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TITLE Military Information from Potsdam

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REFERENCES

PAGES 6 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. On 17 June 1952, the Kriegsschule in Potsdam-Bornstedt (N 53/Z 63) was occupied to capacity by about 1,200 troops. Soldiers observed wore: red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, tank and signal insignia, the latter with gold braiding; red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia, and black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. Uniformed women wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Officers wore: red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, tank and motor transport insignia; black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia; and crimson epaulets. On 12 June, driving-school trucks

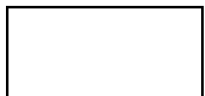
practiced on Bornstedterfeld. East of the Kriegsschule, two T-34/85 tanks practiced aiming at targets placed about 20 meters away. On 13 June, two new entrances for trucks and tanks were being built in the eastern barracks fence. Two T-34/85 tanks practiced aiming as they did the day before. In addition, two 5-man groups practiced emplacing two heavy machine guns and practiced aiming. On 17 June, only maintenance duty was performed.

2. The vacating of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne was continued until 10 June, when the last detail of the units previously stationed there left by vehicle. On 10 June, a shipment with billeting equipment for the installation arrived at the Biliberk railroad station. On 13 June, the cantonment west of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne and the adjacent building were included in the billeting area by the construction of a new board fence. Driving-school trucks

left via the eastern entrance. on 17 June, the barracks installation quartered about 200 soldiers who belonged to advance details of three different units. The advance detail of the first unit was quartered in 1 building, that of the second unit in 4 buildings and that of the third unit in a barracks building, 2 apartment houses and the former kommandatura. Each building housed about 25 men. In addition, about 25 Soviet women wearing crimson epaulets were stationed in the former mess. Each unit detached its own sentries. The meals were cooked in field kitchens. The troops were engaged

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only in reconditioning work on the water and electric installations and in the construction of garages in the barracks area. The Kech unit previously stationed in the northern section of the Adolf Hitler Kaserne was temporarily stationed in the construction office of the Kech on Behlertstrasse.

- 3. On 12 June, trucks carrying billeting equipment shuttled from the Polizei Kaserne to the Wildpark railroad station where 12 boxcars were loaded.

Billeting equipment was also brought to the Wildpark railroad station from the Unteroffiziersschule on Jseger Allee and the Konzerthaus on Hegel Allee. On 17 June, the southern section of the Polizei Kaserne was completely vacant, while the northern section of the installation quartered a rear detail of soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered crimson epaulets.

- 4. On 10 June, the Kaserne Wildpark-West was occupied as previously. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia. About 950 trucks and about 400 trailers were parked there. On 5 June, an empty convoy of 13 motor vehicles left the installation.

The vehicles were obviously new. The vehicles were obviously had been broken-in. Ten tank trucks with trailers, which had been filled from railroad tank cars at the Wildpark railroad station entered the installation.

- 5. On 5 June, trucks carrying billeting equipment, lathes and other items drove to the Potsdam railroad station:

Sedan escorted the convoy. At about 11:45 p.m., the range finder and other equipment from the AA emplacement on Lotow Strasse was brought to the Hohenlohe Kaserne by caterpillar tractors.

The AA emplacements on Lotow Strasse and on the athletic field were vacated on 6 June. Part of the area was leveled.

- 6. On 19 June, the Kavallerieschule at Kramnitz quartered a rear unit of about 500 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia. On 13 June, about 50 soldiers did entrenching work in the northern section of the installation, while about 100 other soldiers received individual training and instruction in the use of prismatic compasses north of the billeting area. On 18 June, about 300 soldiers in for roll call in the western section of the installation. Individual groups subsequently marched to the Doebornitz training grounds where about 150 men were already engaged in training in map-reading and use of prismatic compasses. Trucks leaving the northwestern entrance, each with about six men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia.

On 12 June,

were parked in front of the eastern entrance. Each truck was occupied by about 10 driver students who wore red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia.

