

CLASSIFICATION		
COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT
TOPIC	Briesen Airfield	25X1
REGULATION		639081 25X1
DATE OF CONTENT		25X1
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED 12 July 1954
REFERENCES		25X1
PAGES	1	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
REMARKS	This is UNEVALUATED	
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- On some days between 11 and 21 June 1954, there was intensive air activity by Il-28s and U-Il-28s at Briesen airfield. About 1000 on 12 June, 9 Il-28s took off at intervals of about 600 meters and assembled in a squadron formation of three flights. The aircraft practiced flying for 40 minutes in the vicinity of the field and then landed at intervals of 1,000 meters. All of the aircraft apparently had 2 men in the rear gunner's station. Between 0700 and 1200 on 15 June, flying was practiced. The Il-28s without auxiliary fuel tanks remained aloft for about 60 minutes. Formations of 3 to 8 aircraft each repeatedly took off at intervals of 1,000 meters and disappeared. The aircraft returned in formations of 2 or 3 and landed at intervals of 1,000 meters. On 18 and 19 June, a formation of 6 and 4 Il-28s respectively took off heading west. The aircraft returned on both days about 1200.
- At 0700 on 16 June, a siren sounded an alarm and shortly afterward Il-28s rushed across the field toward the wood at the northern edge of the field. At the same time, the engines of some Il-28s were started, but no aircraft took off. Between 0800 and 1200, 96 men of the ground personnel, under the command of a major, a captain, and 2 lieutenants practiced the attacking of the marshy area in Luchsee from the north and south; the area was defended by 26 men under the command of an officer. The former group was armed with carbines, 12 submachine guns, 3 light machine guns, and hand grenades and the latter group with carbines, 4 submachine guns, 1 light machine gun, and a large number of hand grenades.
- Warning signs bearing inscriptions in English and French were placed on the roads leading to the field. The English text ran: "Passage of members of foreign military missions and foreigners prohibited".
- There was little vehicular traffic at the field. Trucks [redacted] were observed.

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Comment. Briesen airfield is occupied by a bomber regiment which is believed to be equipped with about 25 Il-28s. Rear gunner's stations with 2 men had formerly been observed on bomber aircraft when bomber units were previously stationed in East Germany.

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