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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Prior to mid-April 1952, the former Nachrichten Kaserne, formerly also designated Ludendorff Kaserne, on the western perimeter of Oppeln (P 51/J 17), on the north side of the railroad line to Brieg (P 51/H 89), was occupied to capacity by a Polish tank unit which had arrived in late 1950. A Polish lieutenant colonel was the ranking officer in the barracks installation. The soldiers wore grey-blue uniforms, a blue field cap with the Polish eagle or a service cap. Ten to 15 T-34 tanks with a long gun barrel without muzzle brake, were repeatedly seen. The soldiers had sub-machine guns. Units of about 10 tanks were training in the area east of Birkental, about 5 km northwest of the town, north of the Oppeln-Brieg road.

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2. The barracks installation on the southwestern edge of Halbendorf, which had been occupied by Soviet troops up to the end of 1950, was occupied by a Polish tank unit in April 1952. The installation consisted of two parts with separate entrances. A signboard with the inscription Wojsko Polskie was over the southern entrance and another signboard with the inscription Lutowce Polskie was over the northern entrance. [] 8 to 12 tanks leaving the barracks installation. The installation did not appear to be occupied to capacity. Most of the tanks leaving the installation for the drill grounds near Birkental were T-34 tanks. [] other tanks of about the same size with bogie wheels and track-supporting rollers which were equipped with a shorter gun that did not project much beyond the bow, with a larger caliber without muzzle brake and mounted in a revolving turret. Trucks were seen in the barracks installation.

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3. The barracks installation south of Stefanshoeh, formerly designated Hoefer Barracks, which also had quartered Soviet troops prior to the fall of 1950, was occupied to capacity by a Polish tank unit and a Polish AAA unit in April 1952. The installation consisted of 5 four-story buildings, each 50 meters long; a two-story canteen building; a four-story building, about 100 meters long. One building in the northern part was still demolished. The installation was occupied in its southern part only. The following buildings were in use: a two-story officers' quarters; a shed for motorcycles; a large gun shed;

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two sheds for tanks; a tank workshop; an ordnance shop; and two other sheds. The main entrance was at the northeastern corner of the installation, while another gate for vehicles was on the southern side. Source, who worked in the installation for 6 months, stated that the unit was equipped with 30 tanks of the same types as the unit in the barracks installation on the southwestern edge of Halberdorf. The AAA unit had 25 guns of 50-mm to 70-mm caliber, without muzzle brake, mounted on a platform-shaped gun carriage with four wheels which were elevated when the gun was in firing position. The gun shield consisted of a frontal part and two side parts which were inclined backward. The guns were hauled by six-wheel Molotov trucks. The light weapons seen included carbines, submachine guns with wooden stocks and drum magazines, submachine guns of metal with forward bent clip magazine and light machine guns with attached drum magazine. Since early 1952, the number of trucks was gradually increased by factory-new Molotov trucks. A number of motorcycles were garaged in a shed. This unit, too, trained in the area west of Birkental. Close-order-drill, instruction on tanks and guns as well as athletics were performed in the barracks installation. The morale of the troops was described as bad because there were insufficient rations, physical hardships, permanent political instruction, and uncertainty on the length of service time. Soldiers were still serving with the unit in April 1952 even though their period of service had expired in the fall of 1951.

4. Prior to April 1952, the old barracks installation on the eastern edge of Oppeln, also referred to as the Red Barracks because of its appearance, was occupied by soldiers wearing the uniform of the Polish tank troops. Prior to the end of 1950, this barracks installation had been occupied by Soviet soldiers who were then departed by railroad from the Oppeln East station. The barracks installation which was bordered on the north by ul. Ozimska, formerly Malapaner Strasse, and on the west by ul. Plebiscytowa, consisted of large brick buildings around a courtyard. Numerous trucks but no tanks or other arms were seen in the installation.¹
5. The Polish recruiting district headquarters for town and district of Oppeln was on the west side of Ludwig Strasse, about 100 meters west of the railroad station and 50 meters south of the railroad line to Brieg. Chief of the office was Captain Jan Clejnik. The draftees of the district had to report to an office in a building on the east side of Gartenstrasse in the northern sector of the town. In March 1952, about 40 Poles and Germans of the 1929 through 1931 classes were inducted from a locality near Oppeln by the Oppeln recruiting office.

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6. Prior to April 1952, the district headquarters of the Polish UB was in the eastern sector of the town on the south side of Holtke Strasse and diagonally opposite the Peter-Paul's Church.
7. Prior to April 1952, the district office of the Polish Militia was northwest of the main railroad station at the intersection of ul. Stalina, formerly Hindenburg Strasse, west side, and Piastendam, north side. The hospital of the UB was in the same block.
8. After early 1951, the only Soviet unit still stationed in Oppeln was a signal unit of about 30 men who were quartered in the former officers' mess of the old barracks installation on the eastern edge of the town. The building into which many telephone lines lead was located on the north side of ul. Ozimska opposite the barracks installation. [redacted] unit engaged in patrolling the lines. In the spring of 1952, the Oppeln-Gross Strchlitz (P 51/T 00) telephone-line was repaired. No other Soviet offices were known in the town.

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9. Prior to April 1952, the former German ration supply office northwest of the cemetery west of Halbendorf was utilized by the Polish Army. The western section of this installation was gutted. The eastern section from north to south contained: a bakery which had been equipped with three new baker's ovens in the spring of 1952; a concrete grain silo; and three tall store-houses for grain, food and household equipment. The installation had a spur track and was guarded by Polish tank troops from the former Nachrichten Kaserne.
10. Prior to April 1952, the military construction firm Wojskowe Przedsiębiorstwo Budowlane (WPB) was situated on the north side of ul. Ozimska and west of the former officers' mess in Oppeln. The personnel of the firm totaled about 80 prior to early 1952, when it was reduced. The main administration of the WPB, which was charged with all construction and maintenance work on military installations in Oppeln, was in Warsaw, whereas the main office for Lower Silesia which supervised the branches in Guben (O 52/A 79) Sagan (O 52/B 26), Frankfurt/Oder (O 52/V 63), Breslau (P 52/C 51), Liegnitz (O 52/B 32) and Oppeln was at 18 ul. Gadowa in Breslau. A corresponding office for Upper Silesia was in Gleiwitz (O 51/T 37).

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11. On 10 August 1952, [redacted] a mounted unit estimated at more than 1,000 men was training in the hilly terrain south of Greifenhagen.

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1. [redacted] Comment. Except for the barracks installation in the Oder suburb, which was occupied by Soviet troops until late 1950, the occupation of all barracks installations in Oppeln is reported. Although it is impossible to identify the reported units, it is believed on basis of the statements [redacted] that they are the bulk of a tank division or perhaps a mechanized division. The occupation for the departure of the 25th Soviet Tank Div is undetermined.

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2. [redacted]

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3. [redacted] Comment. Further information is required to determine whether large contingents of the 1932 class were inducted as early as the spring of 1952 and whether large contingents of the 1933 class are to be inducted as early as the fall of 1952 or whether only the bulk of the 1932 class will be inducted in the fall of 1952.

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4. [redacted]

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