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7. According to a Volkspolizei member who talked to source on 7 June, the restricted Babelsberg area is to house the Walter Ulbricht Academy. It is not known to date whether Volkspolizei units will also be stationed there. The majority of Soviet troops stationed there had been transferred to Wandersleben Zossen. Only a rear detail was quartered in the restricted area at the time of observation.
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8. On 10 June, the southern section of the Delius Kaserne was occupied by 500 to 900 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport and signal insignia. The quarters were 80 to 90 percent lighted in the evening. On 16 June, there was little activity at the quarters. About 30 soldiers were engaged in fatigue duty, while about 30 other soldiers fell in near the guardhouse equipped with telephones. A caterpillar tractor, a trailer and about 20 trucks stood in the billeting area. Troops received training on 18 June. About 25 men were engaged in fatigue duty; 2 officers and about 80 men fell in in front of a garage. Four officers and about 50 men with telephones equipment and radio sets and 2 officers and 10 men with 4 pneumatic rafts were seen marching from the barracks installation toward Hedwitzer Brucke. Troops practiced carbine firing behind the installation.
- 25X1
9. On 10 June, the northern section of the Delius Kaserne was occupied only by a rear detail of 50 to 80 soldiers. Eleven windows were lighted at dusk. On 10 June, two 122-mm field guns were in front of a building. Two groups of eight soldiers practiced on them.
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10. On 18 June, the Hohenlohe Kaserne was occupied by about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport and signal insignia. The quarters were lighted as follows: Building I, 20 percent; Building II, 15 percent; Building III, 70 to 80 percent; Building IV, 50 percent; and Building V, 25 percent. On 18 June, some of the troops received instruction in the class rooms. About 40 men fell in in front of a garage. Motor vehicles seen entering and leaving the installation.
- 25X1
11. On 18 June, the Ludendorff Kaserne quartered only about 100 to 120 men, as the majority of the troops had departed. The quarters in the northern and southern sections were vacant. The central quarters were about 50 percent lighted. On 17 June, 40 to 50 soldiers were engaged in formation drill in the barracks yard, while about 35 soldiers fell in in front of the central quarters. More soldiers were seen in the quarters. There was no vehicular traffic.
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12. During the night of 5 June, the AA emplacements at Colony Bergstuecken, Colony Steinstruecken and on Franz Mehring Strasse were completely vacated. Three trucks, [redacted] picked up boards. The restricted Babelsberg area was vacated on 11 June, but several rear details remained. After that day, the sentries were furnished from the Volkspolizei. On 10 June, 1 officer and 3 MI wearing red-bordered black epaulets dismantled telephone lines on Auguste Bebel Strasse leading toward the restricted area. The cable reels were loaded onto truck [redacted]. Two officers and 8 MI wearing red-bordered black epaulets removed a ground cable on Steinstrasse. The cable was 3 to 4 cm thick and was subsequently loaded onto truck [redacted].
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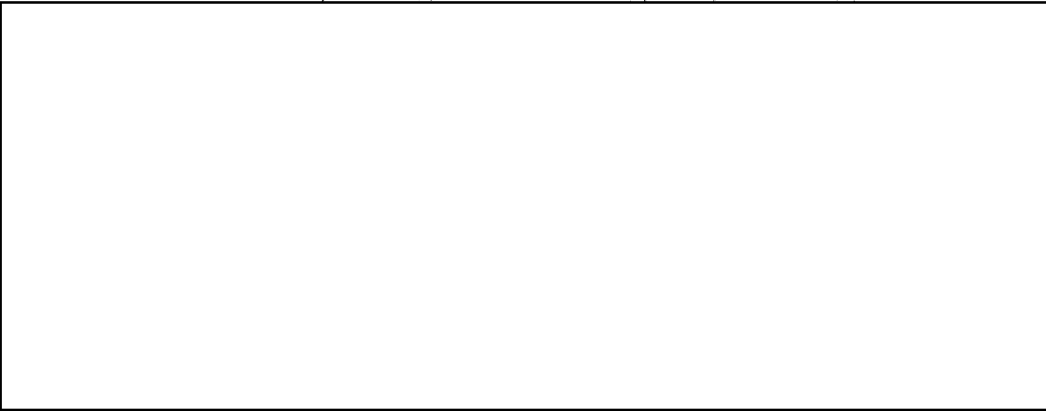
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13. On 13 June, the Kaserne Wildpark- east was still occupied as previously observed. [redacted] the unit had come from Zossen-Neusdorf as [redacted] a laborer with the troops as an inhabitant of Zossen. On 9 June, sedan [redacted] brought officers from the headquarters building No 13 to the quarters in building No 26. Motor vehicles [redacted] carrying signal troops drove to the quarters of these troops in the billeting area. Building No 20 which, was decorated with banners and pictures quartered six companies which, according to the number of overcoats hanging in the quarters, were estimated at 50 to 35 men each. Charts with the letters B, F, K, and Y hung in the building. [redacted] they were empty. A demonstration chart indicated that the vehicles had the designation [redacted] Other vehicles with low side benches were designated [redacted] they bore the Russian inscription "Automobile Factory Molotov" on the radiator cover. On the same day, six tank trucks with trailers continually hauled gasoline from the Wildpark railroad station to the fuel depot in the installation. Trucks [redacted] 25 signal soldiers to quarters No [redacted] in Kuhfort, at about 10 a.m. on 10 June, and determined that the installation consisted of two buildings. One building was occupied by the Soviets and one by the German postal service. Trucks [redacted] stood in the yard.
14. On 13 June, the Hohenlohe Kaserne was occupied by about 200 troops who wore red bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About 60 men belonged to the headquarters, 40 were drivers and 100 men belonged to an AAA battery which had hitherto been stationed in Babelsberg. The troops were fed by kitchen No 2. On 13 June, Colonel Kolkhin (fnu) drove to the headquarters [redacted] this colonel was the commanding officer of the unit there, that he has been at the installation since 1946 and that he was [redacted] command of the Hohenlohe Kaserne and the Ludendorff Kaserne. On 13 June, three AA guns of 70-mm to 80-mm caliber stood in front of the garages. Motor vehicles observed coming to, or departing from, the billeting area. [redacted]
15. On 13 June, the Ludendorff Kaserne quartered a rear unit of about 120 men who were fed by kitchen No 2 in the Hohenlohe Kaserne. According to the aforementioned [redacted] the unit departed for a one-month field exercise during the night of 12 June.

