

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)TOPIC Soviet Troops in StendalDATE OF CONTENT 27 November to 8 December 1950

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DATE PREPARED 23 January 1951

1. From 27 November to 8 December 1950, the Taubentzen Kaserne on Osterburger Strasse, Stendal (M 53/Y 85), was still occupied by 1,000 to 1,200 troops. Most of the troops wore black-bordered crimson epaulets, and some red-bordered black epaulets. About 70 percent of the troops had closely cropped hair and were restricted to quarters. About 150 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets were engaged in loading practice in the barracks yard on 28 November. Two groups totaling about 30 soldiers were seen leaving the installation on 29 November, carrying two disassembled machine guns. No heavy weapons were observed with the troops training in the billeting area.

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2. The Hindenburg Kaserne on the Stendal-Wittenberge highway quartered about 2,000 troops, about 30 percent of whom had closely cropped hair. Soldiers observed wore black epaulets, red-bordered black epaulets, and black-bordered crimson epaulets. About 200 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were drilling in the billeting area on 1 December.

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3. No changes were observed in the occupation of the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne on Scharnhorststrasse. The soldiers who previously arrived at the installation were apparently restricted to quarters. Troops observed wore red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered crimson epaulets.

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5. [redacted] on 4 December, about 400 soldiers, including about 100 officers, boarded the Halle-Stendal express train in Magdeburg. Since the compartments reserved for occupation personnel could not hold all of them, they also boarded German coaches. [redacted]

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[redacted] most of the soldiers were bound for Rostock, from where they would continue their trip by ship. [redacted]

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of the soldiers were older men, many of whom wore war decorations. About 75 percent of the troops were tank, signal, motor transport, and artillery insignia and had luggage and small arms with them. (2) About one-fourth of the soldiers, who wore green epaulets, were apparently bound for another destination. About 25 of them left the train in Stendal and marched to the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne. On preceding days [redacted] groups of 10 to 20 soldiers with green epaulets arriving from the direction of Magdeburg and marching to houses on Moltkestrasse and to the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne. (3)

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Comments

- (1) The information does not indicate any substantial change over the last report [redacted]

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[redacted] the "Auenroder Kaserne" quartered about 600 and the Hindenburg Kaserne about 500 troops. [redacted]

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- (2) The officers and EW traveling from Magdeburg toward Rostock are believed to have been detached for a course of instruction because discharges usually ship out without small arms.
 (3) Since the end of 1949, IVD personnel were observed in the Albrecht der Baer Kaserne and the former kommandatura building on Moltkestrasse, Stendal. Their mission and assignment have not been determined. The IVD in Stendal was reportedly increased in number in September 1950.

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