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INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR (Kherson Oblast)

REPORT

SUBJECT Stalin Canning Plant at Kherson

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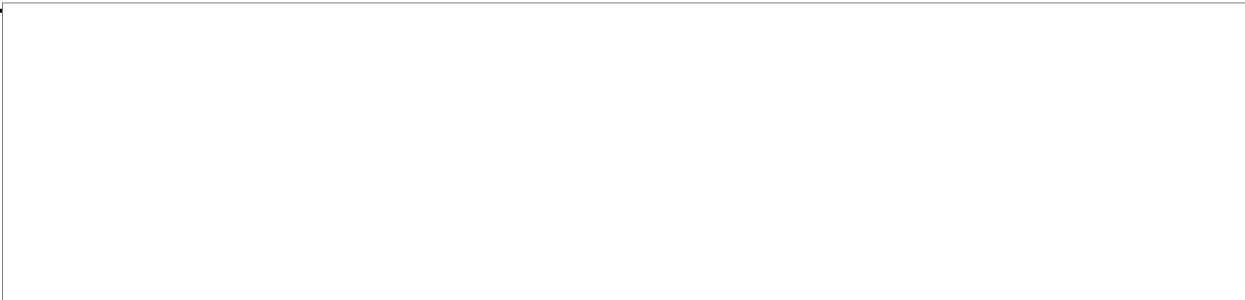
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REFERENCES

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1. The Stalin Canning Plant (Konservnyy Zavod imeni Stalina) is located in the northeast part of Kherson (N 46-40, E 32-35), Ukrainian SSR, in the section known as Voyennoye.<sup>1</sup> Plant buildings are located between the glass container factory (Zavod Steklotara) and the cotton processing plant (khlopkoobrabatovatelnyy zavod).<sup>2</sup> Also in the area is a workers' settlement known locally as the tsyganskaya slobodka (gypsy village), which lies just southeast of the food processing plant, between the plant and the cotton gin mill.

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2. The Stalin plant occupies an area about 500 meters square. It has a two-meter-high stone fence on the north and west sides and a wooden fence on the east side. The plant was built in about 1933. It was not evacuated during the war.<sup>3</sup> [redacted] the Germans operated the tomato processing section of the plant on a single shift for the manufacture of alcohol. The only wartime damage to the plant came when one of the two smokestacks was hit by a stray shell, causing the upper third of it to collapse. This damage has since been repaired.

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3. Until 1951 the director of the Stalin Canning Plant was a Jew named Maryanchik (im.). He was a Communist Party member. In 1951 it was discovered that Maryanchik was using raw materials belonging to the plant in the illegal production of alcohol which he sold on the black market.

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4. The plant contains the following departments:<sup>4</sup>
- Engineering-technical
  - Electric power
  - Transport
  - Procurement
  - Finished-product marketing
  - Personnel
  - Medical
  - Guards and security
5. The plant does not process meat or fish products; the latter are handled by the 8th of March Canning Plant also located in Kherson.
6. [redacted] the procedure for processing peas at the Stalin Plant. The<sup>50X1-HUM</sup> peas still in their pods are placed in a sheller (lushchilka) where, with the aid of the turning of the drum, a special apparatus, and a jet of water at great pressure, the peas are separated from the shells. The shelled peas fall onto a conveyor belt which carries them to the cleaning and sorting section. Here, partly by machine and partly by hand, the peas are sorted and put into a drum or kettle. They then undergo a partial thermal processing and ingredients are added to them. Jars are then automatically filled with identical amounts of peas. The jars are moved by conveyor belt to a section where a tin top with a rubber lining is placed on each jar by hand. The jars proceed next to the pressure bench. The jars are then arranged in layers in autoclaves where they are kept for a certain length of time at a certain temperature, depending upon the contents of the jars. In this process they are hermetically sealed. The autoclaves are then allowed to cool and the processed jars are put in storage with other finished products.
7. The procedure for processing chopped squash (Kabachkobaya ikra) begins with the squash being cleaned in machines similar to those used for sugar beets in sugar refineries. After the squash has been washed, it goes into special machines for slicing. The sliced squash is then carried through a so-called conveyor-griddle, a conveyor which passes through boiling vegetable oil and allows the squash to cook as it moves along. Special mixers then mix the squash with seasonings, and it is then sent to a chopping machine similar to one used in making sausages. The resulting product is then put in jars, is covered, placed under pressure, and finally put into the autoclaves. 50X1-HUM
8. [redacted] a stoker in the boiler room would earn about 700 rubles monthly. The medical assistant (feldsher) and the nurses in the plant dispensary earn 570 rubles per month, but deductions reduce this to 480-500 rubles. Common laborers are entitled to two weeks' vacation a year; white-collar workers at the plant can take three weeks. A worker is eligible for his first vacation after he has worked for 11 months. After the first year, he can take his vacation once a year whenever he chooses, provided that he has the approval of his immediate superior.
9. A woman employee named Chaika (fmu) received a great deal of publicity in the press around 1950 for being a 270 percent Stakhanovite. She w<sup>50X1-HUM</sup> the vegetable washing section.
10. The Stalin Canning Plant owns two workers' apartment houses across the street from the factory. The buildings are two stories high, are about 60 meters long, and were built in 1936 or 1937. Each apartment in these buildings consists of two rooms and a kitchen. [redacted]
- [redacted] Regardless of where a worker lives, a small amount is taken from his salary for the housing fund (zhilishchnyy fond) to cover the maintenance costs for the plant's apartment houses.
11. The dispensary gives first aid in case of emergencies, but it does not give regular medical treatment. [redacted] only very large factories have their own clinics. 50X1-HUM

