

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet Army Food Rations

DATE DISTR. 21 Apr. 52

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

NO. OF ENCLS. USED BELOW

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE

3. Canned meat and fish are not used as normal daily rations in the Soviet Army in Germany. They are kept as iron rations in army food warehouses and are released for daily meals when the expiration date appearing on containers is approaching. I know of the following canned food used by Soviet Army units in Germany

- (a) German manufactured canned meat, "Schweinefleisch" (Pork). The meat is packed in cylindrical white metal tins approximately 15 cm high and nine cm in diameter. Each tin contains about 800 grams.
- (b) German manufactured canned fish, packed in cylindrical white metal tins, 7 1/2 cm high and nine cm in diameter. Each can contains about 400 grams.

No glass jars are used in the Soviet Army.

4. Stockpiling of foodstuffs for the army in Germany is organized in the following way:

- (a) Regiments and separate battalions keep five days' rations in their food warehouses. Meat and fish are held in refrigerators.
- (b) Divisions keep 15 days rations for all subordinate units.
- (c) Army warehouses keep enough food for 30 days for all subordinate units.

5. Regiments and separate battalions use organic transportation for transporting food from divisional warehouses or German firms; in exceptional cases railroad facilities are used; divisions normally use railroads for transporting the foodstuffs from army warehouses. On maneuvers and field exercises the units organize "khozvaystvnyye" (transports) trucks carry either complete rations or foodstuffs for rations. Regimental and separate TE's prescribe enough transport for the transportation of five days rations.

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1. There are 12 different type food rations (called "norms") in the Soviet Army. I do not know the exact composition of any of them, but I do know that ration #1 is issued to Navy personnel; #2 is the ground forces wartime ration, and #3 the normal peacetime ration. Ration #2 contains about 20% more fat than #3, whereas they are identical. The Soviet Occupation Army in Germany lives on ration #2, whereas the ground force troops in the USSR receive ration #3. In the Soviet Army there is no difference between rations supplied to officers and enlisted men. There is also a "dry" or "iron" combat ration issued to troops in wartime to be used in case of emergency or when ordered by superiors. According to army regulations, during wartime, each individual soldier and officer must keep three of these rations all the time. Infantrymen carry these rations as part of individual equipment; motorized units transport them on trucks. Composition of the iron ration is as follows: dry salami, or bacon, or canned meat or fish; crackers; sugary black tea; makhoroka and matches. As far as I know there are no monthly rations in the Soviet Army.
2. Except for buckshot, mustard, and pepper supplied from the USSR all foodstuffs for daily rations of Soviet Occupation Forces in Germany are obtained from the German economy. The suppliers appear to be mostly German food enterprises, called consumers. I do not know any details of how these transactions are organized and carried through however.

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