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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Voyage of Argentine SS MENDOZA to Stettin

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The Office of Naval Intelligence furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination in accordance with paragraph 3c of NSCID #7. This information was obtained by DIO-3ND and was forwarded as ONI report 208-537

- Itinerary: The Argentine cargo ship m/v MENDOZA arrived Stettin on 6 July 1953 from Dunkerque and loaded 4356.1 metric tons of coal destined for Buenos Aires. No cargo was discharged at Stettin. The MENDOZA sailed Stettin on 14 July 1953 for Bremen.
- Charter Information: The MENDOZA, owned by the Ministerio de Transportes de la Nacion Flota Argentina de Navegacion de Ultramar Compania Argentina de Navegacion Doderio of Buenos Aires, was under charter to the Ministerio de Transportes de la Nacion, E.N.T., to deliver a part cargo of about 4200 metric tons of coal to Buenos Aires. The shippers were Centrala Zbytu Wegla (Polish Coal Sales Corporation), Katowice. The charter was negotiated in London on 8 June 1953 by Kaye Son & Co., Ltd. for the charterers and by Kaye & Co., Ltd. for the owners. The charter form was entitled "The Baltic and International Maritime Conference, Polish Coal Charter 1950."
- Entry and Security Measures: The MENDOZA was met approximately ten miles off the mouth of the Oder River by a small Polish torpedo boat. She was boarded by an officer and a pilot. The latter used his own chart of the mine fields. The torpedo boat escorted the MENDOZA up the Oder River as far as Stettin. The ship moored at the coal docks in the Farnitz on the south end of Molln Wiese, where she was boarded and searched by approximately 35 Polish Marines. Thereafter, the ship was kept under guard at the bow, stern, and ladder by guards armed with submachine guns. The crew was allowed ashore after being advised not to mingle with the residents. It is believed that those going ashore were kept under surveillance.
- Naval Vessels: In the Damanscher Strom, just south of Canal Flanken, four new Soviet destroyers were moored. The MENDOZA saluted in passing and within several minutes each destroyer had lined the rail. The crews appeared well uniformed and showed excellent discipline.

