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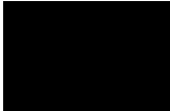
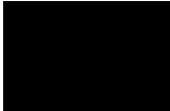
INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Leave Policies and Procedures for Soviet Army Officers in Germany	DATE DISTR.	24 November 1953
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SOURCE

1. In winter 1951, the commander of GSOV (Group of Soviet Occupation Forces) issued an order regulating leaves for officer personnel. Source does not remember the number of this order nor its date. This order was issued to all unit commanders to set up and implement a leave schedule for officer personnel. The commander directed in this order that leaves to the USSR be granted to 75 percent of officer personnel, chiefly to combat units during the period January to August. The order indicated that leaves would not be granted to officers in combat units during the period August to October because at this time every army unit would be undergoing tactical maneuvers and inspection which necessitated the presence of combat officers in their units. The order stated that the remaining part of combat unit officers (25 percent) would be obliged to take their leaves in the USSR during the period November to December, when tactical maneuvers and inspections were completed. The order also permitted leaves from August to October to officers of local units of MVD (frontier troops), MGB, and workers at headquarters of the General Staff, who do not participate in tactical maneuvers and inspections. The GSOV in Germany has a regulation which permits the commander of a military unit to forbid an officer undergoing punishment to take leave in the USSR, but such an officer may be granted leave provided he remains near his unit. In accordance with this regulation, the officer is obliged to pass the night with the military unit in which he serves. Those officers who receive letters or telegrams from home (USSR) with notifications of illness or death of close relatives are granted leaves without conforming to this schedule.
2. Officers, when permanently leaving their units upon being replaced, leave Germany under the command of a senior officer of the group, who escorts the group of departing officers to the Brest station. This officer is responsible for delivering the entire military group (10 to 15 persons), and in Brest transmits to the frontier examination post (KPP) the accompanying

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note in which it is noted that the group has crossed the state border of the USSR. Every officer has his personal documents with him. The escorting senior officer has in his possession the group's one-time passes for crossing over the state border.

3. A few days before his leave begins, the officer scheduled to depart for the USSR goes to the secret unit of headquarters and presents his photographs for the further processing of a one-time pass (razovoy propusk), valid for crossing the border of the USSR. The chief of the secret unit fills out a special form which includes the date of the officer's contemplated departure. This form is signed and forwarded with the photographs (two copies) to the higher headquarters staff, for example - to the divisional staff.
4. The above staff, in this case the divisional staff (chief of staff), examines the filled-out form and if he grants approval for leave to this officer on the set date, he forwards the photographs and the form with his endorsement to the higher placed staff, the army staff. It should be noted that the chief of staff of the higher unit has the right to change leave dates, or to cancel the leave, if he finds it necessary in the best interests of the service. The divisional staff also verifies the correct number of days marked on the form, which are necessary for the army man on leave to go to the USSR and return. Usually the number of days ranges from 8-12-16. Source does not know the exact number of days.
5. Following this procedure, all documents (photographs and the form necessary for obtaining a one-time pass across the border), are forwarded to the appropriate staff of the army. It is not necessary for the officer to appear personally for the pass to cross the border. The approved one-time pass is forwarded to the military unit, which prepared the leave form and which forwarded the photographs of the army man going on leave. The pass for crossing the border is sent by secret post. There have been instances when officers being dispatched to the divisional staff dropped by the secret section located at the political section of the division and personally obtained one-time passes, which were ready for transmittal to the regiment. However, they were obliged to present their identification papers. The one-time pass indicates that the officer in question is permitted to cross the border of the USSR. Moreover, a post-script is added which indicates that the pass is valid between certain specified days.
6. As soon as the one-time pass is received, the unit's staff orders the leave ticket (otpusknoy bilet), which indicates the length of period the officer will be away from his unit and the date he is scheduled to return. For reasons of security the number of officers taking leave is considered a military secret.
7. After the leave ticket is signed it is sent to the officer's unit where a member of the unit's headquarters requests travel documents as follows: "Request railroad transportation and coupons for receiving tickets for reserved seats." The request for railroad transportation (trebovaniye) may be signed by the chief of the staff of the unit or by the chief of the finance section. A request, therefore, for railroad transportation entitles an individual to receive a free travel ticket. The number of coupons (talony) for obtaining reserved seats depends upon the number of train changes necessary. For example, for travel from Frankfurt/Oder to Rostov, coupons for reserved seats are allotted as follows: first coupon from Frankfurt/Oder to Brest station; second coupon from Brest station to Moscow; third coupon from Moscow station to Rostov station; fourth coupon from Rostov station to Moscow station; fifth coupon from Moscow station to Brest station, and sixth coupon from Brest station to Frankfurt/Oder station.

