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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Wittstock Airfield

631129

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 25 May 1954

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REFERE

PAGES  ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The air activity observed at Wittstock airfield between 6 and 20 April 1954 again involved swept-back jet aircraft towing sleeve targets. MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s practiced firing with live ammunition at the sleeve targets. When the aircraft disappeared out of sight, detonations were heard from the direction of Ordow-Rosow troop training grounds.<sup>1</sup>

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2. Two Kniforest-type radar sets and 2 Fishnet-type radar sets were still located at the field. The Token-type radar set which had been transferred from Rockstedterberg to Scharfenberg south of Wittstock was still observed at the latter site on 20 April.<sup>2</sup>

3. No changes were observed on the occupied AA gun emplacement south of the westend of the runway. Source believed that two additional AA guns were located nearby which, however, could not be definitely determined.<sup>3</sup>

4. Construction work in the interior of the Red Mill Inn was still under way and did not yet permit a new occupation. Individual Soviet soldiers including some with air force insignia and others with signal insignia were observed in the installation.<sup>4</sup>

5. Construction work was being done on a low wooden building west of the field, beyond the road to Alt Deben, not far from an earth bunker which had a cable connection to the airfield.

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7. Between 9 and 22 April, there was intensive air activity by swept-back jet aircraft most of which practiced firing at sleeve targets over the Gadow-Loscow troop training grounds. One swept-back jet aircraft towing a sleeve target was usually followed by 2 MiG-15 or U-11G-15s. Source observed twice that the sleeve target was considerably damaged when the towing aircraft returned to the field. He saw once that only one third of the air sleeve was fitted to the rope. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] a swept-back jet aircraft had twice tried to drop the sleeve target and, when this failed, the aircraft approached for landing with the sleeve target. When landing, the towing rope with the sleeve several times hit the ground in front of the road thus producing a large cloud of dust. On 9 and 21 April, night flying was observed. During the latter night, swept-back jet aircraft were seen towing sleeve targets in the beams of searchlights until the aircraft flew outside of the range of the searchlights. The noise of shots was heard. Throughout the day on 22 April, flights in elements of twos were made. About 6 p.m., 32 MiG-15 or U-11G-15s and 1 twin-engine aircraft were counted at the field; of the jet aircraft 14 were parked along the taxiway in the southwestern section of the field, at a site where no aircraft had previously been seen. There was intensive activity between these aircraft. About 7 p.m., 14 MiG-15 or U-11G-15s individually took off at short intervals and headed northeast without assembling in formation. Source did not observe that these aircraft returned to Wittstock up to 10 p.m.<sup>1</sup> 25X1
8. About 6 p.m. on 22 April, two new or newly painted trucks left the field on the approach road, then moved on Wittstock-Daber road, and about in line with the gap in the fence, turned to the west proceeding in the fields as far as a point 20 to 300m. west of the road. Each truck was occupied by a driver and an assistant driver, both wearing black-bordered blue epaulets. Each truck carried a cylindrical body, about 1.5 meters in diameter and about 1.5 meters high, and covered by a tarpaulin. Source believed that the bodies were searchlights which projected about 1 meter beyond the sides of the vehicles and about 30 cm beyond the top of the driver's cabin. Each truck also carried 4 metal seats with elbow and back rests. Shortly after the vehicles had stopped, two groups each of 6 or 7 men wearing air force epaulets left the airfield, coming from the direction of the AA gun emplacements, and went to the trucks.<sup>6</sup>
9. The Toten-type radar set which, at the beginning of April, had been located on Scharfenberg south of Wittstock was last observed there on 21 April. It was not seen on the evening of 22 April or throughout 23 April. On Fock-staedterberg, a Toten-type radar set was again observed on 13 April, but about 30 meters farther west than previously. Two Kniferast-type sets and 2 Fishnet-type sets were located at the field. On 22 April, a Dumko-type set was observed about 600 meters southwest of Rockstedterberg. In the same day, the previously reported set with the shape of a vase turned upside down was no longer observed in the southwestern corner of the field. The other set located there and fitted with a frame and horizontal dipole supports had 5 vertical dipoles instead of 4 as reported previously. An air force double sentry armed with submachine gun was observed near the set for the first time on 22 April. No changes were observed on the other DF stations and radio installations.<sup>2</sup>
10. On 22 April, only 6 AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement in the southwestern section of the field.<sup>3</sup>
11. On 22 April, two Soviet Air Force soldiers were observed on the road to the Red Mill, coming from the airfield. Rumors indicated that the Red Mill Inn was scheduled to be occupied by Soviet dependents.<sup>4</sup>

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12. At the beginning of April, the officer at the field stated that the superior headquarters had not yet authorized the confiscation of the patch of woods about 700 meters southwest of Randow. Clearing operation in this area was forbidden until this approval.<sup>7</sup>

13. On 16 and 19 April, take-offs were repeatedly made by 6 to 12 MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s in rapid succession and the aircraft assembled in formation.

