

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

GERMANY/U.S.S.R.

MILITARY/POLITICAL

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Travel, Controls and Documentation of Soviet Forces  
in Germany

REASONS FOR TRAVEL

Both Soviet officers and O.R.'s - but particularly the former - are frequently to be seen travelling on trains in the Soviet zone of Germany. They may be doing so for any of the following reasons:-

- (a) On duty between one German town and another
- (b) On local leave within Germany. Officers may, if they wish, spend their annual leave of about 1 month in Germany instead of in the U.S.S.R. There are a few approved centres, of which the only one recalled is BRAMBACH, very close to the Czech frontier about 150 km. due south of LEIPZIG.
- (c) On their way to ERFURT, FRANKFURT -on-Oder or other points in order to join the Soviet military leave trains which run daily from ERFURT and POTSDAM to BREST.

SOVIET COACHES ON GERMAN TRAINS

2. On most, if not all, German trains there is one coach reserved exclusively for the use of the Soviet occupying forces. Germans may not travel in these coaches, whilst Soviet forces may not travel in the German coaches. Occasionally, however, Soviet officers are to be seen in the latter, when the Soviet coach on a train is full. Apart from the 2 military trains to BREST mentioned in para 1 (c) above, there are no others reserved for Soviet forces.

DRESS OF SOVIET FORCES

3. Soviet officers and O.R.'s are not allowed to wear civilian clothes in Germany, so that those travelling are always in uniform. There are, however, some Soviet civilians working in Germany, who are also entitled to use the Soviet coaches.

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TRAVEL WARRANTS AND TICKETS

4. In all cases Soviet forces travelling on German trains are issued by their units with a Travel Warrant (Voinskoe Trebovanie na Bilet) in Russian and German, which they are supposed to exchange at the German booking-office on the station before boarding the train. This regulation is frequently not complied with.

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[redacted] A German conductor/conductress usually comes into the Soviet coach during the journey and asks to see tickets or travel warrants. This is apparently a cursory check in most cases, and no 'personal documents' need be shown. Only at a few of the largest stations, such as ERFURT and FRANKFURT, are there special Soviet booking-offices where train tickets can be obtained. At many of the larger stations there are separate waiting-rooms for Soviet forces, where they can eat and even sleep if they wish.

5. [redacted] German trains between:

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- NORTHHAUSEN and ERFURT
- ERFURT and LEIPZIG
- LEIPZIG and KOTTEBUS
- KOTTEBUS and FRANKFURT.

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DOCUMENTS CARRIED

6. In addition to the travel warrant or train ticket the following documents must be carried by Soviet officers travelling in Germany:-

- (a) On duty. Identity Booklet (Udostoverenie Lichnosti) and Movement Order (Komandirovochnoe Predpisanie).

/(b) On.....

(b) On local leave. Identity Booklet and Leave Pass (Otpusknoj Bilet). If travelling to a Soviet leave centre, an accommodation authorisation (Putevka) would probably be required.

(c) On leave to the U.S.S.R. Identity Booklet, Leave Pass and Permit to Enter the U.S.S.R. (Razovyj Propusk - see paras 10-16 below).

7. With the exception of the Permit to Enter the U.S.S.R. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] all the above mentioned documents are signed by the Adjutant (Komandir Stroevoj Chasti) plus the C.O. (Komandir Chasti) or Chief of Staff (Nachal'nik Shtaba). 25X1

TRAVEL TO BERLIN

8. Soviet officers and O.R.'s are not allowed to travel to BERLIN without a special permit (Propusk) which must be obtained in addition to the normal documents. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Groups of officers and/or O.R.'s are, however, frequently taken to BERLIN or conducted excursions in the charge of one particular officer. 25X1

It is not known what the documentation of such groups would be, [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] apart from the individual identity documents, there would be one group movement order and permit. Incidentally, group excursions to other places in Germany, where a permit is not required, are also frequent occurrences, e.g. to the LEIPZIG Fair and the HARZ district. 25X1

TRAVEL ON BUSES AND TRAMS

9. Soviet officers and men are allowed to use municipal transport, e.g. trams and buses. They may also sometimes travel on buses between one town and another, usually in cases where the distance is fairly short and there is no direct train service. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

RAZOVYJ PROPUSK (Permit to Enter the U.S.S.R.)

10. Every member of the Soviet occupying forces travelling either on leave or duty from Germany to the Soviet Union by train must have this permit. Its period of validity covers the period of leave, and it must also be carried on the return journey from the Soviet Union to Germany. A person must leave the Soviet Union before the expiry date; only in exceptional cases may its validity be /extended.....

extended.

11.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] its colour was different each time. In April, 1954 it was light-green. On a previous occasion it had been yellow. The permit consists (reading from left to right) of the following three sections, all on a single sheet of stiff paper with an unusual watermark (details not recalled):-

- (a) A narrow counterfoil, with no photograph;
- (b) A wider counterfoil, with photograph;
- (c) A main section, with photograph.

On each section is inserted the rank, full name, date and place of birth, and (at any rate on the main section) the ultimate destination in the U.S.S.R.

12. Section (a) is detached at the holder's unit before the permit is

issued to him. [Redacted] it is sent immediately by military courier

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to the Frontier Troops unit in FRANKFURT-on-Oder (or perhaps now to ERFURT where

[Redacted] document checking is now carried out instead). This enables the

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Frontier Troops to have advance warning of a person's arrival and forms a

double identity check. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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13. Section (b) is detached by the Frontier Troops unit at EREST station.

14. Section (c) is retained by the holder until he returns to Germany from leave.

15. The permits [Redacted] were always signed

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by [Redacted] the Chief of Staff of the 8th Guards Rifle

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Army. The signatures were in green ink.

[Redacted]

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