

COUNTRY Eastern Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Dessau-Aken Training Area 25X1

25X1

EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [redacted] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 16 September 1952

REFERENCES [redacted] 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS

25X1

The headquarters building, a two-story brick building, in the engineer camp between Dessau and Aken was completed by 12 August 1952. A shower-bath was established in another building. The supply officer, a colonel, was represented by one Major Seidel (fnu). Captain Polonok (fnu) was back with the unit. He had been away for several months. Sheds were erected for tanks. The tank crews were predominantly engaged in radio training and took part in engineer practices like the laying of mines, blastings and preparation of charges. The engineer troops constructed footbridges across the pond which were subsequently dismantled. Some times, 3 to 4 foot-bridges were constructed and dismantled daily. [redacted] on the engineer training site on the Elbe River (1)

[redacted] (2) After 5 August, there was intensive traffic of convoys and individual vehicles on the Dessau-Aken road. On 6 and 7 August, more units were quartered near the engineer camp about 600 meters further toward Dessau. No details could be obtained.

[redacted] On 6 August, 274 motor vehicles of all types, without heavy weapons, moved through Bernburg toward Koethen. [redacted]

In 14 and 15 August, several troop camps were determined north of the Dessau-Aken road, south of the Elbe River. A tent camp with not less than 30 tents was in the woods north of kilometer marker 2.5. Truck [redacted] occupied by about 25 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets went to the camp. An engineer equipment depot containing 30 light pontoons, 2 motorboats, 1 ditch digging machine, planks and boards was situated south of Brambach on the southern bank of the Elbe River. About 80 soldiers dug trenches with the digging machine near this depot. Other troops were engaged in firing practice with training rounds with six light mortars. The noise of firing with blank cartridges, apparently artillery, was heard from the area south of the Dessau-Aken road. The training area could not be approached as the trails on both sides of the road were guarded by sentries.

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[redacted] 25X1

A parking lot with about 40 trucks was about 2 km east of Aken. Motor vehicles [redacted] occurred by 25 soldiers with black epaulets, proceeded to the parking lot. No troops were assembled or practiced in the area west of Aken and about 1 km east of Dessau. Motor vehicles [redacted] were [redacted] in the Dessau-Aken area. (4)

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