

Report on the inspection of depot stocks held for French forces in the Federal Republic of Germany (13 September 1982)

Caption: On 13 September 1982, the Head of Division II sends the Head of Division I a note on the inspection of the 730th Groupement de munitions (munitions stocks) at the depots in Stetten and Breithülen on 22 and 23 April 1982. The report is critical and notes that it is difficult to carry out an effective quantitative control when the requirements of Article XXI and Protocol No IV have not been met. But the inspection itself went very smoothly, which justifies the favourable comments regarding the two depots. The Head of Division I therefore recommends that the French authorities should indicate the exact locations of the armaments under control, in accordance with the provisions of the modified Brussels Treaty.

Source: Agency for the Control of Armaments. Report on inspections of depots held for French forces in the Federal Republic of Germany by the 730eme Groupement de munitions at the depots of Stetten and Breithülen, on 22nd & 23rd April 1982. Note on the Inspection of the 700 GM (Stetten etc.) 22nd/23rd April 1982. [Paris] : 13.09.1982. CSB/jg. pp. [s.p]; [s;p]; 3. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://anlux.lu/>. Western European Union Archives. Armament Bodies. ACA. Agency for the Control of Armaments. Year: 1982. File ACA-193. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/report_on_the_inspection_of_depot_stocks_held_for_french_forces_in_the_federal_republic_of_germany_13_september_1982-en-48a1ce00-a42d-47da-8912-558d82fd83fb.html



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DIVISION II

W.E.U. CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT OF INSPECTION OF DEPOT STOCKS HELD FOR FRENCH
FORCES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY BY THE
730^eme GROUPEMENT DE MUNITIONS AT THE DEPOTS OF
STETTEN AND BREITHÜLEN, ON 22nd & 23rd APRIL 1982

Copy No. 1 of 3

DIVISION II

CSB/jg

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13th September 1982

To: Head of Division I

From: Head of Division II

Note on the Inspection of the 730th GM (Stettin etc.) - 22nd/23rd April 1982

1. This report shows once more the difficulties of an effective quantitative control measure when the requirements of Article XXI of Protocol No. IV have not been met. The major depot DA 61 at Breithülen was not declared in the French reply to ACA (82)/Sec. I. Also no mention was made of Merdingen, Reutlingen, Tübingen, Villingen or (?) GGEMu, where stocks of munitions were also located. The inspection team could thus only verify 15 per cent of the missiles declared and had no real legal authority to inspect the rest - clearly not a satisfactory position.
2. The problem of defective declarations of French army munitions stocks has been raised before. Unfortunately, I cannot trace any resulting action, although a firm request on an exactly similar situation was put to the Italian authorities in a "yellow page" in 1981, and has subsequently been met completely by them.
3. It is of course for you to decide how to resolve the matter. No one wishes to exaggerate its importance and as I have already written (on 8th October 1981) there have recently been considerable improvements in the reporting of French army units. It would, however, be good to see the depots reported to the same correct standard.
4. At the inspection itself, the authorities on the spot could not have been more helpful and at the two major depots (DA 61 and 63) over 90 per cent of the conventional munitions were accounted for with high accuracy - thus justifying the team's favourable comment on these two depots. I would not want the French authorities to think in any way that the actual field control measure had not been well prepared or that the Agency was not more than satisfied with the welcome and assistance (and hospitality!) given to the team.
5. May I leave follow-up action on the declaration of French army depot stock locations to you?


Air Vice-Marshal C.S. BETTS

Copies: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the report.

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PHYSICAL CHECK AT DEPOT No. 61 - BREITHÜLEN

10. This physical check was carried out on 23rd April 1982. Everything was in order. Furthermore negative checks in six storage buildings were satisfactory.

CONCLUSIONS

11. Overall, the inspections of both depots were most satisfactory. The Agency team was given every assistance by all the staffs and were shown excellent hospitality throughout the mission.

12. However, it should be noted that, if the French authorities had given the Agency the correct information about the exact distribution of ammunition between the individual depots rather than just the "global" figures, the task of the Depot staffs, the 730ème G.Mu. staff and that of the Agency team could have been simplified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The French government authorities be reminded that they must supply the exact locations of the armaments under control as requested by the Brussels Treaty.

14. Next inspection need not be carried out for at least five or six years.