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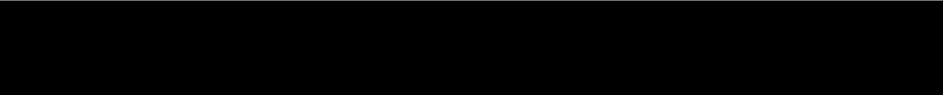


- 8. Should the officer take a pistol with him (in the Soviet Zone of Germany most officers have pistols), then a postscript is made at the foot of the leave ticket as follows: the designated officer has with him his personal arms, model TT No., delivered by the chief of artillery equipment of the military unit, Field Post No.... It is signed by the chief of staff of the unit, or its commander.
- 9. Officers in the Soviet Zone of Germany usually keep their bank deposit books (vkladnaya knizhka) at the financial section of the military unit. Before taking leave, the officer takes his bank deposit book from finance section and goes to the local field office of the state bank. There the officer must declare what sum of money he wishes and in what city in the USSR he desires to receive his deposit. On a special check of the deposit book, the clerk of the field office of the state bank records the sum of money which the man on leave is to receive in the USSR, including name and location of the state bank's office where the man on leave will receive his money. He also marks the remaining balance in the deposit book.
- 10. Source remarked that the officer might leave for the USSR without his bank deposit book because he may transfer money from his deposit account to his relatives beforehand, in which case, the sum of money is not limited; or the finance section of the unit may issue him a check-order (chekovoye trebovaniye) prior to his departure for the payment section of the state bank. There are two payment sections in the USSR, one in Brest and one in Moscow. An officer leaving the Soviet Zone of Germany receives his salary and money to cover his leave period from the payment section. The reason for receiving a check-order is that no officer is permitted to have Soviet money in cash while he is in the Soviet Zone of Germany. However, when an officer arrives in the USSR territory, money will be needed for the purchase of a few things during his trip. A check-order consists of two parts: one, the larger part, remains at the payment section; the second, the smaller part, is forwarded to that military unit where it is delivered to the officer.
- 11. Source confirms the fact that an officer who has a 60 day leave (including travel time), will be paid the salary for his position, a supplementary payment for his rank, and also a ration allowance at the rate of eight rubles per day for 60 days. In 1950, [redacted] a check-order broken down as follows:

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Wages for position of battery commander	800 rubles	
Supplementary payment for lieutenant rank per month.....	500 rubles	
	per month.....	1300 rubles -Total
	per 2 months..	2600 rubles
Supplementary payment for food in lieu of rations		
received in Germany (55 days).....	440 rubles	
	Approx.Total..	3000 rubles

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down as follows:

3000 rubles, money due officer before departure
<u>-360 rubles, deducted repayment on loan</u>
2640 rubles, Total approximate amount actually received.

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[redacted] money was to be received in cash on Soviet territory. Theoretically, an officer on leave arrives in the USSR territory (city of Brest) without money because no military man receives money in cash while in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Every officer on leave may receive his money with his bank deposit book only in the bank at the place where he spends his leave.

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-4-

Therefore almost every officer going on leave from Germany to the USSR obtains a check-order from the finance section of his unit. With this document each person arriving in the USSR (city of Brest) may receive cash in the amount of two months salary from the state bank.

12. The payment section is situated in Brest. Source does not remember the exact location of the payment section. The officer must show his identification papers (udostovereniye lichnosti) and account book (raschetnaya knizhka) at the payment section. Under the heading of "special remarks" a note is made that money was delivered by check-order.
13. As mentioned above, the officer has practically no Soviet money in his possession when he arrives in the USSR from abroad. Soviet military authorities do not permit Soviet money to go abroad. The exportation of this money, even in small quantities, is categorically forbidden. However, it is generally known that most Soviet officers who return from their USSR leaves bring back Soviet money with them. Therefore many men going on leave borrow this money from their friends and thus it is possible for them to go to their country without stopping at the payment section, since they now have sufficient money to purchase tickets for their destination. For this reason, the officer does not always request a check-order, but if the authorities are alert they may take an interest in the circumstances which caused the officer to fail to request a check-order and they may accuse him of violating Soviet laws. However, this happens rarely.