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14. During the first weeks in April, a large radar set consisting of two antennas similar to parabolic mirrors was located on Scharfenberg south of Wittstock.<sup>2</sup>

15. About 85 air force soldiers were engaged in excavation work in a gravel pit in the western extension of the runway, about 500 meters from the end of the runway.

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16. [redacted] trucks were observed on the road leading from Roedel to Wittstock

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17. In April, it was reported from Wittstock that a Soviet signal unit which allegedly was not assigned to the airfield had drawn electric current from an overhead line without any authorization. On 20 April, source visited the unit which was located near Scharfenberg settlement south of Wittstock. The unit was equipped with a radar set in a camp surrounded by a barbed wire fence and guarded by double sentries wearing black-bordered black epaulettes with signal insignia. A signal soldier was posted at the entrance gate. A sizeable number of wires extended from the Kyritz-Wittstock main into the camp.<sup>2</sup>

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18. At 11 a.m. on 22 April, 31 swept-back jet fighters were counted at the field. Shortly after 11 a.m., a MiG-15 [redacted] took off. Subsequently, a take-off was made by an element of two aircraft.<sup>1</sup>

19. Eight 37-mm AA guns were observed at the western edge of the field. Five of them were used for practice firing at jet fighters.<sup>3</sup> The Tokov-type radar set which had been observed on Scharfenberg at the beginning of April was no longer seen there on 22 April.<sup>2</sup>

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20. Vehicular traffic at the field involved trucks [redacted] and van-like truck

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21. On 30 April, when the weather was sunny and visibility good, only one swept-back jet aircraft was observed at the field. The aircraft made two take-offs and practiced flying in the vicinity of the field.<sup>1</sup> Eight 37-mm AA guns were emplaced at the western edge of the field.<sup>3</sup> A Kniferest-type radar set and a Fishnet-type radar set were observed on a hill south of the approach road to the airfield quarters. A set with a round reflector antenna, the mirror of which was about 2 meters in diameter, was located on a quartering building.<sup>2</sup> Vehicular traffic at the field involved trucks [redacted]

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jeep [redacted] and van-like truck

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1. [Redacted] Comment. During the period under review, the aircraft of the fighter regiment at Wittstock airfield mainly conducted firing practices at towed sleeve targets which, at night, were illuminated by searchlights. Besides, apparently the releasing of bombs from F4U-13s was practiced over Gadow Rossov training grounds. [Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

2. [Redacted] Comment. A previous report mentioned the removal of a Token-type set from Rockstaedter Berg on 27 March 1954 and the installation of a Token type set on Scharfenberg on 30 March 1954. [Redacted] It is believed that the same set changed its location. The present report indicates that a Token-type set was observed on Rockstaedter Berg on 18 April, and another set of the same type on Scharfenberg up to 21 April 1954. It is possible that a major fighter control headquarters is located near the fighter corps headquarters. In addition to 2 Token-type sets, 2 Knifer set-type sets, 2 Fishnet-type sets, 1 Dumco-type set, and 2 unidentified sets are located in the area of Wittstock airfield. 25X1

3. [Redacted] Comment. Temporarily, up to 10 x 37-mm AA guns were observed at the field. It is believed that 2 batteries of 37-mm AA guns are located in Wittstock. 25X1

4. [Redacted] Comment. It has not been determined for what purpose the Red Hill Inn is now being used. A signal unit had formerly been quartered there. 25X1

5. [Redacted] 25X1

6. [Redacted] Comment. The vehicles observed probably are searchlight cars. 25X1

7. [Redacted] Comment. [Redacted] The area concerned is located south of the intersection formed by the Klein-Hasslow-Randow road and the spur track leading from Gross Hasslow to the airfield. 25X1

[Redacted]

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