

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Observations in the Harbor of Ventspils.	DATE DISTR.	19 May 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	3	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REFERENCES		

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In the southern part of Ventspils harbor, at the point where, in March 1952, [REDACTED] three submarines, there were two submarines, the bows of which faced east. The smaller of the two submarines was tied up along the harbor bank and had a gun mounted on its turret. The larger submarine, [REDACTED] stood alongside the smaller submarine [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] larger submarine [REDACTED] a sketch of this vessel is attached (see figure 1).

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2. About 250 meters east of the submarines, nine identical ships rode at anchor in groups of three; all stood parallel to the harbor bank, and their bows faced east. Only the port side of those ships [REDACTED] could be observed. [REDACTED]
25X1 Each ship appeared to be about 40 meters in length and carried the following armament:

- a. One gun forward, mounted in an armored shelter, with a caliber approximately that of a field artillery piece.
- b. One heavy antiaircraft machine gun (this may possibly have been a small antiaircraft cannon), on the forward deck of the pilot house.
- c. Three antiaircraft cannons, mounted at various heights on the after deck.

A slip for dropping mines was located at the stern; all ships were loaded with many mines, both covered and uncovered. Informant believes that these ships may have been among those which he described as trawlers in another report on this same subject. A sketch of one of these ships is attached (see figure 2).

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
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- 25X1 3. Among about thirty trawlers of various kinds [REDACTED] in
 25X1 Ventspils harbor, [REDACTED] four identical ships [REDACTED]
 25X1 [REDACTED] These ships ap-
 25X1 peared to be about 25 meters in length. They were armed with two identical
 25X1 cannons, of a caliber smaller than that of a field artillery piece; one cannon
 25X1 was located forward, and one aft of the pilot house. A slip for dropping mines,
 25X1 smaller than those mounted on the ships described in paragraph 2 above, was
 25X1 mounted on the stern. [REDACTED] the entire comp-
 25X1 lement of the crew gathered on one ship; [REDACTED] there were about
 25X1 twenty men. A sketch of one of these ships is attached (see figure 3).
4. About fifteen other trawlers were located at various parts of the harbor.
 25X1 [REDACTED]
 25X1 [REDACTED]
5. As reported earlier,¹ the entrance to Ventspils harbor is mined. The
 channel that must be followed by ships entering the harbor is marked by buoys.
 As indicated on the attached sketch (see figure 4), this channel follows the
 coast line for about four miles, and then goes in a westerly direction; the
 channel ends at the point at sea where the first two buoys are located. At a
 speed of ten miles per hour, informant's ship took three and a half hours to
 cover the distance through this channel from Ventspils harbor to the above-
 25X1 mentioned buoys.
- [REDACTED]

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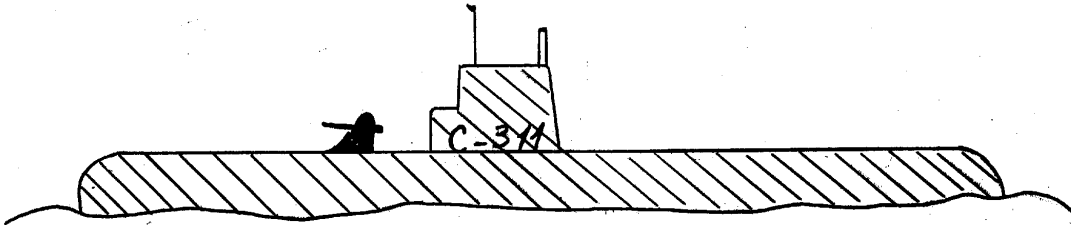


Figure 1. Sketch of Soviet submarine S-311

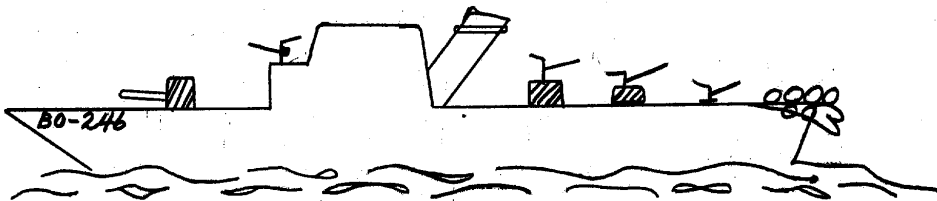


Figure 2. Sketch of Soviet submarine chaser BO-246

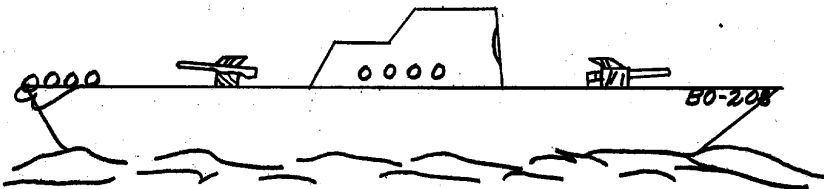


Figure 3. Sketch of Soviet fast motorboat BO-208

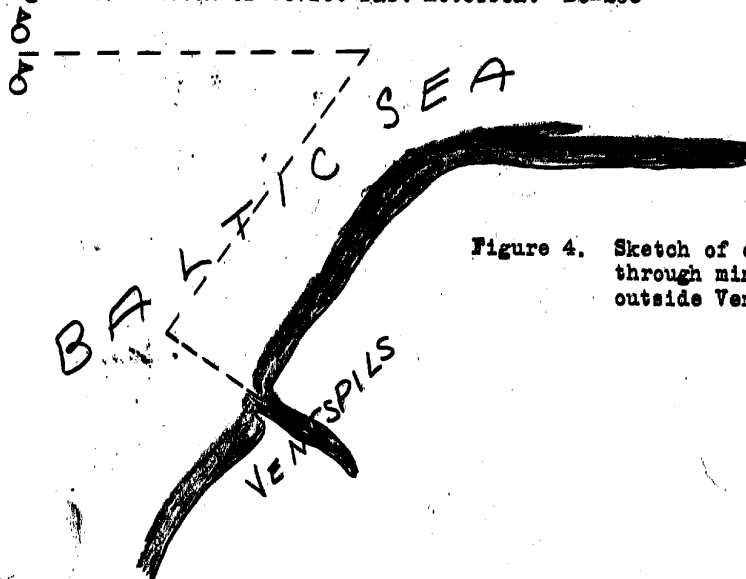


Figure 4. Sketch of channel through mine field outside Ventspils.

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