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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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MORALE FACTORS

Dependents

1. Source stated that officers stationed in East Germany were permitted to bring their dependents to East Germany. He believed that this policy started [redacted] during the demobilization period. [redacted] at about the same time as did some new battalion officers. He said that the newly assigned officers brought their dependents with them. Source did not know how these individuals came from the USSR.

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2. [redacted] were married and had their families with them. They lived outside the company caserne, which consisted of a single building, and occupied German homes, all of which were made to accommodate two families. Some of the houses were occupied only by Soviet officers and their dependents while others were occupied by both Soviet and German families.

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4. [redacted] he heard from a sverkhsrochnik that the latter was given permission to bring his wife to Germany. Source did not know by whom this permission was granted but stated that one such sverkhsrochnik had told him that all such NCOs were permitted to bring their dependents to East Germany. Source did not know if this sverkhsrochnik's wife had arrived in Germany or not. 50X1
5. No explanation was ever given to personnel as to the reasons why dependents of married draftees were not freely admitted into Germany. Source believed that actually no reason had to be given in his company because there were no married draftees in it. In discussions among themselves, EM often said that none of them were able to support a family in East Germany with the pay that they received.
5. When source was taking basic training [redacted], about five percent of the trainees in his training battalion were married. Upon completion of basic training, these married conscriptees were assigned to units within the USSR while the others came to East Germany. 50X1

Passes

7. Since all the officers in source's company lived off post, they were authorized to leave the caserne after duty hours. He did not know if they had a special pass that gave them authorization to leave the post and go to their quarters. However, he believed that the officers needed a pass to go into town because he noticed several times that the officers picked up passes in the company orderly room. Source did not know what the exact policy was for sverkhsrochniki but he heard that they had the same pass privileges as officers in that they could leave the caserne after duty hours during the week.
- EM of the company were not permitted to leave the caserne after duty hours during the week, but were authorized passes for Saturdays and Sundays. EM had to sign out with the duty NCO and sign in upon their return. Passes were issued only when a group of three or four men would get together. Therefore, they would leave in a group and return to the caserne in the same group. In East Germany, weekend passes were granted to EM until 2000 hours. In the USSR, conscript EM were not able to leave the caserne during the week, as was the case in Germany; but they were permitted to stay out until 2400 hours on Saturdays and until 2300 hours on Sundays.
- [redacted] the policies stated above were not closely adhered to. Draftees often left the caserne without a pass during the week and with the connivance of the sentry on duty and nothing was said by any one. Usually there was only one officer on duty at night, and he was always checking the patrols or going into town to check the streets for Soviet personnel. All the EM knew the places that the OD checked and just stayed away from them. All the conscripts in the unit got along well and never turned each other in. 50X1

Leave

Officers were authorized 50 days of leave per year and source thought the same held true for sverkhsrochniki. Conscript EM were not authorized any annual leave during their period of service, but they were, in exceptional cases, authorized short compassionate leave or leave as a reward for meritorious service. Travel time was not counted against leave time, and transportation was free for all personnel going on leave.

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Source did not know what percentage of the company was allowed to be on leave at any one time. Nevertheless, no more than two EM were away from the company on leave at any one time. Even those men granted leave for compassionate reasons and for meritorious service had to wait until the other man had returned. He estimated that ~~no more than~~ **three** percent of the company, including officers, were away on leave at any one time.

Leave for meritorious service was granted by the company CO. This leave was granted when a soldier was outstanding in political training and in his other duties at all times. In all cases, these leaves were for a period of 10 days. Several times compassionate leave, usually for 10 days, was granted in source's company, in one instance, longer time was granted. 1

Source never heard any officers complaining about the leave policy. There were no sverkhstrochniki in source's company, but in discussions held by the other EM, the sentiment was that leave given to sverkhstrochniki was quite liberal. The conscript EM continuously complained that they were not granted leave, except in the rare cases mentioned previously.

Discipline

Source could not give any specific instances of what he could call good or bad discipline, but he stated that the men were indifferent to any action that was taken against them. Discipline was lax in his unit in many respects. Company officers knew that the EM were leaving the caserne during the week and were indifferent to this. In cases of fraternization, however, they were very strict. Source had no knowledge of recent orders from any higher headquarters calling attention to breaches of discipline.

