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| CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>  |  |              |
| COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>   |  | REPORT       |
| TOPIC <u>General Information from the Area of Mechanized Division Potsdam</u> |  | 25X1         |
| EVALUATION  | PLACE OBTAINED                         | 25X1         |
| DATE OF CONTENT   |  | 25X1         |
| DATE OBTAINED   | PREPARED                               | 24 June 1955 |
| REFERENCES  |  |              |
| PAGES <u>5</u>  | ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                |              |
| REMARKS   | <u>This is UNEVALUATED Information</u> |              |
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1. On several undetermined days between 21 April and 21 May 1955, up to 5 companies of soldiers wearing medium blue collar patches were observed receiving training at platoon and company level in the area of and around the Ruinenberg Kaserne, in Potsdam and on Bornstedter Feld. Their activities included drill, field training, marksmanship training, hand grenade throwing, entrenching and marching practices. During the same period, training with 4 SU-76 SP guns, 3 SU-100 SP guns and 6 T-34 tanks which included driving and aiming practices and general instruction was also observed at these sites. The SP guns were seen in the area of the Ruinenberg Kaserne, while the T-34 tanks were seen in the area of Bornstedter Feld. A company which left the installation on 6 May 1955 was equipped with 9 heavy machine guns and 18 submachine guns. The submachine guns were a model which was observed at the station for the first time, and largely corresponded to, but was somewhat shorter than the model PPS M-1943 submachine gun, the shoulder stock being included. The shoulder stock proper had the shape of a small wooden butt. On 21 May 1955, about 50 to 60 trucks were parked in the area of the installation. The capacity of a motor-vehicle storage shed, which was newly constructed in this area was estimated at about 80 trucks.<sup>1</sup> On 13 May 1955, an undetermined number of soldiers practiced gun displacement with nine 57-mm AF guns in the area of Bornstedter Feld.<sup>2</sup>
2. On 13 and 20 May 1955, 20 to 25 squads each of which numbered 6 men were observed at drill without rifles in the area of the installation. It was believed that these soldiers were recruits. On 22 May 1955, the installation quartered an estimated 1,300 men.<sup>1</sup>
3. Daily at 1710 from 5 to 10 May 1955, a squad of 12 men left the installation for the installation on Heinrich Mann Allee where they relieved the guard.<sup>3</sup>
4. From 21 to 30 April 1955, the Garde du Corps Kaserne quartered an estimated 400 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets. An undetermined number of soldiers received drill with five 37-mm AA guns in the area of the installation. Another seven 37-mm AA guns were parked in a vehicle storage shed. Several squads which apparently consisted of recruits were observed at drill and small-bore target practice. On 25 April 1955, 7 prime movers each of which towed a 37-mm AA gun and was occupied by 8 men wearing red-bordered black collar patches left the installation and proceeded toward Michendorf. From 5 to 20 May 1955, only limited military activity, but intensive construction activity was observed in the area of the installation. Nine doors were broken into the former riding course and two

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riding stables; the billets were reconditioned, and the barracks yard on Stalin Allee was broken up. During this period, the installation quartered an estimated 100 to 120 men who wore red-bordered black collar patches. On 20 May 1955, a company of soldiers who wore red-bordered black collar patches and had no weapons left the installation. It was believed that these soldiers were young enlisted men.<sup>4</sup>