The Leave-Trip to the USSR

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Dresden to Frankfurt/Oder has several passenger cars especially reserved for military personnel of the Soviet Army. Upon arriving in Frankfurt/Oder, the officer goes to the Frontier Inspection Post (KPP), which is located at the station. The KPP is a small wooden guardhouse in the station building, where a senior lieutenant is stationed as a border guard. The officer on leave presents his documents to the border guard on duty.

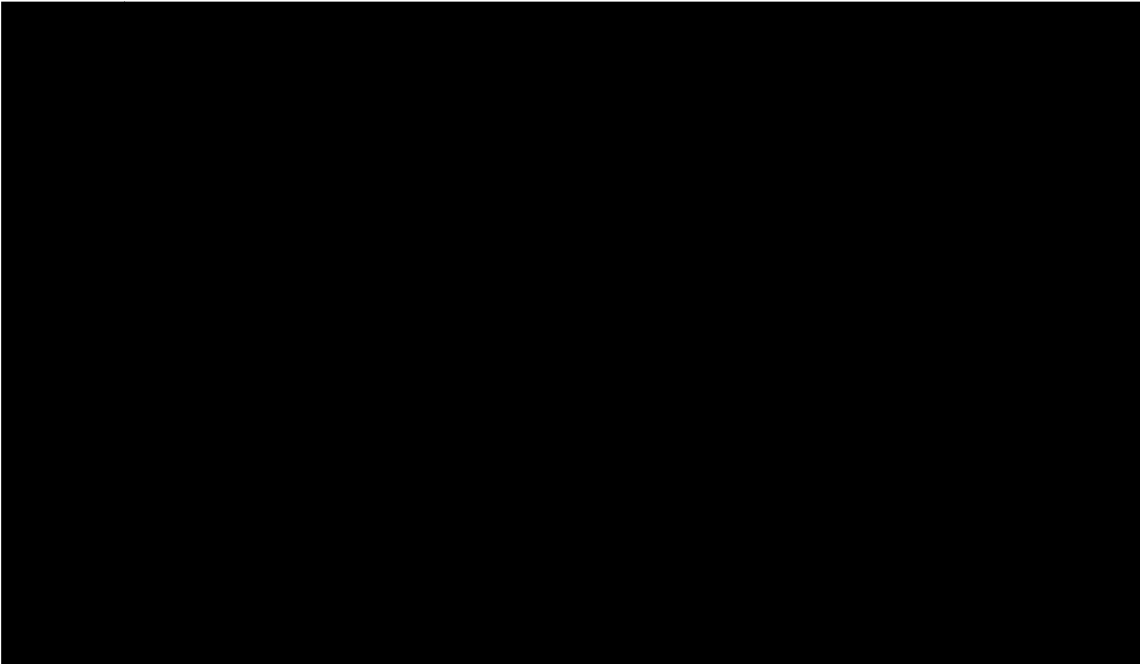
15. Approximately a half hour from the Frankfurt/Oder station there is a stop not far from a railroad bridge which crosses the Oder River. There Polish frontier guards enter the cars and make superficial inspections of passenger documents. The train makes two stops in Polish territory; however, the names of the stations and the time needed for crossing Polish territory is not known. Travel time from Frankfurt/Oder station to Brest is 36 hours. The frontier begins approximately 10 to 20 kilometers west of Brest. The train stops at the frontier, where Soviet border guards make an exterior inspection of the locomotive and cars. The frontier guards place themselves on the car steps and in this manner escort the train to the Brest station. At the Brest station, border guards encircle the train from all sides and custom house officers enter the cars to inquire how much luggage and how many East German marks each passenger has in his possession. Notes are made in pencil on each passenger's leave ticket. Following this, passengers are permitted to leave their cars. They go to the custom room where luggage is inspected. From here on it is assumed that the individual is on USSR territory. He may move about freely at the Brest station and may go to the city.
16. The officer on leave then goes to the payment section (vyplatnoy punkt) in Brest to secure money with his check-order, then to the office of the military commandant (voyenny komendant) of the Brest station, where he presents his coupons for a seat reservation ticket (platskarty) and a

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-5-

ticket which he previously obtained at the station in Frankfurt/Oder. A stamp is placed on the seat reservation coupon which indicates the train, car, and seat numbers to be assigned. Then the officer goes to the booking office with his seat reservation coupon (talon dlya polucheniya platskarty) which he presents and receives in turn a seating ticket (platskarty). His ticket (bilet) is punched for travel on a corresponding train.