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16. On 13 June, the Garde-du-Corps-Kaserne was only lightly occupied. Only a few windows were lighted at dusk. The two guard houses on either side of the barracks gate were removed and so were the barriers at the main gate. An unarmed soldier stood guard. There was no vehicular traffic.
17. On 13 June, the offices in the Unteroffizierschule on Jaeger Allee were vacant. Furniture stood in the street. It was said that an SCC office had hitherto been stationed there. Only a few soldiers were seen in the Babelsberg Generals' Quarter. The building was guarded by the German Volkspolizei. Rear details were engaged in removing telephone lines.
18. [redacted] the finance section of the SCC on Pappel Allee, Potsdam, was transferred to Wueensdorf.
19. After 1 June, the Soviet warehouses (Univermag) were closed, except for the central shop on Brandenburger Strasse. The offices and pertaining personnel had moved to Wueensdorf. 25X1

20. [redacted]

21. On 17 May, source determined that the signal battalion at 13-12 Ruinenberg Kaserne on Jaeger Allee moved to Halle on 1 and 2 May. [redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] Command. On the basis of the present and previous reports by these same [redacted] it is believed that, upon departure of headquarters, offices and units of the GDFG to Wueensdorf-Zossen after the end of May 1952 and upon occupation of some of the military installations after about mid-June 1952, the Potsdam military post is occupied as follows:

Garde-du-Corps Kaserne. Presumably not reoccupied after the unit there, probably a motor transport unit of the GDFG, moved out prior to mid-June 1952.

Laibgarde Kasernen Kaserne. Since the beginning of May 1952, lightly occupied, possibly a supply unit of the GDFG (?). No changes are discernible.

Unteroffizierschule. It appears that a rear unit of a signal unit and an office or kommandatura of the SCC began to depart after mid-June 1952. No information indicating a reoccupation has been obtained to date. [redacted]

Polizei Kaserne. Occupied only by a guard detail after the unit there, probably a guard unit, had been transferred by vehicles of the 56th Motor Transport of the GDFG after mid-June 1952.

Ruinenberg Kaserne. No changes are discernible. Loadings by signal units of the GDFG in Potsdam at the end of April 1952 possibly involved units from the Ruinenberg Kaserne. One of the shipments, which presumably came from the Unteroffizierschule, went to Herseberg as was indicated by transportation records. [redacted]

Adolf Hitler Kaserne. The vacating of offices of the Chief of Rear Services has presumably been completed on 10 June 1952. Shipments arriving at the installation indicated that the Adolf Hitler Kaserne may be reoccupied by a motor vehicle repair shop in addition to other units. [redacted] Further information is needed to clarify whether the driving-school vehicles which belong to headquarters units of the Second German Army and to the GDFG are in connection with the reoccupation.

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