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19 January 1948

IM-2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: SOVIET ARMY DESERTERS IN THE US/UK ZONES OF GERMANY

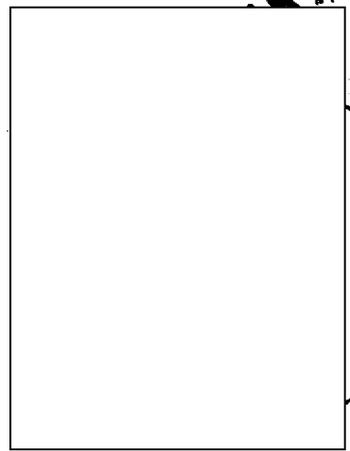
The number of Soviet Army deserters in the US and the UK Zones of Germany is not known to the Intelligence Division of the Army.

The ID estimates the number at 5,000 but is unable to state whether this estimate includes all Soviet Army deserters in the areas or represents only those held in custody for return to the Soviet Lines. (Under a verbal agreement made in the summer of 1946 between General McNarney and Marshal Sokolovsky, deserters from the Soviet Army apprehended by US forces are returned to their commands, and US deserters are returned to US authorities by the Soviet forces. As far as ORE can learn, no attempt is made to exploit Soviet deserters for intelligence purposes before their return.)

Many Soviet deserters are known to remain at large in the US and UK Zones. Hence if the ID estimate of 5,000 applies only to those being held for return to Soviet authorities, the total number of deserters may be as high as 15,000.

Although ID indicates that officer personnel, particularly those of some education, make up a high percentage of the total number of deserters, the ID is unable to give specific figures.

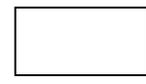
A priority request is being processed through OOD for additional and fuller data on this subject.



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THEODORE BABBITT
Assistant Director
Reports and Estimates

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