

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOP Military Information from Letzling Heath

DATE PREPARED 7 October 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY

25X1

1. On 17 August 1952, [redacted] the woods south of Huetton at the Letzling Heath (L 53/Y 52) troop training grounds [redacted] the camp consisted of about 25 low temporary buildings with a capacity of 70 men each, and 15 houses of the Neuplanken settlement with a capacity of about 40 men each were included in the camp. A total of 400 men could be catered to in the mess at one time. On 16 August, all buildings were occupied to capacity. Motor vehicles [redacted] were identified driving to, or from, the camp. (1) 25X1
2. On 6 September, a radio station with four masts was again erected at the barracks installations in Hillersleben on the southern edge of the troop training grounds. Ten T-34 tanks were loaded at the Neuwaldensleben railroad station on 21 August and about 30 empty trucks [redacted] were loaded there on 7 September. The trucks had been escorted to the station by truck [redacted] (2) 25X1
3. On 10 and 11 August, [redacted] the area west and northwest of Colbitz on the western edge of Letzling Heath that the Colbitz-Letzlingen road had been blocked since the beginning of 1952. The local farmers were not allowed to cultivate their fields as they were not permitted to use the road. A road leading into the heath west of Colbitz via trigonometrical point No 65 was furrowed by numerous truck and tank tracks. A road barrier with a sentry blocked this road about 1 km west of Colbitz near the water works. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen on this road driving toward Colbitz. On 11 August, 80 new [redacted] trucks, which had been seen leaving the heath west of Colbitz near Wolmirstedt were loaded at the Wolmirstedt railroad station. [redacted] the trucks were old but newly painted. The column was escorted by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and motor transport insignia and an officer with tank insignia. The troops came in trucks [redacted] The train left Wolmirstedt toward Stendal. [redacted] tank traffic was heavier this year than it had been during 1951. The residents of Colbitz were not allowed to leave their houses after 10 p.m. and their houses had to be blacked-out after dusk. (3) 25X1
4. During the period from 1 to 22 August, the camp in the woods southeast of Jaevenitz on the northern edge of Letzling Heath was still heavily occupied. The approach roads were blocked by sentries with red-bordered black epaulets including some with

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25X1

SECRET

- 2 -

tank and some with artillery insignia or with black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 15 August, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were loaded at the Jaevenitz railroad station. Jaevenitz residents stated that about 20 rocket launchers had moved to the troop training grounds on 14 and 15 August, via the Jaevenitz-Letzlingen road. Motor vehicles seen in traffic from, and to, the camp in the woods [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] Comments.

- (1) [redacted] to have seen only part of Camp Planken south of Huetten as he reported quarters for only about 2,350 men. As a division has been stationed in the camp during about five months, in the summer of 1952, more low temporary buildings must exist. It is rather improbable that the majority of the division should be quartered in tents. According to previous reports, the 7th Gds Tank Div is carried in Camp Planken. However, the motor vehicles seen in traffic to the camp [redacted] the Third Shock Army. As, however, the road from Haldensleben to Camp Born runs east of Camp Planken and as the 19th Gds Mecz Div is stationed in Camp Born besides other units, it is possible [redacted] observations regarding road and camp traffic are subject to error.
- (2) The 30 trucks were probably loaded by soldiers of the 7th Gds Tank Div.
- (3) Most of the motor vehicle [redacted] in the Colbitz area confirm units of the 10th Gds Tank Div in Camp Dolle until 11 August.
- (4) [redacted] Camp Jaevenitz southeast of Jaevenitz, was still occupied by elements of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div until 22 August 1952.

25X1

SECRET