

CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>		
COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT
TOPIC	Quartering Area of the 12th Gds Tank Div in Neuruppin, Fuerstenberg, and the Southeast Section of the Wittstock Training Grounds	
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED
DATE OF CONTENT		
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED 24 August 1954
REFERENCES		
PAGES	4	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
REMARKS		
This is UNEVALUATED		

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1. Between 28 June and 2 July 1954, 30 SU-100 guns [redacted] and 24 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were seen with Unit Dronov in the Fridericus Kaserne (2205) in Neuruppin. Eight SP guns went daily to the Genterode training area. Between 12 and 17 July, 39 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 13 SU-100 guns and trucks [redacted] were seen in the garages of Unit Kovalenkov. JSU-122 guns [redacted] were seen in another shed. On 30 July, Unit Dronov, which had left on 10 July, returned to the installation. Soldiers of the unit wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal, and motor transport insignia. Meals for personnel were served in two shifts, each of 650 men. [redacted]
2. Between 1 and 23 July, the Fridericus Kaserne was heavily occupied. About 90 percent of the windows of the installation were lit on several evenings of observation. On 6 July, 20 sidecar motorcycles and 4 six-wheel armored personnel carriers were seen en route to Neuruppin. The column came from a northeasterly direction. 1
3. On 17 July, 6 M-13 rocket launchers [redacted] were seen in the yard of Friedrich-Franz Kaserne (2201) in Neuruppin. A school for Soviet children was being established in the main building of the former telegraph construction bureau located in the barracks area. The garages there were still occupied by Unit Esalayev. On 29 July, it was determined that the quarters of Unit Dzhurcnsky were occupied by Units Nikolayev and Zultanov. According to residents of Fuerstenwalde, Unit Dzhurcnsky was no longer stationed in Neuruppin.
4. Between 1 and 23 July, the Friedrich-Franz Kaserne in Neuruppin was occupied as previously. About 80 percent of the windows of the installation were lit on several evenings of observation. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets repeatedly practiced with 2 x 37-mm AA guns, 2 x 122-mm field howitzers, and 1 x 57-mm AT gun in the barracks yard. On 10 July, 5 trucks mounting AA machine guns and a 17-mm AA gun entered the installation. Motor vehicle [redacted] was seen. On 13 July, 5 six-wheel armored personnel carriers were stored in one corner of the barracks yard.

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5. Between 5 and 20 July, the Friedrich-Franz Kaserne in Neuruppin was occupied by about 1,200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. The soldiers were equipped with 122-mm field howitzers and M-13 rocket launchers. After several columns with 22 field howitzers, several rocket launchers and trucks [redacted] had left on 20 July, the installation was occupied by about 700 soldiers until the morning of 6 August. (F-2) Little training was observed during the period. Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation:

6. On 26 July, it was determined that Unit Zemyonov in the See Kaserne (2203) in Neuruppin was a school. Soldiers from Fridericus Kaserne were observed there. In addition to Unit Zemyonov, the installation was occupied by a rear detail of 100 men on 29 July.

7. Between 5 July and 6 August, the See Kaserne in Neuruppin was occupied as previously by approximately 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank and motor transport insignia. Prior to mid-July, as many as 8 x 120-mm mortars were seen at the installation. After mid-July, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were observed. Groups of 3 to 4 tanks frequently left for the post training area and groups of up to 60 unarmed soldiers frequently marched toward the town. Motor vehicles [redacted] entered and left the installation. 3

8. Between 1 and 23 July, the former post hospital (2202) in Neuruppin was occupied. About 45 percent of the windows of the installation were lit on several evenings of observation.
9. Between 1 and 10 July, the former high school for girls (2204) in Neuruppin was occupied by driving school units, soldiers of which wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with motor transport insignia. Driving school practices with 13 to 16 trucks were daily held in the town area. About 220 soldiers were frequently seen marching to Friedrich-Franz Kaserne where they received their meals.
10. Between early July and 6 August, the former high school for girls in Neuruppin was occupied as previously by approximately 300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia. The unit was fed in Friedrich-Franz Kaserne.

