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REPORT [redacted] 50X1

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COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 20 Oct 53

SUBJECT Disaffection, Fraternization, and Security in the Soviet Army in Austria

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted] 50X1

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [redacted] 50X1

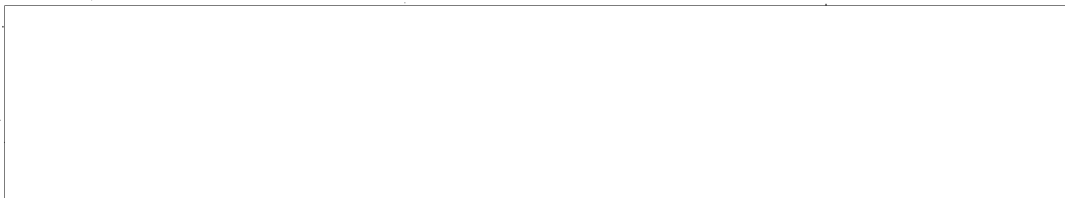
THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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A. DISAFFECTION

1. Unit Designation

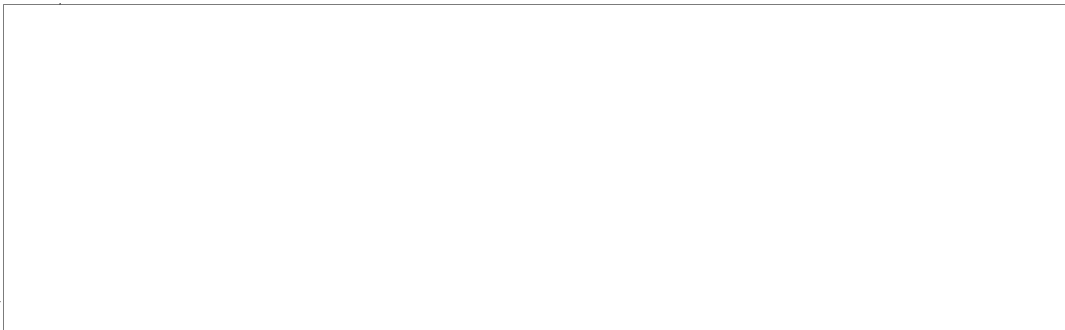


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its official designation was the "9th Rifle Co., 3rd Gds. Rifle Bn. of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt".

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2. Morale Factors

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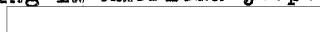


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3. Propaganda

- a. Political officers never mentioned that there were defectors from the Soviet Army. However, they very often referred to the fact that some Soviet troops, disguised as American soldiers and riding in American jeeps, patrolled the border on the US side.  they were telling this to instill into potential defectors a fear of turning themselves over to Soviet patrols disguised as Americans.

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- b. No officer ever mentioned defectors.
- c. Rumors that defectors were employed as spies by the US Army circulated among the EM.

50X1 d. [redacted] never heard anything about defectors from the local population.

50X1 e. On several occasions [redacted] over VOA, broadcasts made by former members of the Soviet Army. [redacted] firmly believed that they were telling the truth [redacted]

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B. FRATERNIZATION, GENERAL

1. Policy and Practice

Fraternization with foreign nationals was forbidden at any time and for violations of this policy officers and EM were sent back to the USSR for courts martial. This policy was known to all and officers seldom referred to it. This policy created deep dissatisfaction among officers and EM.

2. Counterintelligence Agencies

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kommandatura patrols were responsible for the prevention of fraternization.

C. SECURITY, GENERAL

1. Security Duties

a. The platoons of the 9th Rifle Co. were stretched along the border, on border guard duty. [redacted]

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50X1 [redacted]

2. Foreign Nationals

50X1 [redacted] only two Austrian women, a mother and daughter, who were allowed in the compound of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. in MAUER OEHLING. They were allowed in the compound to work in the officers' mess of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. in MAUER OEHLING. They entered the compound in the morning and left in the evening.

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3. Arrest

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50X1 [redacted] There were rumors among the EM that whoever was arrested was awakened in the middle of the night, told to dress and take all his equipment, and was taken to an unknown destination. The arrested man would not be mentioned by any officer or NCO. He just vanished.

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4. Censorship

a. All mail to and from the USSR was censored.

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(3) The following information was censored: unit identification, except FPN; unit location and activities; morale of the unit, except when described as high; living conditions in Austria, except when described as very low; and all photographs which included any man-made constructions.

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(4)

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(5) [redacted] there was no punishment for violation of censorship. The undesirable information was simply cut out of the letter. However [redacted] in case a soldier violated censorship in many instances he would eventually be court martialed.

b. Because fraternization was forbidden, no soldier or officer sent or received mail from foreign nationals even if he had friends among foreign nationals.

5. Photos

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No photos could be taken of any man-made constructions. [redacted] anyone could have a camera if he had the money to buy it. In all the units where he was stationed, films were developed by the individual soldier. Supplies for developing films were available at the PX.

6. Kommandatura Patrols

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[redacted] as a rule no privates were ever selected for these patrols. Only sergeants and officers were selected. [redacted]

7.

8.

9. Foreign Broadcasts

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[redacted] the 9th Rifle Co., 3rd Gds. Rifle Bn. of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. [redacted] listened to the VOA almost daily on frequencies 251-255 at 1615 and 1815 hours, MOSCOW time. Most of the time the reception was very bad due to jamming. Most soldiers were afraid [redacted] discussed the broadcasts [redacted] Even if they listened to what [redacted] said, they did not make any comment.

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