

FAR EAST



7. North Korean armored division continues training north of Pyongyang: A communication on 1 April from "Number 109" identified as the 2nd Tank Regiment of the 105th North Korean Tank Division, stated "concerning the unit move....I agreed to it. We shall be quartered in the barracks by the end of April. Taphyon-dong (20 miles north of Pyongyang) is suitable."

Another 1 April message from the same unit stated that "while it was planned to start training from 3 April, the tanks of the 1st Company, 1st Battalion" were delayed. The message suggested that at least the 2nd Regiment of the 105th North Korean Armored Division will be training in the Taphyon-dong area during April. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/9890; 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-385, 2 Apr 52)

Comment: The continued presence of this division in the rear areas during April is another indication that the Communists do not intend to launch an all-out offensive in the immediate future.

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9. Russian night-fighter pilot leads MIG-15 unit in Manchuria: Recent Chinese messages designated "Yehfelmaofu," Chinese transliteration for the Russian name Efimov, as pilot of a trainer MIG-15 from Anshan possibly to Tatungkou on 30 March, and as lead pilot of nine MIG's on a round-robin flight from Anshan on 2 April. This is the first mention of Efimov in intercepts since December 1951 when the Manchurian tactical network disappeared from the air. At that time Efimov was in command of an LA-11 conventional night-fighter unit at Anshan.

The Air Force comments that the association of MIG-15's with Efimov suggests that his LA-11 unit may have converted from conventional fighters to jets. (SUEDE USAFSS Brooks AFB ODD-2-21153, 1 Apr; Air Force Roundup 66, 3 Apr 52)

Comment: The enemy's night interception attempts have generally been ineffective. Conversion of this night fighter unit to jets will strengthen Communist defense of Northwest Korea, but no MIG-15's at present are used as night interceptors.

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