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12. On page 6 is a sketch of the layout of the Stalin Canning Plant in Kherson. Numbers on the sketch refer to the following sections of the installation:
1. Administrative offices (upravleniye). The administration building is a one-story brick building on a high foundation. It contains about ten offices, including those of the plant director, chief engineer, personnel section, and finance section.
  2. Main plant building. This is a two-story red brick building on a high foundation. It is divided into the following sections:
    - a. This is the plant dispensary (sanchast). On the ground there is a waiting room for patients, an office for the doctor, and a waiting room (dezhurnaya komnata) for the medical assistant (feldsher) and the nurses who are on duty. Upstairs there are various storerooms in which are kept drugs, medicaments, bathrobes, etc.
    - b. Jar and tin shop (zhestyano-banochnyy tsekh) on the ground floor and medical examination room on the upper floor. The jar and tin shop consists of several rooms equipped with metal lathes and cutters for the production of tin cans, jar covers, etc. This shop employs about 15 persons working one shift. On the second floor, there is a long room set up for medical examinations. Here the san-propusknik (sanitary inspector) checks all workers who are directly connected with the handling of food, especially those who work in the canning shops (konservnyye tsekh). Before such workers go on duty each day, the medical staff checks them for rashes or skin diseases. The room is also equipped with a steam outlet at which workers' white robes are sterilized.
    - c. Washing shop, referred to as the moyka or moyechnaya. This shop takes up most of the space on the ground floor and is the place where vegetables are washed and cleaned. There is a rather complicated set of machinery here, involving a series of conveyor belts. On the second floor in this section of the building is the canning shop (konservnyy tsekh).
    - d. Squash and eggplants are prepared and put in jars on the ground floor in this section of the building. Upstairs is the bean shop (bobovyy tsekh) where peas, green beans, and soybeans are prepared and put in jars.
    - e. Autoclave shop, referred to as the vikslnyy tsekh (from the German word for packing - wickel). The shop itself is located on the second floor, though the large steam cylinders extend down to the ground floor. All products, after they have been canned, are allowed to steam in these cylinders for a period of from 30 to 60 minutes, depending upon the vegetable being processed.
  3. Mess hall and kitchen. This is a structure which is built into the corner of the main building. Anyone who so desires can eat here and the meals are quite cheap. One meal is served for each shift, and the cost of meals eaten is taken from the worker's monthly pay. Many workers, however, prefer to bring their own lunches. 50X1-HUM
  4. Tomato processing shop (tomatnyy tsekh). This section is located in a two-story brick building. About 15 to 20 men work in this section each shift.
  5. Furnaces and boilers. Heating and steam for the entire plant is provided through a series of underground pipes from this building. Approximately ten men work in the boiler section each shift. The coal is delivered here by trucks from the coal piles at #11 on sketch. In the boiler room, the coal is kept on a slightly higher level than the furnaces.

