

COUNTRY/RELEASER (Soviet Zone)

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REPORT N

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TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 10 to 31 August 1951

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 19 September 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. According to the kitchen bulletin, the Infanterie Kaserne in Rathenow (U 53/Z 15) quartered 25 officers, 250 soldiers and 50 Soviet workgirls on 31 August 1951. In addition, the kitchen in the installation catered to 50 officers and 120 FM who were quartered in earth shelters and tents in Semlin Heath at that time. No heavy weapons were noticed in the billeting area.
2. The ration strength of the troops in the Pioneer Kaserne as of 31 August was 40 officers and 300 FM. In addition, the kitchen catered to 250 FM who bivouacked in Semlin Heath and Barne Heath. The billeting area of the Pioneer Kaserne was being enlarged 10 meters to the east and enclosed by a new fence. German employees stated that new storage sheds would be constructed there.
3. Six officers and 300 FM were fed in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on 31 August. Additional personnel fed there included 6 officers and 40 FM quartered in Semlin Heath and 170 FM stationed in the woods between Stechow and Perchesa. The storage sheds for vehicles and guns in the billeting area were empty.

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CLASSIFICATION

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4. Trucks [redacted] were seen hauling ammunition boxes from the former army ration supply depot and the naval ordnance depot toward Perchesa via Semlin. Trucks [redacted] and 2 tractors, towing artillery pieces of about 100-mm, were seen in the Barro-Perchesa-Stechow area on 29 August. The vehicles were occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. (1)

5. The German women employees, who accompanied the units to Altengrabow, started returning from there on 25 August. They no longer worked in the barracks installations. A German woman employee in the barracks kitchen stated that all German woman employees would be discharged soon, and German male employees somewhat later. The work previously performed by German women was done by Soviet girls who kept arriving from the U.S.S.R. Fifty such girls arrived in Rathenow by 25 August and were quartered in the Infanterie Kaserne. Most of them had allegedly been [redacted] drafted, while only a few were said to have volunteered for work in Germany. The Soviet women seen in the streets of the post were shabbily dressed and were the best customers at the HO (Trade Organization) stores. (3)

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6. On 30 August, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops; most of them were recruits, but some were drill instructors. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Training activity was restricted to basic drill. Vehicles [redacted]

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7. On 30 August, the Pionier Kaserne quartered about 500 troops, about 75 percent of whom were recruits. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Training activity was noticed primarily in the [redacted]

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8. The Kraftfahrer Kaserne quartered about 300 troops on 30 August. The number of troops there was difficult to estimate owing to daily traffic at the hospital. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. [redacted] were identified. (1)

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9. Elements of the headquarters in the Ziethen Kaserne seemed to be absent from the post prior to 1 September. Sentries observed there wore red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted]

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Comments

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(1) The barracks installations were previously reported to be occupied by training units. See [redacted]. The two sources of the present report approximately agree with regard to the numbers of troops in the three installations. Most of the troops there are believed to have been recruits of the 6th Army Div, to which [redacted] the identified vehicles belong. The majority of the divisional components are carried at Altengrabow at present. See [redacted]. The information by the first source of the present report indicates that elements of the training units bivouacked in the Semlin Heath and Koenigs Heath which are located north and south of Rathenow

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[REDACTED] respectively. Same source previously reported that field exercises were conducted in the Koenigs Heath at the beginning of July 1951. See [REDACTED]. The trucks, which according to the present report, hauled ammunition from the former army ration supply depot to the bivouac area, belong to the 6th Arty Div and the 2d Gds AAA Div, this indicating that also components of the AAA division were in the bivouac area.

25X1C (2) [REDACTED] to a brigade of the 6th Arty Div.

(3) 25X1A
[REDACTED] other source observed Soviet civilian women from the U.S.S.R. in a transient camp in Frankfurt/Oder as early as 20 August 1951. See [REDACTED]

25X1C (4) [REDACTED]

(5) The Zietzen Kaserne probably houses the Hq IV Arty Corps, elements of which seemed to be at Altengrabow. The vehicles observed there belong to corps headquarters units.

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