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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Military Information from the Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds Area

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EVALUATION [redacted]

PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

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DATE OF CONTENT [redacted]

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DATE OBTAINED [redacted]

DATE PREPARED 13 May 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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[redacted]

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1. At 5 p.m. on 11 April 1953, 10 T-34 tanks, [redacted] and 8 trucks [redacted] carrying luggage and about 150 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were unloaded at the Dranse railroad station. The unit marched to the Schweinrich troop training grounds. At day and night between 12 and 16 April, motor vehicle columns drove through Wittstock toward the troop training grounds.

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[redacted]

2. The following unloadings at the Dranse railroad station were observed between 16 and 23 April:

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On 16 April. About 12 trucks with 122-mm field howitzers; and 60 sidecar motorcycles.

On 17 April. About 40 sidecar motorcycles; 8 SU-100s, [redacted] and 9JS-1 tanks, [redacted]

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On 19 April. Thirteen SU-100s; T-34/85 tank [redacted] 26 trucks with 120-mm mortars; and [redacted] trucks with equipment:

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On 22 April. T-34/85 tanks [redacted] tanks. [redacted] armored scout car; trucks with troops and equipment [redacted]

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On 23 April, the occupation strength of the Schweinrich troop training grounds was about 6,000 troops. <sup>1</sup>

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3. On 27 April, a division from Ludwigslust, Parchim and Perleberg was quartered at Camp Schweinrich. <sup>1</sup> On 27 April, only a guard detail of about 130 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets was stationed in Perleberg. <sup>2</sup>

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1. [redacted] Comment. Prior to 18 April 1953, the arrival of components of the 18th Mecz Div at the Wittstock troop training grounds was previously observed. The present report indicates that the movement continued up to 23 April 1953. Thus, the number of troop trains observed between 12 and 23 April 1953 totals at least 26 trains, while about 202 tanks and SF guns of all kinds were unloaded. [redacted] The number of 122-mm field howitzers probably was misidentified as, as early as on 14 and 15 April 1953, elements of the 1054th How Arty Regt of the 18th Mecz Div were unloaded at Wittstock; and, allegedly on 17 April 1953, another 15 howitzers belonging to this regiment were entrained at Ludwigslust. [redacted]. The unloading of troops, probably of the 592nd Mort Regt (US), on 19 April is given credence, as, [redacted]

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[redacted] the same units were also entrained at Perleberg on 19 April 1953. [redacted] Between 12 and 23 April, components of the 18th Mecz Div transferred to Wittstock included: the 58th Mecz Regt; the 33rd Tank Regt (US); the 119th Gds Hv Tank SF Regt; the 1054th How Arty Regt; the 592nd Mort Regt (US); the 2511th AAA Regt (US); the 120th Mtrcl Bn; and the 348th Engr Bn. It is believed that, on 23 April 1953, the movement of the 18th Mecz Div to the troop training grounds was generally completed.

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2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the Artillerie Kaserne and the Fliegerhorst Kaserne at Perleberg were only occupied by guard details on and after 23 April 1953. [redacted]

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