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COUNTRY Soviet Zone, GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Soviet Engineer Camp near BAD KOESEN

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25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X125X1 DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 11 October 1949

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS **RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY** 14 to 17 June 1949

25X1 1. a. An engineer camp with canteen buildings for about a thousand troops was observed in the "Pforta" Forest south-east of **BAD KOESEN** (L 52/J 37) in mid-June 1949. The about two hundred troops belonging to the camp cadre instructed units of other branches of service, mostly tank and artillery units, which took four to eight-week turns in the camp. The instruction covered subjects relating to engineer duty and river crossing.

b. About 30 pontoons, 12 large pneumatic boats, 3 motor-boats and several piles of iron girders were observed on the bank of the Saale River. Eight to ten tanks were observed in the camp.

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25X1 The trucks and the jeep were identified with other units in the camp.

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c. The following practice attack in the direction of **SCHULPFORTA** (L 52/J 38) was conducted on 14 June 1949:

The assault echelon was led by a lightly armored amphibious vehicle (boat on wheels), which was followed by six tanks, three tanks echeloned to the right and three tanks echeloned to the left. Each tank was followed by an infantry squad. One tank towed a large cable reel. Live ammunition, including tracer ammunition, was used during the practice attack, which was observed by a group of officers standing on top of a nearby hill.

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21 July 1949

2. Engineer troops occupied 1 cantonment building and 10 tents of a camp in the woods near Kukulau (M 52/J 87). Twenty-eight pontoons of German and Soviet origin were anchored in the Seale River; three motorboats were lying on the bank of the river.

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27 August 1949

3. a. Eight hundred to a thousand troops belonging to units of various branches of service were located in a cantonment in the woods between Bad Koesen and Kukulau. Troops wearing black epaulets, red-bordered black epaulets, blue-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets were observed. The cantonment had about 20 cantonment building. *

b. [] trucks were []

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[] in the streets of Bad Koesen
in the engineer training area.

c. About twenty officers and EM boarded a regular train leaving Bad Koesen for Erfurt (M 51/J 36) in the evening.

- * [] Comment: Seven T-34/85 tanks had been observed in the cantonment in the woods between Bad Koesen and Kukulau in late July 1949.

[] Comment:

Engineer units of the Eighth Gds Army practiced near Bad Koesen in the summer of 1948. The report, []

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confirms that engineer practices were again held in this area in 1949. The practices were conducted by Eighth Gds Army units, []

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[] The camp cadre personnel of the camp in the "Pforta" Forest near Bad Koesen was furnished by an engineer unit of the 21st Gds Mecz Div []

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[] The observed tanks were presumably used for training purposed in river crossing.