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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Ammunition Depots in East Germany

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

STATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 9 November 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 - 1 sketch of ammunition dump

REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. In mid-September 1953, [redacted] the new ammunition depot at Bad Saarow had not yet been filled. Minor construction work was done. Each bunker was additionally provided with a lightning rod, each 16 to 18 meters high. Spot lights illuminating the outer fence were fitted to the 84 poles of the electric circuit around the depot. The searchlights so far employed were withdrawn.¹ 25X1
2. In August 1953, [redacted] the casemates of the former Kuestrin Fortress near Gorgast were prepared for the storage of air force ammunition.² 25X1
3. At the beginning of September, a large ammunition depot was established in the area of the former Kuestrin Fortress in Gorgast. Numerous lighting rods were observed on a group of hills about 200 meters west of the Manschnow-Gorgast road. The depot area measured about 200 x 400 meters and was surrounded by a wide ditch. The bunkers were brick vaults, built into the hills and covered by 75-cm concrete layers and layers of 4 to 5 meters of earth. Several large bunkers of about 10 x 6 meters and several small bunkers were observed. They had been constructed by order of the Soviet Zone Government, Department VP Air. The construction project was listed under No 115 and was to be completed about in late September 1953.² 25X1
4. At the beginning of September 1953, a KVP ammunition depot was located between the southernmost houses of the Rathen health resort and the signal station of Strand, west of the Dresden-Bad Schandau railroad line. The entrance to the depot was located about 8 meters off the railroad line. The depot was camouflaged as quarry and the ammunition was stored in five recesses driven into the rock. Two more galleries were under construction. The recesses, which were said to be about 120 meters deep, were covered by a layer of sandstone, about 160 meters long; and the entrances were provided with strong lattice work and were well-camouflaged. They were very difficult to recognize from the railroad line and road. The entire depot was surrounded by a board fence and the entrances were illuminated by searchlights. Infantry ammunition and small arms were chiefly stored at the depot. Incoming and outgoing shipments were exclusively handled at night. The KVP personnel at the installation belonged to the KVP barracks installation in Bad Schandau. A sketch [redacted] of the depot. 25X1

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5. [redacted] a former German ammunition depot about 5 km north of Schulzendorf near Gransee has been used as VP ammunition depot since 1952. A single track railroad line was under construction southeast of the depot in mid-1953. At that time, it could not be determined whether the line led into the depot. The ammunition depot proper measured about 800 x 1,000 meters and was surrounded by a circular board fence which was paralleled by a barbed-wire fence. The five-meter strip between the two fences was cleared, ploughed and declared off limits. Watch towers were erected along the board fence. The depot was located in a dense woods of pine trees. The ammunition bunkers which were allegedly filled with artillery and infantry ammunition could not be seen from the watch towers. Only officers and workers had access to the depot, while the guard personnel were forbidden to enter the dump. The individual guard details employed at the beginning of July 1953 numbered about 28 men and were equipped with carbines, submachine guns, pistols and light machine guns. The following units picked up ammunition by truck at the beginning of July 1953:

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- KVP Spremberg, infantry and artillery ammunition
- KVP Halle, infantry and tank ammunition
- KVP Zeithain, infantry and tank ammunition
- VPL Zeithain, infantry ammunition
- KVP Frankenberg, infantry ammunition
- KVP Prenzlau, infantry ammunition
- KVP Prora, infantry and artillery ammunition. 4

6. In August 1953, 8 concrete bunkers, each of 50 x 30 meters, built into the earth and covered with sand, were observed in the VP ammunition depot at Gransee. All kinds of ammunition destined for the KVP were stored at the dump. 4

7. At the beginning of October 1953, [redacted] by order of the Ministry of the Interior at Glinka Strasse, Berlin, the Bau-Union-Sued in Dresden consigned Government Order OB/3/2103/1 of 22 July 1953 to the VEB Anlagenbau Berlin VEM for Project 11-13-34 in Gorgast. Personalities [redacted] at the Ministry of the Interior included Lieutenant Colonel Koehler, Captain Giess as department chief and Senior Lieutenant Vorwerk as officer in charge of project Gorgast. The order for the VEB Anlagenbau included the construction of lighting facilities at the construction site; interior installation work in the low administrative buildings, quarters, and bunkers; and the establishment of a high-tension installation with two transformers, including one with a capacity of 50 kVA and the other of 30 kVA. Source learned that ammunition bunkers for the KVP were to be constructed. 2

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8. The following is a complete list of rail shipments dispatched from the ammunition depot at Kapen in August and September 1953:

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Date	Number of Boxcars	Shipment in Tons	To
3 August	2	30, ammunition	Wilmersdorf
15 September	2	17, ammunition	Finow
	4	45, ammunition	Jueterbog, Altes Lager
16 "	3	41, ammunition	Altengrabow
17 "	3	41, ammunition	Wilmersdorf
18 "	2	16, ammunition	Altenhain
	3	31, ammunition	Mockrehna

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9. The following is a list of rail shipments which arrived at, or were dispatched from, the Pfaffendorf ammunition depot in July and September 1953:

Incoming shipments

Date	Number of boxcars	Shipment	From
6 July	1	ammunition	Jessen
14 July	12	"	Altengrabow
17 July	3	"	Mockrehna

Outgoing shipments

Date	Number of boxcars	Shipment	To
11 July	2	ammunition, 26 tons	Jessen, [redacted]
17 July	1	" 16 tons	Altenhain, [redacted]
15 September	4	" 60 tons	Brest Litovsk
16 September	1	" 14 tons	Altengrabow, [redacted]
	1	" 14 tons	Altenhain, [redacted]

1. [redacted] 25X1

2. Comment. Information on the construction of an ammunition depot for the KVP in Gorgast [redacted] The construction of a new depot is believed possible. However, its subordination has not been determined. At present, it is doubted that the bombs and aircraft armament ammunition should be stored there. The KVP officers mentioned are known as belonging to the construction bureau.

3. Comment. Other reports repeatedly mentioned an ammunition depot located in this area. Its exact location has not been known. It is believed possible that the ammunition depot is being enlarged for the KVP. For sketch see Annex [redacted] 25X1

4. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] . According to the 1953/1954 East-German winter schedule, the line had been taken into operation after 4 October 1953. It could not be determined whether the depot was provided with a spur track to the Wolferuh railroad station. It can be assumed, however, that the old spur track has also been reconditioned. 25X1

5. [redacted]

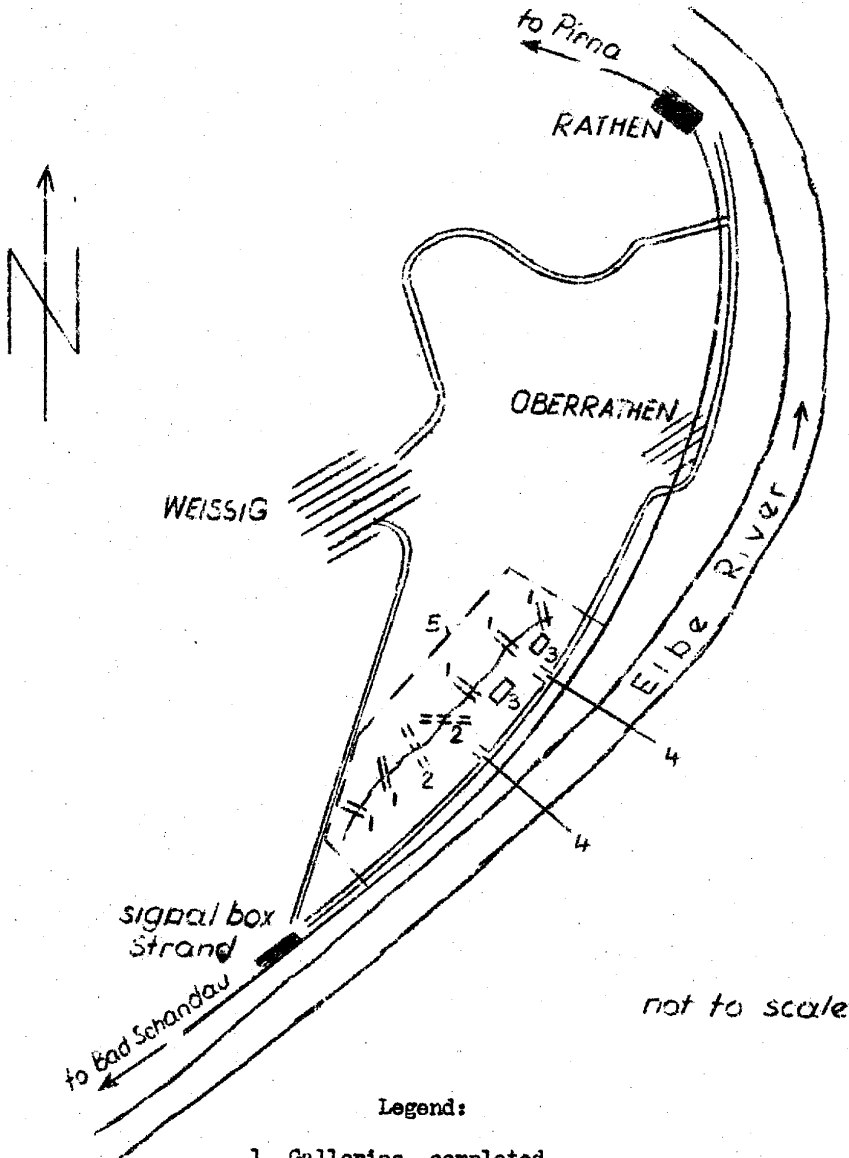
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Annex

Soviet Ammunition Depot Located South of Rathen Health Resort, West of the
Dresden-Bad Schandau Railroad Line.



not to scale

Legend:

- 1 Galleries, completed
- 2 Galleries, under construction
- 3 Low, temporary wooden buildings
- 4 Entrances to the depot
- 5 Board fence

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