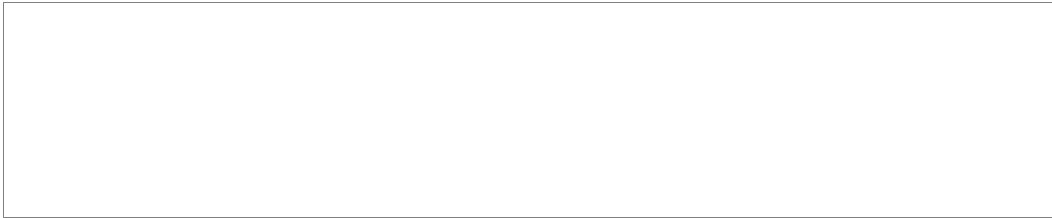
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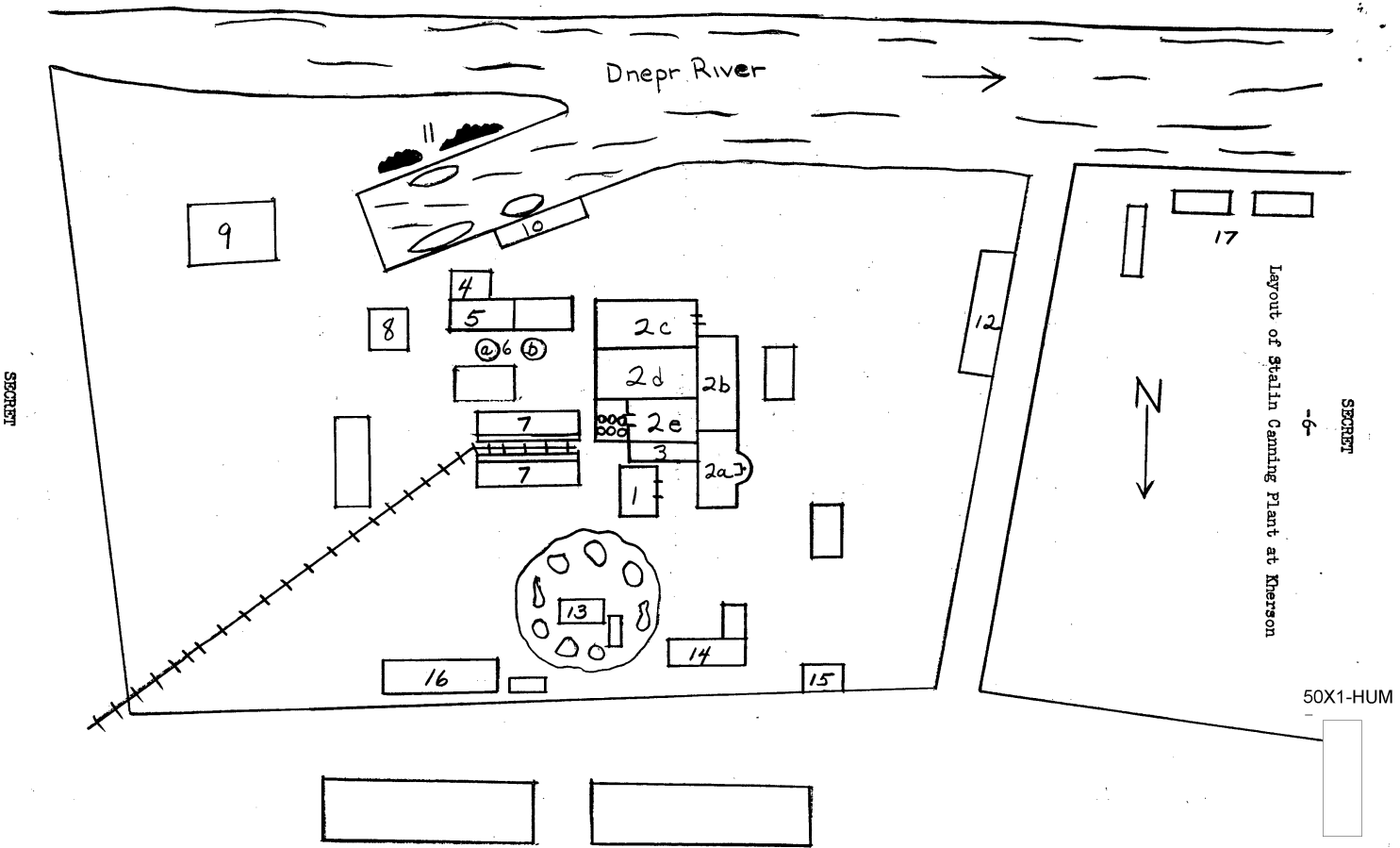
- 6a. Smokestacks. These are brick smokestacks, about 40 meters high.
- 6b. One of them (6b) was damaged during the war and has been repaired with metal instead of brick.
7. Warehouses. Finished products are shipped from these flat-roofed windowless buildings. The buildings are of white stucco, are about 60 meters long, and are built on high foundations. Each building has three large doors opening onto a loading platform, which extends along the sides and front of the warehouse. Between the buildings there is a railroad siding capable of handling two or three railroad cars at one time. However, most of the shipments from the plant go by truck rather than by rail.
8. Water station. This is a square brick building with electric pumps, three artesian wells, and three filters.
9. Electric station. This station consists of two gray brick buildings with several chimneys. It supplies electricity for the entire plant and also furnishes some power for the city of Kherson.
10. Landing pier and wooden storage sheds.
11. Coal dump.
12. Carpentry shop and storage shed for boxes, crates, etc. (bondärno-yashchichnyy tsekh). This section makes boxes and barrels for khalva and tomatoes.
13. Hothouse. The hothouse is located in a small area of trees and shrubs. Flowers and shrubs are grown here for general decorative purposes. One gardener is employed here; the present gardener is an old man who replaced another old man when the latter died a few years ago.
14. Garage. The plant has about 60 vehicles. These include two or three buses which make the run to and from the center of Kherson; trucks of various types, including some ZIS models; and a few automobiles, including a new Moskvich belonging to the plant director.
15. Plant entrance. This consists of a low wooden building through which all workers have to pass when entering or leaving the plant. A guard is on duty at the entrance at all times, and the checking of passes of persons entering the plant is strictly adhered to. Passes are not usually checked when workers leave the plant, nor are workers searched unless some suspicion has been aroused. Packages are usually examined. The truck entrance is right beside the workers' entrance. It has a sign over the gate bearing the name of the plant.  a50X1-HUM sketch of this section of the plant (See page 7 of this report).
16. Guard post and kennels. The plant employs about 20 armed fire guards and has from 10 to 15 dogs trained for guarding. The guards patrol only at night. The eastern side of the plant is patrolled only by dogs, who run up and down a passage formed by a second wooden fence which is located within the main outside fence. 50X1-HUM
17. Workers' settlement (tsyganskaya slobodka).



