

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

NOFORN

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Sperenberg - Rehagen area and in theApollensdorf - Wittenberg Engineer Camp

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

12 October 1955

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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1. In the morning of 13 September 1955, the loading of a train of 38 boxcars and 1 heavy-duty boxcar started in the barracks installation on Schumke Lake. near Sperenberg Materiel from the Eisenbahn pionier Kaserne in Rehagen arrived on 7 trucks including [redacted] and 1 trailer. The personnel on the trucks wore black epaulets with crossed-axe insignia. The shipment included tools, boards, beams, a large number of red barrels (former fuel drums), billeting equipment and 2 field kitchens. The boxcars were occupied by soldiers, elements of which probably came from the installation on Schumke Lake, since the number of engineers quartered in the Eisenbahn pionier Kaserne would not have filled 38 boxcars. At 0015₁ on 14 September, the train was shunted to the Sperenberg railroad station.

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2. After the loading, wheeled amphibious vehicles, as well as track-laying amphibious vehicles, were still observed in the installation. The area between Hege Lake, the old forester's house and the Kammersdorf firing range was rutted by these vehicles.² Between 15 and 19 September, the installation was occupied by 1,200 to 1,500 soldiers with black, blue-bordered black and red-bordered black epaulets. At about 1300 on 16 September, a train carrying 8 wheeled and 1 track-laying canvas-covered amphibious vehicles was shunted into the installation on Schumke Lake. The shipment was escorted by only a few soldiers. At 0400 on 19 September, a train carrying 1 track-laying amphibious vehicle and 1 "bridge anchor" (?) (Brueckenanker) was seen at the Sperenberg railroad station ready to be shunted to the installation on Schumke Lake.²

3. Between 15 and 19 September, the Eisenbahn pionier Kaserne was occupied by some 1,000 soldiers who wore red-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets. Temporary buildings were being erected in the installation. It was noted that an unusually high number of motor vehicles was assembled in the installation. No guns or M-type radio masts were seen. On 15 and 16 September, bricks were unloaded from 4 flatcars with sidetracks³ and were shipped to the construction site in the Eisenbahn pionier Kaserne.

4. On 13 and 15 August, the engineer training site at Apollensdorf [redacted] near Wittenberg was occupied by at least 800 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets including some with construction engineer insignia. Approximately

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- 2 -

80 percent of the windows of the installation were lit at dusk. The construction of a second wooden shed, presumably also a vehicle shed, started south of the first shed in the west section of the installation. At least 60 trucks carrying pontoons were seen in the installation. Each pontoon carried 2 double T-beams about 4 meters long. The T-beams projected somewhat beyond the trucks. In addition to these trucks, some 15 trucks with bridge material (planking) and 3 assault boats and 4 trucks (presumably for 10 to 12 men) were observed in the installation.

5. [redacted] a train of 11 RRV-type heavy-duty flatcars 3 flatcars with sideracks and 2 boxcars, weight of load 500 tons, went from Wittenberg to Jueterbog - Altes Lager on 5 September.
1. [redacted] Comment. The train, which was loaded in the barracks installation on Schumke Lake on 13 September, was probably identical with shipment [redacted] which [redacted] went from Sperenberg to Borna. It cannot be determined whether the unit left for an exercise or a construction project, or if the unit was transferred. A construction engineer unit has not been observed in the Eisenbahnpionier Kaserne while Soviet soldiers with construction engineer insignia and heavy engineer equipment had repeatedly been observed in the installation on Schumke Lake. See [redacted] Comment 2. The motor vehicle [redacted] belong to rear services of GSFG.
2. [redacted] Comment. The u/i unit with track-laying amphibious vehicles and the 35th Engr Regt on the Third Gds Mecz Army were apparently still stationed in the barracks installation on Schumke Lake until 19 September. The training area of these units near Hege Lake is known. According to composition of shipment, the two trains of 16 and 19 September carried new equipment. The device referred to as "bridge anchor" was [redacted] undoubtedly a tie removing machine or, possibly, a trench digger. The 2-axle device on pneumatic tires was about 8 meters long and about 2 meters high. The axles were 2 to 3 meters apart. Two bent jibs with anchor-like points, which could be horizontally moved by a spindle, were seen within the wheel track. Devices of this type have been observed [redacted] in the installation on Schumke Lake.
3. [redacted] Comment. The arrival of bricks and barracks sections tends to indicate that the occupation of the installation was to be increased. [redacted]. Since a departure of the decimeter unit and the units of the 2d Gds AAA Div, which returned from the Wustrow AAA firing range on 31 August on 4 trains, [redacted] observed so far, it can be assumed that weapons and equipment [redacted] sheds.
4. [redacted] Comment. Camp Apollensdorf [redacted] near Wittenberg has been occupied by an engineer unit of approximately 800 men since August 1954. The observation of at least 60 trucks with pontoons and the strength of personnel indicates a regiment which, according to motor vehicle numbers of the old numbering system observed in 1954, was directly subordinate to GSFG.
5. [redacted] Comment. According to composition of shipment, the shipment on 5 September may have been a tank firing detail of the 6th Gds Tank Div;

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