

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany REPORT TOPIC Military Activity in the Eighth Gds Army Area 25X1EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTE DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 19 October 1954 25X1REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED

1. At 0220 on 19 September 1954, a shipment with 11 canvas-covered guns, 5 x 76.2-mm AT guns, 5 x 57-mm AT guns, 6 trucks and 3 prime movers passed through the Goerchwitz railroad station and proceeded toward Jena. 25X1
2. Between 17 and 20 September, the gates of the barracks installations in Zwaetzen (8221) and Loebstedt (8222) near Jena were closed. Little training or other activities were observed. Motor vehicle were seen. 25X1
3. At 1500 on 25 September, a shipment with 24 T-34 tanks passed through Erfurt and proceeded westward. The train, which included 4 boxcars with personnel, came from an easterly direction. All tank appeared to be newly painted. 2 25X1
4. During the night on 27 September, the units of the Weimar post unexpectedly returned simultaneously to their installations on three approach roads. No equipment had arrived at the installations prior to the return of the units. The first elements arrived at about 2200 and the last elements at 2330. During this period, the streets were not lit. The returning units included 6 trucks towing 82-mm mortars, which entered the Tannenberg Kaserne (8502); 12 T-34 tanks and approximately 20 trucks, which entered the Flak Kaserne (8501) and 8 light AA guns towed by trucks , which entered the Luetzendorf Kaserne (8503). After the arrival of the troops, the installations were occupied to capacity. On 28 and 29 September, no heavy weapons were seen in the barracks yards. 25X1
5. On 27 September, 150 young soldiers, presumably recruits, with baggage entered the Tannenberg Kaserne. They appeared to have arrived at the Weimar railroad station aboard a regular passenger train. Since 26 September, a train with 30 converted boxcars had been seen on a siding of the railroad station. A railroadman stated that the train was to pick up recruits. 25X1

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6. On 28 September, tanks were loaded onto three trains at the Weimar railroad station. The units arrived from the direction of Buttstaedt a short time before the loading.
 First shipment: Loading started at 0800. The train left eastward with 24 T-34 tanks [redacted]
 Second shipment: Loading between 1430 and 1645. The shipment included 9 T-34 tanks [redacted] and 2 trucks [redacted]
 Third shipment: Loading started at 1900. The train carried approximately 30 tanks [redacted]
7. On 29 September, a shipment with 7 T-34 tanks [redacted] and 2 trucks passed through Weimar and proceeded toward east. A shipment of 5 light AA guns, 6 trucks and 3 boxcars with personnel was attached to a freight train which proceeded westward. [redacted]
8. On 30 September, the barracks installations in Plauen were occupied to capacity and were fully lighted. In the afternoon, 150 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets returned from the Kobitzschwalde training area. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen.
9. Between 25 September and 1 October, the barracks installations on either side of Leipziger Strasse (8001 and 8002) in Altenburg were again occupied to capacity. 7

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1. [redacted] Comment. In September, information on the occupation strength in these two installations of the 20th Gds Mecz Div was contradictory. It is assumed that the 68th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt from the Zwaetzen kaserne has continuously been stationed in Camp Crawinkel and has not yet returned to Zwaetzen. [redacted] The strength estimates for the barracks installation in Loebstedt varied between 200 and 2,000 soldiers during the summer months. Since this installation, in addition to the division headquarters and the 66th Gds Mecz Regt, is believed to be also occupied by other units, the situation cannot be clarified. According to another source, the troops had been expected to return in mid-September.
2. [redacted] Comment. The newly painted tank [redacted] belonged to the 65th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div and [redacted] the 15th (Gds?) Tank SP Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div.
3. [redacted] Comment. The motor vehicle [redacted] and the smooth occupation of the installations indicate that the troops which were apparently familiar with the localities actually were the units from the Weimar post. [redacted]
4. [redacted] Comment. The arrival of recruits after 25 September was repeatedly reported.
5. [redacted] Comment. The direction of movement and the tank [redacted] observed with the first and third shipment possibly indicate that the tank battalions of two mechanized regiments of the 21st Gds Mecz Div were involved. The division was believed to have been stationed at the Lossa training grounds up to that date. The tank [redacted] on the second train belonged to the 68th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Jena, which, at that time, was probably stationed at Ohrdruf. [redacted] This shipment, therefore, is also believed to have belonged to the 21st Gds Mecz Div. [redacted]

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6. Comment. The tank [redacted] belong to the 65th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div, the tank battalion of which is believed stationed in the Flak Kaserne in Weimar. This information is contradictory to observations [redacted].

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7. Comment. [redacted] The two army artillery brigades were thus absent from the post only from 22 to 25 September.

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8. Comment. On the basis of available information on troop shipments and movements, it had been assumed that, after 22 September, units of the Eighth Gds Army assembled in the area between Ohrdruf and the Saale River southwest of Jena for major fall maneuvers [redacted].

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[redacted] The fact that, in spite of the movements observed, many posts remained occupied and some units returned to the posts, tends to indicate that the units did not assemble for a major maneuver between 22 and 29 September, but for individual exercises of the divisions, possibly with army troops, or possibly for an exercise which was conducted between Ohrdruf and Lossa and terminated in the Weimar area on 28 September. The 20th Gds Mecz Div which assembled in the Arnstadt area on 21 September may have advanced toward Weimar from a southwestern direction and the 21st Gds Mecz Div may have approached Weimar from Lossa north of Weimar.

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[redacted] The arrival of elements of the two divisions in the Weimar area on 28 September does not definitely indicate that the two divisions conducted joint exercises with one division representing the enemy. According to direction of movement, the armored elements of the 21st Gds Mecz Div, which were entrained in Weimar, presumably returned to Halle. It remains to be seen whether the elements which returned to the Weimar, Halle (?) and Altenburg posts in late September and those elements which were as previously stationed at Kindel, Plauen, Rudolstadt and Saalfeld will later leave for large-scale exercises which started as late as 10 October 1953.

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