5. On 22 April 1955, 6 T-34 tanks and 8 trucks each of which was occupied by 18 KVPs who wore medium-blue service color left the General Weyer Kaserne and proceeded toward the target ranges on Marquardter Chaussee. On 13 May 1955, 9 trucks each of which towed a 57-mm AT gun and was occupied by 8 men wearing red-bordered black collar patches, and 2 trucks which were occupied by enlisted men wearing yellow-bordered black collar patches and carried wire reels and radio sets, left the installation. A civilian said that, at 2100 on 16 May 1955, 16 tanks, 9 AT guns, 12 armored scout cars and about 12 trucks which were occupied by enlisted men left the installation and travelled toward Marquardt Chaussee. On 21 May 1955, 4 trucks each of which towed a 57-mm AT gun and carried 8 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and 8 trucks each of which was occupied by 18 KVPs wearing medium-blue service color, were observed leaving the installation and going toward Marquardt. A company of soldiers wearing medium-blue service color received drill with rifles in the area of the installation, where 12 to 16 squads of soldiers who carried no rifles received basic training and 20 trucks were parked. About 8 T-34 tanks, about 4 SU-76 SP guns, 20 to 24 four-wheeled armored scout cars, and 30 to 40 trucks were parked in open vehicle storage sheds.<sup>2</sup>
6. In early May 1955, the evacuation of the installation on Heinrich Mann Allee was completed. On 3 May 1955, incoming shipments of billeting equipment were observed at the installation. On 6 May 1955, a KVP band held a concert in the area of the installation whose audience included 150 to 200 KVPs who wore medium-blue service color. In mid-May 1955, 30 to 36 squads were observed at drill without rifles in the area of the installation, where 6 to 8 platoons of soldiers who carried no rifles were observed at marching practices. It was believed that these soldiers were recruits.<sup>3</sup>
7. On 3 May 1955, Lieutenant Colonel Muench (fnu), who was a member of the division headquarters, was observed entering the former Kadettenanstalt (cadet school) on Heinrich Mann Allee, formerly Saarwunder Strasse. He allegedly conferred on the vacation of this installation with the municipal administration which was located at this site. An undetermined section of the installation was allegedly already occupied by KVPs.<sup>3</sup>
8. In late April 1955, an undetermined number of administration buildings of the VP on Bauhof Strasse, formerly Briester Strasse, were vacated and furnished with billeting equipment. On 6 May 1955, a company which was equipped with 9 heavy machine guns left the installation for Bornstedt where record practices were held. The soldiers wore blue overalls. On 17 May 1955, the same activity was observed. On this date, the installation quartered an estimated 400 men.<sup>5</sup>
9. Between late April and mid-May 1955, a KVP officer frequently said that numerous officers and enlisted men of units stationed at the Ruinenberg Kaserne and the General Weyer Kaserne were scheduled to be reassigned to newly activated units and replaced by recruits. He said that, prior to 21 May 1955, officers and enlisted men were dispatched under this plan from the Ruinenberg Kaserne to Oranienburg, Niederlehme and an unspecified station. Two hundred recruits were allegedly assigned to each of the two above mentioned installations.<sup>1</sup>

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10. Starting on 19 April 1955, the installation at 105 Heinrich Mann Allee which until then housed various administrative agencies such as the district insurance board and the MTS was vacated. Sentries who stood guard at the doors wore red service color.<sup>3</sup>
11. In mid-May 1955, the Garde du Corps Kaserne quartered an estimated 60 KVPs. No military activity was observed in the area of the installation. Modernizing work was under way there.<sup>4</sup>
12. In mid-May 1955, the installation on Heinrich Mann Allee, formerly Saarmunder Strasse, apparently quartered KVPs.<sup>5</sup>
13. On 9 May 1955, intensive drill at squad level was observed in the area east of Heinrich Mann Allee. It was believed that these soldiers were not recruits. They wore light-red and red-bordered black collar patches.<sup>5</sup>
14. From 16 April to 24 May 1955, no practices involving heavy weapons were held at the Ferchels-Mahlitz training grounds. Firing practices which were held on the morning of 25 May 1955 about 3 kilometers northwest of Hohengoehrenerdamm presumably involved heavy weapons. During the time of information, the area around the KVP camp north of the field airdrome as far as about 1.5 kilometers in front of Ferchels and the area east-northeast of Hohengoehrenerdamm were still closely restricted. Intensive construction activity which involved semi-permanent dugouts and motor-vehicle shelters was observed in the area north of Hohengoehrenerdamm where incoming shipments of lumber steadily arrived from the direction of Havelberg and Rathenow. Heavy truck traffic was observed in the area of the training grounds. On 23 and 27 May 1955, a column of 60 to 70 trucks each of which was only occupied by a driver and an assistant driver was observed on the Schellene - Hohengoehrenerdamm road. It was believed that the camp near the field airdrome quartered at least 600 men.<sup>6</sup>
15. From 20 April to 16 May 1955, intensive training activities such as drill with and without rifles, record practices with rifles, and entrenching each of which involved up to 300 men who were presumably recruits were observed in the station training area at Premnitz-Moegelin. On 9, 11 and 13 May 1955, another 200 men erected 9 watchtowers, about 8 meters high, and constructed several shelters which were interconnected by telephone lines, in the training area. No heavy weapons were observed. On 11 May 1955, 45 trucks which were due to be washed were parked in the area of the billets which, on 17 May 1955, quartered about 800 men. The KVPs observed at the site wore red-bordered black and blue-bordered black collar patches.<sup>7</sup>
16. Prior to 3 May 1955, 650 men were allegedly discharged from that section of KZ Oranienburg which was occupied by the KVP. Recruits arriving at the installation included a total of 155 men who arrived on 22 and 26 April 1955 and were assigned to the mechanized unit, and a total of 77 men who arrived on 29 April and 3 May 1955 and were assigned to the tank unit. From 20 to 31 May 1955, another 247 recruits arrived at the installation. The mechanized unit was commanded by Major Backhaus (fnu), and the tank unit was commanded by Major Hoffmann (fnu).<sup>8</sup>

