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FWD 189

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT [redacted]

TOPIC Grossenhain Airfield

EVALUATION [redacted]

PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

DATE OF CONTENT [redacted]

DATE OBTAINED [redacted]

DATE PREPARED 27 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

[redacted]

[redacted] 1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Grossenhain airfield between 21 and 30 September 1953:

21 September. Between 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., there was air activity by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s which took off individually in a west-northwesterly direction and returned from the same direction after 20 to 30 minutes. At the same time, elements of two swept-back jet fighters took off at an interval of about 50 meters between the aircraft and made flights of about 40 minutes duration. After morning fog, the weather was 4/10 overcast.

22 September. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., swept-back jet fighters took off and flew in elements of twos toward the west. Two single-engine low-wing monoplanes with radial engines were seen aloft. There was a 4/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,200 meters.

23 September. Between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., about 25 individual take-offs by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s without auxiliary fuel tanks were observed. About 10:55 a.m. a single-engine low-wing monoplane took off. At about 12:40 p.m., 8 Li-2s crossed over the field from northwest to southeast. The weather was 1/10 overcast.

24 September. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., swept-back jet fighters and single-engine monoplanes with radial engines were seen aloft. In the afternoon, individual single-engine monoplanes made flights of about 20 minutes duration toward the north.

25 September. Between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., single-engine low-wing monoplanes and Po-2s made some flights.[1] There was morning fog until about 10 a.m. Later on there was a 4/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,000 meters.

27 September. During the day, MiG-15s [redacted] took off in elements of two, at intervals of about 40 meters between the individual aircraft of the elements. The formations practiced dive attacks 5 to 6 times from an altitude of 500 meters at tank and artillery units in the area of Zeithain, Treugeboehla, Goerzig, Stroga, Strauch, and Raden. While attacking, the aircraft maintained distances of 30 to 100 meters. Shortly before the air attacks, the crews of guns and motor vehicles took shelter in the roadside ditch. Motor vehicles and guns which were not camouflaged, although the trucks carried camouflaged nets, remained at the right side of the road. At the same time, formations of four aircraft [redacted] About 1 p.m., 8 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks took off in two formations of four aircraft, each flew to the north and landed after about 1 1/2 hours.

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 [redacted]

25X1 The aircraft at the field were not parked at their usual dispersal areas but in aircraft revetments.

25X1 28 September. Between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., take-offs of aircraft in elements of twos and flying by formations of fours were observed as on the preceding day. The formations flew in the direction of Zeithain where they dispersed and formed a line-abreast formation and then practiced low level attacks. One Po-2 was continuously seen aloft. A Po-2 would take off for a flight of about 40 minutes and, after landing another Po-2 would take off. Single-engine low-wing monoplanes made four flights. The aircraft were parked in aircraft revetments. The weather was foggy in the morning and 4/10 overcast at an altitude of 1,000 meters later on. There was rain during the evening.

25X1 29 September. Between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., there was intensive flying by elements of twos and formations of four swept-back jet fighters. The formations again flew toward Zeithain. Aircraft [redacted] were observed. There was a closed ceiling at an altitude of 500 meters. The aircraft were parked in the aircraft revetments as on the preceding day.[2]

30 September. Between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., elements of two swept-back jet fighters were observed flying. Two single-engine low-wing monoplanes and one Po-2 were also seen aloft. There were no clouds.[1] [redacted]

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2. On 21 September, swept-back jet fighters flew individually and in elements of two over the field. A trainer was seen aloft. The weather was 3/10 overcast. In the afternoon on 22 September, MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s practiced flying. There was no night flying between 19 and 26 September.[1] Truck [redacted] loaded with bread was identified in the town.[3]

3. Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 25 September, there was air activity at the field. Trucks [redacted] sedan [redacted] and jeep [redacted] were identified at the field.[3]

[redacted] 4. On 28 September, swept-back jet fighters were parked in aircraft revetments of which 36 were counted at the field.

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1. [redacted] Comment. A fighter division headquarters and two fighter regiments equipped with a total of 60 to 65 MiG-15s are believed to be stationed at Grossenhain airfield. Part of the aircraft is usually parked in the hangars. The single-engine monoplanes may be Yak-11s and like the Po-2s are used as trainers.

2. [redacted] Comment. Final exercises of units of the 9th Tank Div probably took place at the Zeithain troop training grounds. The aircraft probably attacked the targets, firing from their aircraft weapons coming down in a steep glide rather than diving as when bombing. Aircraft [redacted] was previously observed in Welzow [redacted] All the other [redacted] were previously reported from Grossenhain. For location of the training area [redacted]

3. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] motor vehicle [redacted] belongs to the GOFU, the others to the new air force [redacted]

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