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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Army Bands

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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1.

Within the CGF (Central Group of Forces), the CGF ensemble, divisional orchestras, and regimental bands. some separate battalions, that is, battalions directly subordinate to a division or the CGF instead of a regiment, might also have their own bands. There were no armies subordinate to the CGF

While attending OCS in Tashkent /N 41-20. E 69-187. 1947 to 1950,

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In Tashkent there was also an army music school for boys between the ages of eight and 15. There were about 300 boys attending the school. The students received a general education at the school with emphasis on music. Upon being graduated, they had to enlist as privates for a certain term to play in armed forces' bands. many of them remained in the armed forces from 20 to 30 years.

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in Tashkent about 300 army musicians representing various u/1 army units from the Turkestan Military District. These musicians trained together for about a month in preparation for a parade to be held on the anniversary of the Revolution.

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2.

The 287th Gds. Rifle Regt., 95th Gds. Rifle Div., had a "Muzvzvod" (music platoon) consisting of one major who served as band leader, three to four NCO's who were re-enlistees (Sverkhstrochniki), and about 20 privates. The band had about 16 instruments--one tuba, two to three horns, two to three trumpets, two accordions, two to three trombones, and one set of drums. [redacted] not certain whether they had flutes or fifes. [redacted]

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The 95th Gds. Rifle Div. had an orchestra which played in the Officers' Club, for dances, political gatherings, and so forth. It consisted of one officer, rank unknown, who was the orchestra leader, and 40 to 45 EM. The band had 32 instruments--a piano, saxophones, trumpets, a tuba, accordions, trombones, horns, fifes, and drums. [redacted]

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CGF had a large ensemble--an orchestra of about 50 EM, a chorus of 30 to 40 EM, several EW singers, and several male and female civilian dancers and singers. It was commanded by a captain, and played twice a year in each regiment, giving concerts, shows, etc. This ensemble had, in addition to the instruments mentioned as part of the music platoon and orchestra, string instruments such as guitars, mandolins, violins, and violin cellos.

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At no time [redacted] army musicians with any sort of weapon, or undergoing training, except political training. The officers (band leaders) did not wear weapons although they were issued TT pistols.

Most EM musicians were re-enlistees; some of them had had 20 years of army service. They were well treated, had no special duties or fatigue details and spent most of their time practicing.

EM musicians had a special parade blouse called "Mundir". This blouse is shown on page three, "Soviet Army Uniform and Insignia", published by the British War Office in 1950. They also had a garrison hat which is shown in the same publication. Their parade blouse, garrison hat, and breeches were of fine woolen material and always appeared very neat. Musicians of orchestras or ensembles [redacted]

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[redacted] wore magenta shoulder boards with black piping. They wore no rank insignia, no branch insignia, and presented a uniform, semi-officer like, appearance. The NCO's of regimental bands (music platoons) wore sergeants' stripes and the musical metal insignia as shown in figure 150. DA Pamphlet 30-50-1. [redacted]

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