21st Gds Mecz Div in Halle until 9 March 1952.

(4) [redacted] an unidentified guards heavy tank SP regiment of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Jena, which is believed to have come from Letzling Heath. The unit probably returned to Jena from Wolnirstedt where it moved on 4 March 1952.

(5) [redacted] the Eighth Gds Army commercial office.

(6) Tank shuttle-train [redacted] stationed in Halle. [redacted]

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[redacted] the train consisted of 13 x 50-ton flatcars and 14 x 80-ton flatcars. [redacted]

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