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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT
TOPIC Information on KVP Units in Spremberg

25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

25X1 DATE OF CONTENT

25X1 DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 24 November 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. On 1 October 1953, trucks picked up billeting equipment at the Weisswasser ration supply depot. The trucks whose drivers wore blue-bordered black collar patches and black-bordered epaulets left toward Spremberg. i
2. At 3:30 p.m. on 6 October, about 200 KVPs who wore blue service color and carried baggage arrived at the Spremberg railroad station from the direction of Cottbus. The soldiers proceeded to the Panzerjaeger Kaserne the occupation of which thus increased to an estimated 1,600 to 1,700 men. The bulk of the soldiers quartered there wore blue service color, but some soldiers with black and red service color were also seen. Only basic training was observed at the installation. Winter, PK officer of one of the units stationed at the installation, was promoted to the rank of major in mid-October.

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[Redacted]

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On 26 September, five T-34 tanks [Redacted] proceeded through Spremberg toward Graustein. On 5 October, five T-34 tanks [Redacted] passed through Spremberg toward Gottbus. 1 and 2

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[Redacted]

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3. [Redacted] 300 KVP personnel arrived at the local barracks installation on 15 September. The ration strength of the unit thus increased to about 1,500 men. In mid-September, six temporary quartering buildings each with a capacity of 100 men were completed in the billeting area by an engineer detail of 38 men from Dresden. These buildings and two permanent quartering buildings were provided with billeting equipment.

4. Between 25 September and 10 October, all officers had to move from the barracks installation to private billets in Spremberg. Senior Lieutenant Scharfenberg was political officer of the unit. 2

5. On 7 October, six T-34 tanks were detained at the Spremberg freight station. The escort detail took the tanks to the barracks installation and then left by rail, probably to Thuringia. The morning of 8 October, source observed three model SU-76 SP guns engaged in driving school practices in the billeting area. On 12 October, a new radio truck arrived at the railroad station and then proceeded to the barracks installation.

6. On 21 October, 70 to 80 KVPs who wore dark blue service color arrived at the Spremberg railroad station from the direction of Goerlitz. The soldiers, who were 17 or 18 years old and carried baggage but no arms, apparently were recruits. The barracks installation was not occupied to capacity. The six newly erected temporary quartering buildings were still empty, although they had been furnished with billeting equipment. Since about mid-October, the six watch towers of the installation have been occupied by double sentries.

7. [Redacted] Driving school was regularly conducted with some T-34 tanks and model SU-76 SP guns. Small details of soldiers received training with medium mortars. Firing with carbines and submachine guns was practiced at the target range. No training activities have so far been observed outside the barracks installation. While mostly soldiers with dark blue service color were seen previously, soldiers with yellow-bordered black service color have also been seen since recently. Motor vehicle [Redacted] observed near the barracks installation. 1 and 2

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1.  Comment. Blue-bordered black collar patches are worn by engineer soldiers. It appears that besides the previously observed tank unit the barracks installation in Spremberg also quarters engineer, and infantry or artillery troops.

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2.  Comment. The vacating of the barracks installation by officers, the construction of temporary quartering buildings and the arrival in September/October of personnel as well as tanks indicate that the installation is scheduled to be occupied much more heavily. Prior to September 1953, the tank instruction regiment of TV 3000 in Dresden was carried as being stationed there. After TV 3000 has been reorganized into a mechanized Bereitschaft it must be expected that an additional tank regiment will be organized in Spremberg.

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