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18. On 17 May 1955, 4 light AT guns were observed in one of the three vehicle storage sheds. From 31 May to 2 June 1955, 5 guns which were possibly 122-mm howitzers were parked in front of one of these buildings.<sup>9</sup>
19. From 18 May to 2 June 1955, wood was cut and piled up for field kitchens at the individual units. Coal which, KVPs said, was also kept available for the field kitchens was also piled up.<sup>10</sup>
20. A building in the billeting area was scheduled to be furnished and equipped as a school.

1. Comment. The 2d Mech Regt of Mech Div Potsdam is known to be in the Reichenberg Kaserne in Potsdam. In consideration of the facts mentioned in the present report such as discharges, reassignments and assignments of recruits, the number of 1,500 men who are reportedly quartered in the installation is considered the potential maximum. SU-100 SP guns have been mentioned in a previous report from Potsdam.

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2. Comment. It is believed that the tanks mentioned in the present report belong to the reconnaissance battalion which is assumed to be stationed at the General Wever Kaserne and apparently also has SP guns which are used as practice vehicles. The totals of armored scout cars and AT guns mentioned in the present report can presumably be accounted for by simultaneous observation of vehicles and weapons of the reconnaissance battalion, the signal battalion, and component units of the 2d Mech Regt (such as the reconnaissance company ?) which moved to this installation.

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3. Field Comment. After mid-April 1955, the former Kadettenanstalt (cadet school) and the Epileptikeranstalt (epileptic hospital) have been mentioned as new installations on Heinrich Mann Allee. The latter is apparently occupied by at least 500 to 600 recruits.

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It is still undetermined by what units these installations are occupied all the more so since, judging by their service colors, the sentries mentioned in the present report possibly belong to various offices.

4. Comment. The AAA regiment which has previously been located in the Garde du Corps Kaserne has probably vacated its billets for the period in which construction work is being performed, and has only left the recruits in this installation.

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5. Comment. This installation which is reported for the first time is possibly occupied by general police.

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6. Comment. Construction activity and a major number of trucks have been mentioned in a previous report. The unit which hold the firing practices or is located in the camp is still unidentified.

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7. Comment. The towers and shelters which have apparently been constructed under the guidance of components of an engineer unit are probably connected with the construction and improvement of a firing range in the area of the Prennits-Moogelin station training ground for the mortar regiment which is known to be in Prennits.

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8. [Redacted] Comment. Major Backhaus is known as the commander of the 1st Mech Regt which is known to be in KZ Oranienburg. Major Hoffmann is reported for the first time as the commander of the medium tank regiment which is assumed to be located in the same installation. The latter is possibly identical to the new unit leader who is mentioned in the present report.

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9. [Redacted] Comment. It is believed that the buildings mentioned in the present report are vehicle storage sheds of the 1st Mech Regt. In view of latest information on the table of organization and equipment of a mechanized regiment, it is more probable that 76,2-mm guns have been observed in addition to the AT guns.

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10. [Redacted] Comment. These activities possibly tend to indicate that exercises will begin soon.

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