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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

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SUBJECT

KVP Artillery Regiment in Zittau

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1. The artillery regiment of KVP Division Dresden, which is referred as B-Kommando is stationed in Zittau, at the barracks installation on Sachsenstrasse, which was built shortly before World War II. Commanding officer of Division Dresden (KVP Bereitschaft) was Colonel Pils. The Bereitschaft was subordinate to IV Sued in Dresden.
2. The strength and composition of the B-Kommando has continuously fluctuated since September 1953. Personnel of the unit was transferred to Frankenburg, Lobau and Weissenfels; consequently the B-Kommando dropped below authorized strength. The B-Kommando was again to be brought to authorized strength by the end of 1953. In mid-November, the unit had the following strength:

	Officers	NCOs	En
Headquarters	30	30	5
School	5	10	100
Medical company	2	5	5
1st through 3d battalions each	24	24	92

The supply platoon, the headquarters company and the administrative section were not yet in existence.

3. Officers assigned to the B-Kommando included:

Major Kratzenberg	CO
Captain Kreutzburg	chief of staff
Senior Lieutenant Gerbrich	deputy chief of staff
Captain Treffky	deputy CO and PA officer
Captain Boehm	SSD officer

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Senior Lieutenant Jablonsky technical officer

Captain Meinert CO, 1st Bn

Captain Hutmacher CO, 2d Bn

4. The B-Kommando was equipped with 31 x 122-mm howitzers, 2 x 76-mm guns, 1 x 45-mm AT gun. The authorized strength was 36 howitzers.³ Motor vehicles available to the unit included 30 model G 5 trucks, 25 model H 3 A trucks, 2 model Granit 27 Phaenomen ambulances, 2 model G 5 tank trucks with trailers, 2 model ZIS 150 repair shop trucks, 5 model BMW sedans, 2 model BMW P 1 command cars, model H 1 command car [redacted] and 5 model BMW and AWO motorcycles. All the motor vehicle equipment was serviceable. However, if the trucks available, only 2 model H 3 A trucks were in use. 25X1
5. Of the personnel of the unit, 5 percent belonged to the 1936 class, 25 percent to the 1935 class, 30 percent to the 1934 class, 15 percent to the 1933 class, 10 percent to the 1932 class and 15 percent to older classes. About 95 percent of the personnel had served up to three years, while the remainder had served from three to five years. About 25 percent of the soldiers came from Saxony-Anhalt, 40 percent from Saxony, 20 percent from Thuringia, 5 percent from Mecklenburg, 7 percent from Brandenburg and 3 percent from Berlin. About 25 percent of the personnel followed the SED line, 5 percent were indifferent, while 70 percent were secret opponents of the regime. The morale of the soldiers was rather poor. The soldiers were dissatisfied with the excessive daily round of duties and resented harsh treatment on the side of some officers.
6. A Soviet Lieutenant colonel was attached to the B-Kommando. No training had been conducted since 17 June 1953. However, training was scheduled to be resumed in early 1954. The unit is to go to Camp Nochten for firing practices in March 1954.⁴
1. [redacted] Comment. Colonel Pilz who until the late summer of 1952 had been commanding officer of Division Prora returned from a course in the USSR in the late summer of 1953. He temporarily was CO of Mechanized Bereitschaft Potsdam before he was transferred to Mechanized Bereitschaft Dresden. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. These fluctuations are connected with the reorganization of the KVP in September 1953. The then Artillery Instruction Regiment of TV 3000 in Zittau was reorganized into the Howitzer Artillery Regiment of Mechanized Bereitschaft Dresden. It is believed that personnel and artillery pieces were transferred to the artillery battalion of the 1st Mechanized Regiment in Frankenberg, the 3d Mechanized Regiment in Loebau, possibly also for the Mortar Regiment of Mechanized Bereitschaft Dresden, and to the Weissenfels Artillery Regiment of Bereitschaft Halle. 25X1
3. [redacted] Comment. The figures mentioned agree with the weapons equipment of the Howitzer Artillery Regiment of Mechanized Bereitschaft Eggesin. 25X1
4. [redacted] Comment. Already 1953, the Weisswasser troop training grounds was predominantly used by KVP units stationed in the southern portion of East Germany. 25X1

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