During the ten-month period [redacted] only three men put into the guard house. Two of them were given 20 days each for stealing from German nationals. These men had become drunk, broken into a German house and ransacked it. They were discovered, forced to return the items, and sentenced. When these men returned to the company after serving their sentence, the other men in the company looked down upon them because it made all the men of the company look like thieves, and they wanted to stay on friendly terms with the Germans.

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Source never heard of any Soviet Army personnel with venereal diseases and drunkenness was not too prevalent. EM had little or no free time and no great amount of money to spend on whiskey. Occasionally a man would get drunk, but that was not the practice. EM were forbidden to buy liquor or even to go into a German bar.

Source stated that when men were on duty at the vehicle checkpoints, they were instructed to check every Soviet vehicle that passed their point as well as the occupants of the vehicles. However, sentries often checked credentials and made entries in the book hap-hazardly.

State of Morale

Morale was very low in source's company. The two most important things contributing to this state were: restriction placed upon the conscripted EM not permitting them to drink, and the restriction forbidding EM to fraternize with German nationals. On paper, Soviet military personnel were permitted to fraternize but orders received from their officers did not condone this practice. The pass policy contributed to the lowering of morale, as did the poor pay that the conscripted EM received.

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9. Many privileges extended to officers were **resented by the conscripted EM**, particularly the leave policy. The pass policy was also a much-discussed grievance to the EM, who were not permitted to leave the caserne after duty hours during the week. The difference in pay also contributed to the low morale.

Medical Care

10. Medical care in source's battalion was more than adequate. There was a small hospital at battalion headquarters where men of the battalion were sent for treatment. When the soldier could not be treated properly or if the battalion hospital did not have the proper facilities and equipment, he was sent to a hospital in Berlin/Karlshorst. At the time there was a man in his company who was in the Karlshorst hospital being treated for stomach ulcers. This soldier had been in the hospital for nearly a year.

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Recreation and Military Stores

11. Motion pictures were shown in the company mess hall at least once a week. For a time, the company CO permitted the EM to go to the German motion picture theater in Schildow (N 52-38, E 13-22) on weekends but the men started to molest the German girls in the theater and the CO placed it off limits. Source stated, however, that the men still continued to go there with no reaction from the CO.
12. Once a month a mobile PX came to the company area to sell supplies to the soldiers. This mobile PX comprised a Soviet Army ZIS-5 truck with a trailer, probably German-made. The PX sold many small items including shoe polish, brushes, candy, and canned foods. The truck was manned by a German male driver and a German female saleswoman, probably Soviet Army employees. The mobile PX made the rounds to each guard company of source's battalion as well as to four other battalions with similar missions.
13. The food in source's company was not good but it was better than the food source received while serving in the USSR. Source's company CO often bought fruit on the German market for the EM with his own money.

Promotion Policies

14. Source did not know of any dissatisfaction among officers regarding officer promotion policies. Conscripted EM did not care very much about promotions and promotion policy was rarely a topic of discussion. Most of the EM awaited the day when they would be demobilized and able to return to their families and friends. Promotion was rarely an incentive for better soldiering.

Defections

15. Source had never heard from the company political officer of the fate that befell deserters to the West and the fate of deserters was never a topic of discussion among the men; it seemed inconsequential to them. One part of the security duties of source's unit was to look for Soviet personnel who were AWOL and apprehend them.

FRATERNIZATION

Source had read in Soviet newspapers that fraternization was permitted between Soviet personnel and German nationals. However, in his unit it was forbidden. The company CO told his men that any girl whom they

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associated with might in reality be an Allied spy. They were also told that because of the battalion assignment, that of guarding the border of East Germany and the French Zone of Berlin, it was especially susceptible to enemy attempts to cross the border and gain information detrimental to the security of East Germany. The non-fraternization order read to source in a company formation was closely enforced by the officers of the company and unidentified komendatura patrols were always on the lookout for any infraction of fraternization regulations. However, most of the men did not obey this order and fraternized anyway.

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7. [redacted] members of [redacted] company were only transferred to other units in East Germany for fraternizing, but after that date, they were told by the CO that any infraction of this regulation would warrant return to the USSR. No mention was every made as to what their fate would be in the USSR once they were returned. [redacted]

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