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5. Military Installations: From Gross Korf Werder south to Stettin along both banks of the Oder River, numerous observation posts were observed. Some of these were armed with small calibre guns and all were equipped with machine guns. On the West banks of the Oder River, opposite Gross Korf Werder, a huge concrete structure resembling a fortification was observed. A large airport was observed behind the structure. When asked, the pilot said it was a fish factory.
6. Construction: Very little new construction was observed in the city. A large area had been destroyed by Soviet artillery when they captured it, and very little had been reconstructed. The only bridge across the Oder that was in use was the railroad bridge at Lastadie.
7. Other: The coal and railroad terminal was patrolled by armed, uniformed women, who seemed to be regular army personnel. All of the public buildings in Stettin flew Soviet, rather than Polish flags. Daily at 1000 while the ship was moored at the coal pier, loudspeakers broadcast music and propaganda to the workers. In the city of Stettin, the only money accepted from foreigners was dollars or English pounds. Each of the Polish marines wore a large button bearing Stalin's picture on his uniform. Several marines, befriended by a member of the MENDOZA's crew, confided to him that they hated the Soviets and hoped some day to overthrow their present state of oppression.
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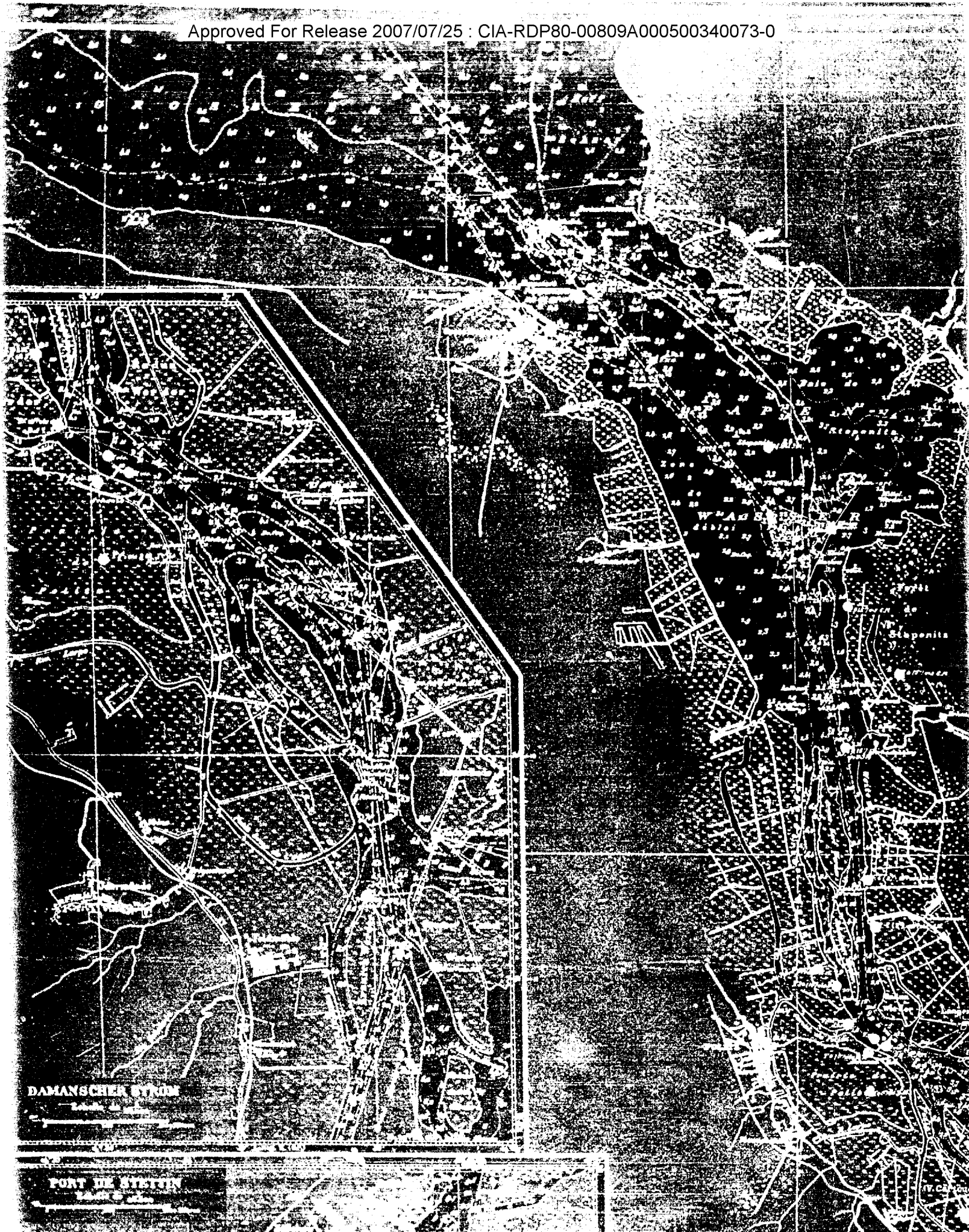
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**COURS DE L'ODER  
DE PAPERWASSER A SIELTEN**