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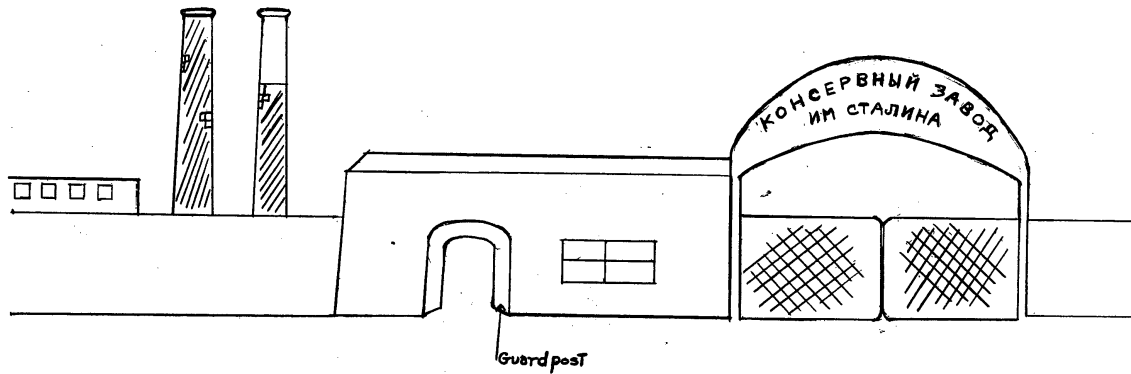


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Layout of Stalin Canning Plant at Kherson

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Main Entrance to the Stalin Canning Plant at Kiyerson

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