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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Gotha

619110

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 1 April 1954

REFERENCES

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PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 24 February and 1 March 1954, the Neue Kaserne in Gotha was occupied by about 1,200 troops who wore black-bordered red epaulets and 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets with [illegible] signal or engineer insignia. On 2 March, a convoy of about 30 trucks moved out toward Erfurt. The vehicles mounted about 200 troops who wore black-bordered red epaulets. A resident told that several tanks and trucks with AT guns left the installation the same day. On 6 March, a motor vehicle column of about 25 trucks towing 2x 57-mm AT guns and each carrying about 20 soldiers left the Neue Kaserne toward Ohrdruf. The column was followed by 6 sedans and 10 jeeps. Prior to the beginning of March, the Heeres Blak Kaserne in Gotha quartered about 800 troops who wore black-bordered red epaulets. It seemed that, upon the departure of several columns between 2 and 6 March, the two installations were only partially occupied.

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2. On 12 March, a column of about 30 trucks with 10 AT guns and troops passed through Westhausen from the direction of Gotha and proceeded toward Bangensalza.

Comment. The departure from Gotha of units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div is presumably connected with a large-scale exercise by Eighth Gds Army troops which may have been conducted in the Kindel-Ohrdruf area from about 6 to 12 March. 6 shipments from the Naumburg and Weissenfels posts of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div went to the Ohrdruf area and 1 shipment from Weissenfels to Mechterstaedt on 7 and 8 March. Furthermore, 1 shipment went from Halle to Ohrdruf and 3 shipments from Altenburg to Ohrdruf. According to paragraph 2 of the present report, elements of the 128th Gds Gun Arty Regt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div possibly returned to their post from this exercise on 12 March.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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