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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Potsdam

50X1

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 26 March 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Activities of troops in the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam (N 53/z 63), between 5 and 10 February 1951

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5 February.

Recruits were drilling with eight 76.2-mm AT guns from 9:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and with ten 122-mm guns from 1:20 to 3 p.m. Trained personnel practiced with ten 122-mm guns from 9:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and with eight 76.2-mm AT guns from 1:20 to 3 p.m. All troops received indoctrination from 5 to 7 p.m.

6 February.

Same routine as on 5 February. Buses [redacted] which arrived at the installation at 8:15 a.m., discharged from 50 to 60 officers ranking from major up to and including colonel. Most of the officers subsequently witnessed the training then in progress, while two colonels, four lieutenant colonels (Med), and four majors inspected the installation.

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7 February.

The commission of officers that was in the installation on 6 February reappeared at 8:10 a.m. A gas alarm was sounded by a siren at 9:20 a.m. The subsequent formation of officers and EM was severely criticised by the commission and the troops were sent back to their quarters. A second gas alarm, sounded at 9:40 a.m., apparently was satisfactory and the troops were dismissed to continue routine training as observed on 5 February.

8 February.

The troops from the installation left for firing practice at the Katharinenholz firing range, Bornim, at 8:30 a.m. They were followed by trucks [redacted] loaded with firing equipment. The commission mentioned was seen driving towards the target range at 9:10 a.m. The record practice over, the two buses of the commission returned to Wildpark [redacted]

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2

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9 February.

The commission arrived at the installation at 8:15 a.m. and witnessed training throughout the day. Recruits were engaged in individual rifle and submachine gun drill from 9:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and in training at Bornstedterfeld from 1:20 to 3:30 p.m. Trained personnel practiced with range finders mounted on tripods from 9:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and did guard drill from 1:20 to 3:30 p.m. All troops attended indoctrination classes after 5 p.m.

10 February.

The commission returned to the installation to witness athletic activities of all troops from 9:20 to noon, and a game of soccer, recruits versus trained personnel, from 2 to 4 p.m. *

2. [redacted] the officer courses at the Kriegsschule were completed on 9 February. The graduates, 420 officers ranking from lieutenant up to and including major, were allegedly promoted to the next higher rank. Another officers' course, which was said to last only 10 weeks, was to start on 12 February. **

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3. The number of troops in the Kriegsschule, Bornstedt, was estimated at 1,200 between 13 and 15 February. A detail of one NCO and 15 EM wearing black epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets left the installation for Bornstedterfeld on 13 February. Two details of 15 men each, and five details of six men each were practicing range estimation and terrain description on 14 February. The EM seemed to be recruits. A noticeably high percentage of officers was observed at the Kriegsschule. There were many passenger cars [redacted]

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4. The Adolf Hitler Kaserne on Pappelallee still housed a military headquarters, the buildings of which were being guarded by individual sentries. Officers entering and leaving the installation belonged to all branches of service, including air force and navy. Gate guards at the main entrance wore crimson epaulets. [redacted]

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Comment. The officer commission that stayed in the Delius Kaserne from 6 to 10 February probably belonged to the headquarters of the unidentified artillery division in Potsdam. The commission is believed to have inspected the recruits there in their final phase of recruit training.

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Comment. [redacted] courses of instruction were conducted in the Kriegsschule in November 1950. [redacted]

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[redacted] the summer course had been completed on 18 November 1950 and that the next course for officers would start on 23 November 1950. [redacted]

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