17. At the station in Brest, an officer returning from his leave gives back all his documents (razovoy propusk, otpusknoy bilet, and udostovereniye lichnosti) at one of the windows of the KPP room marked: "Departure from USSR". Then the returning officer brings all his luggage to the custom section. Upon completion of the inspection at the custom house, a stamp is placed on the leave ticket with the notation that the luggage has been inspected by custom house-Brest. In about half an hour the officer goes to the KPP window marked with the sign "Departure from USSR" and asks if his documents are ready. Sometimes, however, it takes an hour to inspect the documents. The border guard behind the window returns the documents, and the one-time pass. The border guard does not ask any special questions of the individual on leave. Following this the officer goes to the office of the military commander of Brest station and hands in a coupon for a seat reservation. A notation is made on this coupon and the same procedure as that for leaving Germany is followed. The procedure for obtaining a reserved seat on the train out does not differ in any way from that of obtaining a reserved seat when going to the USSR.
18. Prior to the departure of the train from Brest to Frankfurt/Oder, the train is encircled by border guards. There is a border guard stationed at the entrance of each car, who inspects documents of passengers entering the car. The border guard takes the one-time pass and inspects stamps. Once passengers enter the car, they are not permitted to leave. Border guards station themselves on the car steps and accompany the train to the Soviet-Polish border. From Brest, the train proceeds to the Polish-Soviet border (15 to 20 kilometers from Brest), where Soviet border guards turn the train over to Polish border guards. Polish border guards superficially inspect passenger documents and, when the train arrives at the station in Frankfurt/Oder, documents are not inspected.
19. Under existing regulations, officers and soldiers on leave must register themselves with the military commander of the garrison of their place of leave. In the event there is no military commander at the place of leave the man on leave must register with the local military commissariat.
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22. Regulations Governing Officers' Conduct while on Leave in the USSR:

- a. An officer must be polite, greeting all senior officers and responding to greetings of junior officers as well as ordinary soldiers and sergeants.
- b. An officer on leave has the right to wear civilian clothes; however, he must be dressed in uniform while appearing at military establishments.
- c. In accordance with regulations, an officer is not permitted to carry things in his hands such as: suitcases, bags, or baskets; an officer is permitted to carry a small parcel under his left arm (books, newspapers).
- d. An officer must give way to other officers senior by rank, in passing.

23. One of source's acquaintances, a senior lieutenant, got drunk and became very rowdy while on leave. He was taken to a military command (the city is not known). The military commandant decided not to punish him although he had the right to arrest him for 10 to 15 days. After the latter slept off the effects at the guard house, the commandant noted on his leave ticket that he was placed under arrest for 10 days for drinking and debauching while on leave. Source states that for insignificant violations of regulations such as uniform regulations and not greeting senior officers, the punishment may be a reprimand or two days in prison.

24. An officer going on leave may take, in addition to his everyday uniform, the following items: dark blue uniform, riding breeches with piping, khaki colored blouse, leather boots (not shoes), pair of underwear (drawers, shorts, undershirts), socks, soap, toothbrush, cigarette lighter, cigarette case (may be of Soviet-German production), penknife, fountain pen, watches of foreign make, writing pad, field bag, which is carried in left hand, or on the left side of the body with the strap hanging over the right shoulder. Many officers going on leave from Germany also take cameras of German origin. Those officers who are seriously interested in photography, bring such equipment as telephoto lens and universal viewfinders. As a rule, all this equipment is packed in suitcases because it is heavy. Some officers take along film for their cameras, despite the fact that transportation of film across the border is prohibited. Officers place boxes of film in suitcases, where it is wrapped into different things (underwear, paper, etc.). Some officers transport film legally. In this case, the box with the film is wrapped into paper and a sealing-wax stamp of the officer's unit is placed on it. Near the stamp, the commander of the unit writes: "It has been inspected." 

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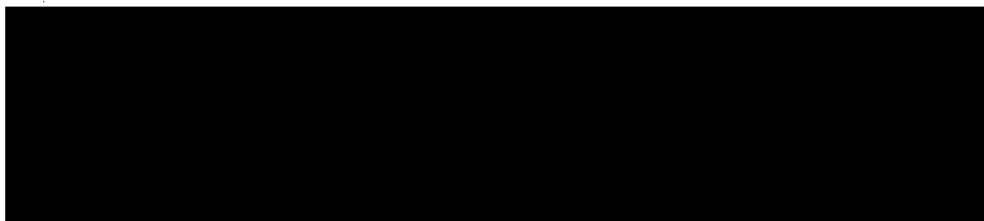
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