Extrait du Carte de l'Allemagne allemande de 1932

Service Hydrographique de la Marine

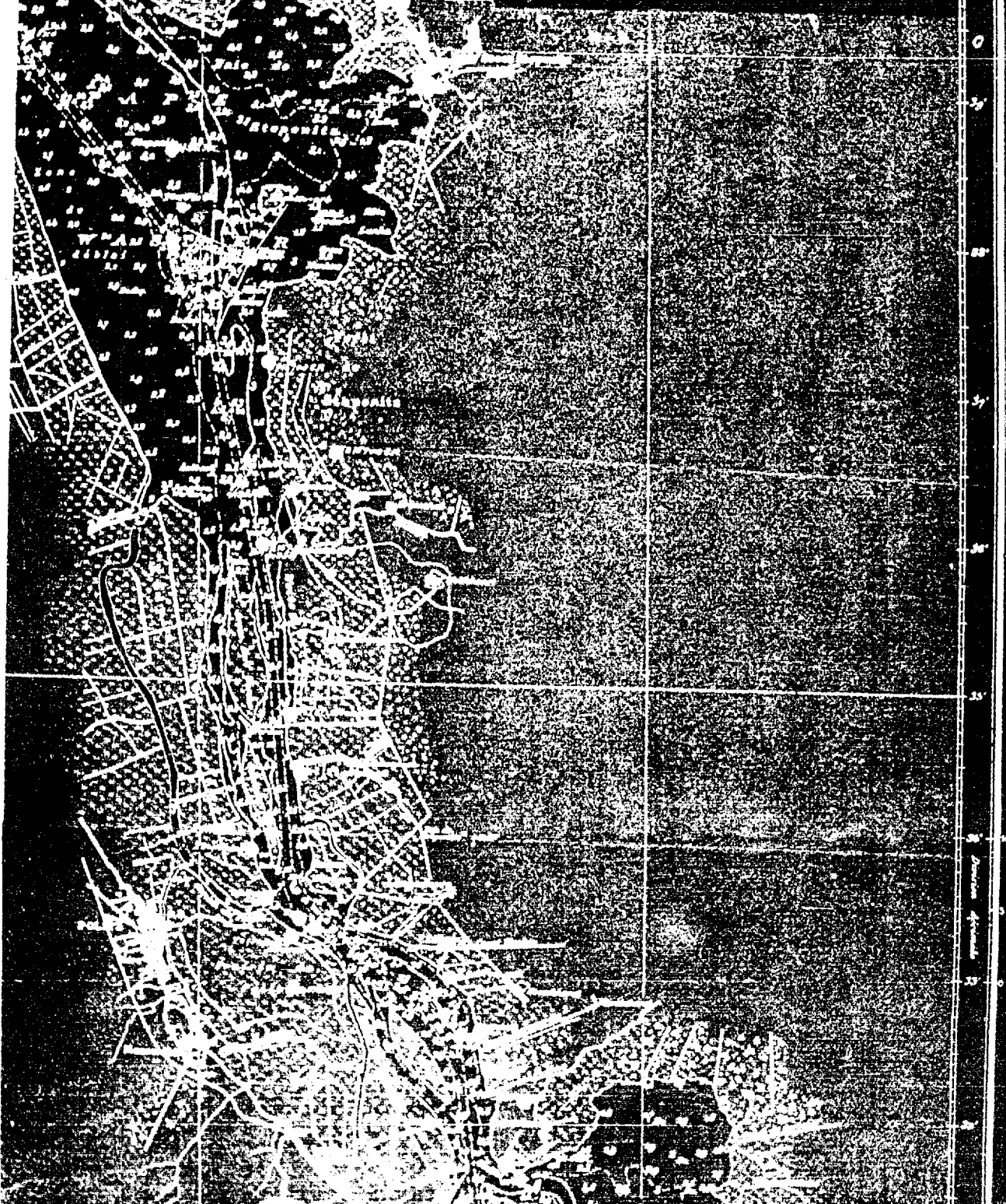
Échelle : 1:50,000

Relevé en 1914

Les points sont indiqués en mètres et décimètres au-dessus du

niveau moyen de la mer (L.N.M.S.)

Notes: Les points sont indiqués à la distance des points les plus proches de la ligne de l'Odre. Les points sont indiqués en mètres et décimètres au-dessus du niveau moyen de la mer (L.N.M.S.). Les points sont indiqués en mètres et décimètres au-dessus du niveau moyen de la mer (L.N.M.S.).





**DAMANSCHER STROM**

Echelle de 1:50,000

**PORT DE STETTIN**

Echelle de 1:50,000



ENCL: (1) French Hydrographie  
Chart 4075: "Cours de l'Oder  
de Bapinwasser a Stettin"  
DIO-3ND 208-53 28 Oct 53