

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Until August 1953, Estonian youths were called to military service on an individual basis, but in that month posters and newspapers announced a general draft call-up. Induction was to take place in October. All those born in 1935 were called up in October 1954. Military service was for three years, and the training was conducted in the Russian language. Those who were to be trained as officers were sent to military schools in Riga and Minsk, since there was no military school in Estonia. Most of the Estonian conscripts appeared to perform their service in Estonia [redacted] about 10 in number [redacted] spent New Year and other holidays at home. Most of them [redacted] were serving in the Estonian Corps. 25X1
2. The Estonian Corps of the Soviet Army was still in existence [redacted] its headquarters was in Tallinn, [redacted] it also had some quarters at Lasnamae in Tallinn, at Aegviidu (45 km. east-southeast of Tallinn), and at Jagala (25 km. east of Tallinn). Many of the troops and some of the junior officers were Estonians. Colonel Oktav Pahla, who was in this Corps, is an Estonian. 25X1
3. On windless days in summer, artillery fire could be heard far away to the west of Rakvere. Rumors said that it was from Aegviidu and Jagala.
4. On a night in the summer of 1953, a column of armored troops passed through the town of Rakvere from east to west. Rumors said that they were bound for Germany. Not all the vehicles were tanks, but the noise lasted continuously for five or six hours. They camped for one day in two columns, one in a wood at Maetaguse, three km. southwest of Rakvere, and the other in a wood at Madapea, four km. southwest of Rakvere. They moved on the following night. [redacted] Since then, no armor has been seen near Rakvere. 25X1
5. Small columns of army vehicles were often seen on the Tallinn-Narva road, which runs three km. northeast of Rakvere. [redacted] an average of about 100 vehicles each way per day. The most common vehicles were jeeps 25X1

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and covered trucks of the following types: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton, GAZ-51, ZIS-5, and ZIS-50. It was not possible to see whether they were full or empty. Unlike civilian vehicles, they were all painted dark green.

The general standard of maintenance varied widely, some vehicles being new and others very dilapidated. The drivers were all Russians. Hitch-hiking rarely occurred, because civilians feared robbery by the troops. There were no military motor transport workshops along the road. No tracked vehicles, guns, or special vehicles were seen on this road.

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6. No military trains were known to have passed through Rakvere, at least since 1952.
7. No army troops were stationed in Rakvere, and soldiers were rarely seen there. There was a frontier guard unit, however, stationed on Kalinin Street at the former Nord Hotel, which served as barracks and headquarters offices. These troops numbered about 200, and wore green cap-bands.
8. The Rakvere voyenkomat was at No. 46 Kalinin Street in a house formerly owned by a lawyer named Kutt (fnu). Military conscription posters issued by the voyenkomat were signed with two Russian names.
9. Rakvere MVD headquarters was at No. 12 Viktor Kingisepp Street. The personnel were often in civilian clothes, but when in uniform they wore army uniforms with red cap-bands. They all seemed to be officers. When making arrests, they called on the troops of the frontier guard unit. Major Yelisarov (fnu) was chief of the MVD in Rakvere until 1953, when he became head of a sovkhos at Vinni, near Rakvere.
10. The only police station in Rakvere was at No. 10 Viktor Kingisepp Street (formerly Vabaduse Street). Many of the police were Russians, and could be seen in pairs in the market on market days. Otherwise, they were seen very little. Lieutenant Kallijoe (fnu), an Estonian who was Chief of Police in Rakvere, was replaced by a Russian in 1953.
11. The prewar 5th Infantry Battalion barracks, immediately west of Rakvere airfield, were occupied by Soviet Air Force troops. The prewar artillery barracks, immediately north of the infantry barracks, were destroyed during the war and have not been rebuilt. The prewar 1st Infantry Division headquarters, on the southwest outskirts of Rakvere, was being used as a civilian teachers' college.
12. There was no soldiers' club in Rakvere, but there was an air force officers' club on Kalinin Street. Officers in transit sometimes stayed, like civilian travellers, at the only hotel in Rakvere, the Hotel Oktoober on Tallinn Street; but troops and officers did not live regularly in this hotel.

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