11. On 29 July, two Soviet-occupied detached buildings at the intersection of Marzecha Strasse and Karl Liebknecht Strasse were thought to quarter MVD officers. The word "Kontrasvedka" was observed on a paper issued by this office. Lieutenant Colonel Manin signed documents in these offices.
12. In late May, special commissions inspected all apartments in Neuruppin. In apartments not occupied to capacity, one room was to be made available for dependents of Soviet soldiers. Children older than 8 years were not permitted to leave the USSR.
13. Between 29 June and 9 August, exercises, tank firing practices and tank driving practices were frequently held at the Gantarode post training area by units from Neuruppin. From 8 to 10 July, and from 22 to 23 July, tank firing practices held there involved up to 9 T-34 tanks [redacted] and 7 JS tanks [redacted]. The tanks fired individually at targets. T-34 tanks [redacted] were seen at driving practices. On 6 and 7 July, 15 T-34 tanks [redacted] 12 sidecar motorcycles and trucks [redacted] were seen en route to and from the post. Trucks and driving school trucks seen at the training grounds [redacted]

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24. Between 21 June and 28 July, advanced combat practice firing and night firing of tanks were repeatedly observed in the Neu-Glienicke area in the southeast section of the Wittstock troop training grounds. 4 The following exercises were observed:
- 21 to 24 June. Night firing practice of 6 T-34 tanks [redacted] Truck B 2-72-20 was also seen.
- 25 June. Firing of 4 x 120-mm mortars, Motor vehicle [redacted] were seen.
- 5/6 July. Driving practices of 12 T-34 tanks [redacted]
- 12/13 July. Night firing practice of 16 T-34 tanks [redacted]
- 21 July. Night firing practice of 12 T-34 tanks [redacted], and 36 armored personnel carriers mounting heavy twin-barreled machine guns. Escorting trucks [redacted]
- 28 July. Night firing practice of 10 T-34 tanks and 8 armored personnel carriers mounting heavy twin-barreled machine guns. Twelve trucks occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets [redacted] were also seen.
- Firing of individual tanks and machine guns, and individual firing of 4 T-34 tanks and 6 armored personnel carriers were observed in the Rheinsberg-Zechnow-Braunsberg area from 26 June to 7 July and 28 to 30 July respectively.
15. [redacted] Between 21 June and 9 July and between 4 and 6 August, the barracks installation in Droegen (2081) south of Fuerstenberg was occupied to capacity by approximately 3,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Between 12 and 23 July, the installation was less full. Little training was observed in the barracks area. Work was performed in the training area north of the installation. On 20 July, about 12 armored personnel carriers on blocks were seen in the barracks yard. On 6 August, 2 x 57-mm AT guns were towed into the installation by EM. During the night on 4 August, 12 armored personnel carriers were seen on the Neu-Globow-Menz road, en route to the wood patches about 8 km southwest of Fuerstenberg, where other camouflaged vehicles had already been parked. At noon on 5 August, fresh imprints of vehicles were seen in this area. No soldiers were observed.
16. [redacted] Between early July and 3 August, the barracks installation in Droegen, south of Fuerstenberg, was fully lighted on several days of observation. Work in the training area north of the installation apparently continued. A large part of the field fortifications was covered by camouflage nets. During the period of observation, the troops received instruction on light infantry weapons and two armored personnel carriers. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation [redacted]
17. On 9 August, the barracks installation in Droegen was occupied to capacity. Intensive activity including heavy vehicular traffic was observed in and to the installation. 6
1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] Unit Dronov is the 49th Gds Tank Regt which is thus confirmed in Neuruppin until 30 July 1954. It appears improbable that the equipment of the regiment includes 30 SP guns. Major elements of the regiment may have been stationed at Doeberitz where they presumably transferred on 10 July. [redacted] The return of these units on 30 July has not yet been confirmed. The column with 20 sidecar motorcycles observed on 6 July probably belonged to the 18th Gds Mtrcl Bn, which was located in Neuruppin until that date.
2. [redacted] Comment. The assumption that Unit Dzhurcasky is identical to the 49th Arty Regt may be incorrect. It is, on the other hand, possible that the quarters of the regiment, which was at Justerbog for firing from 20 July to 5 August, were temporarily occupied by other units. [redacted] units of the 80th Gds RL Bn also returned from Justerbog on 5 August. [redacted]

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3. Comment. Unit Zemyenov in the See Kaserne is identical with the 59th Tank Tng Bn. According to paragraph 13, the battalion frequently conducted exercises at the Gantarode post training area. All tanks of the 500-series belong to the battalion. Units of the 246th Mort Regt, which was also stationed in the installation, were at Jueterbog between 20 July and 5 August, along with the artillery units mentioned in Comment 2.
4. Comment. The information does not indicate any change in the distribution of units of the division in the military installations of Neuruppin prior to early August. The intensive tank and driving school training and training in firing at the Gantarode training area continued until early August.
5. Comment. The night firing practices of tank units of the 12th Gds Tank Div indicate a high training level of the tank crews.
6. Comment. The Globow-Menz area southwest of Fuerstenberg has frequently been utilized for exercises by units of the 24th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt. The regiment probably conducted a night exercise in the training area on 4/5 August. Apart from the varying occupation strength of Drogen Kaserne which probably resulted from exercises, the information indicates no changes in the quartering of the regiment.

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