

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	1. Military Units in the Kazanluk Area 2. Military Airfields at Kazanluk 3. Factories at Kazanluk	DATE DISTR.	25 June 1953	
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MILITARY UNITS IN THE KAZANLUK AREA

The 23 "Shipka" Infantry Regiment -1952

1. The 23 "Shipka" Infantry Regiment occupies barracks located approximately 2,500 meters west of the middle of Kazanluk and approximately one kilometer north of the road to Plovdiv. (See Appendix, page 1a.) The regiment occupied these barracks prior to World War II, and retained both its unit designation and barracks when it was reorganized immediately after the war.
2. The buildings in the camp area are as follows: (See sketch on page 2.)
 1. Regimental Command and troop quarters. A stone masonry building about 180 by 20 meters in size, 4-sloped tile roof, divided into three sections inside:
 - a. Regimental Command and offices.
 - b. Quarters of two rifle companies.
 - c. Quarters of one rifle company.
 2. Troop quarters. Building identical to the one above, divided into two sections inside:
 - a. A rifle company.
 - b. A machine gun company.
 3. Troop quarters and garage. Building identical to the ones above, but divided into more sections of various dimensions. Quarters for the antitank company. A wing of the building is used as a garage.
 4. Troop quarters. Building identical to those above. Quarters for the Svirzochna Rota (Communications Company) and the regimental service unit.
 5. Depots. Identical stone masonry buildings, approximately 200 by 30 meters in size, 4-sloped tile roofs, storage for the following:

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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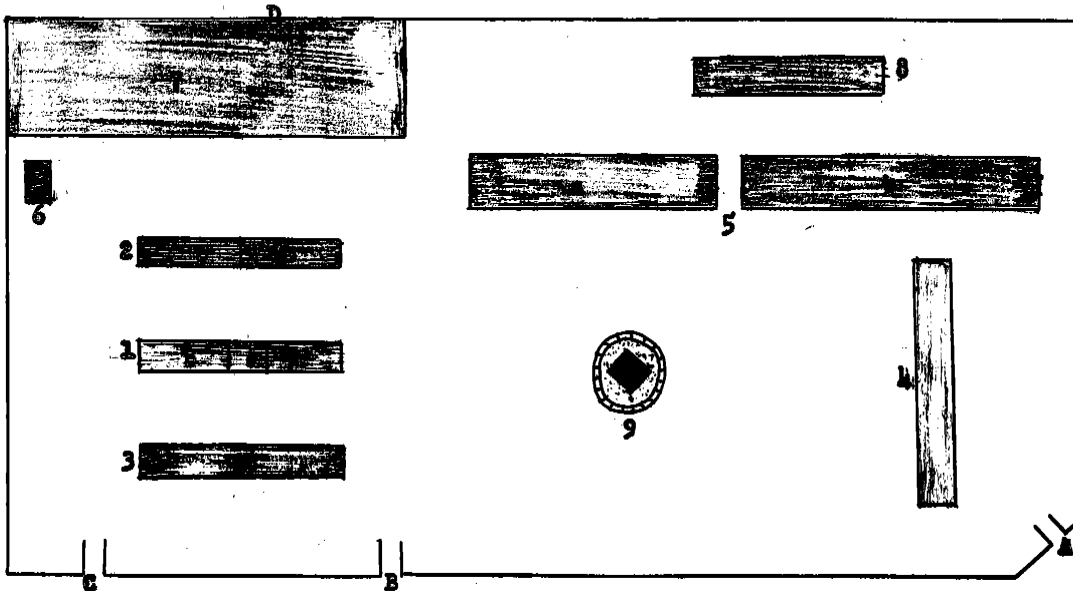
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- a. Bedding and clothing.
 - b. Weapons (pistols, rifles, submachine guns, machine guns, and light mortars) and ammunition for these weapons.
6. Kitchen and weapons repair shop. Stone masonry shed about 20 by 10 meters in size.
 7. Garrison bakery. Stone masonry building approximately 300 by 80 meters in size, one story high, hipped tile roof. Has a brick chimney 20-25 meters high.
 8. Stable. Stone masonry shed, dimensions unknown.
 9. Monument to the dead of World War I.



3. The camp has four entrances, as follows:
 - A. Gate reserved for officers.
 - B. Troop gate.
 - C. Motor vehicle gate.
 - D. Bakery entrance.
4. The camp is fenced in as follows:
 - a. North, east, south sides by a brick wall 1.80 meters high; and
 - b. West side by a fence 1.80 meters high.
5. The Bayata River runs along the west side of the barracks area.
6. An unknown number of sentries are located around the inside edge of the camp area and at the gates.

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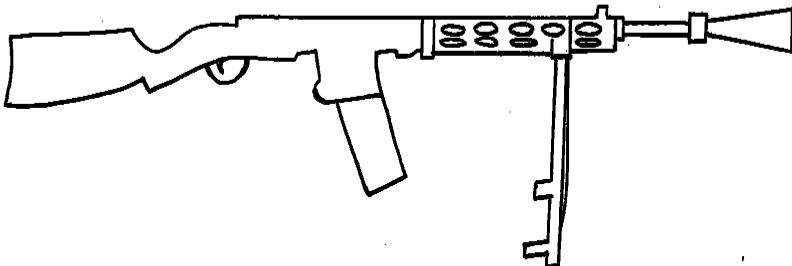
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7. The regiment has a strength of 700-800 men. Its officers are as follows:
- Commandant, a colonel;
 - Regimental chief of staff, a lieutenant colonel;
 - Political commissar, a lieutenant colonel;
 - Adjutant, a major; and
 - Supply officer and bakery director, a lieutenant colonel.
8. The units of the 23 Infantry Regiment are as follows:
- One service unit, strength unknown. Included personnel assigned to the various services, such as drivers, clerks, bakers, etc.
 - One communications company (svyaznaya rota), strength approximately 100 men. Weapons as follows: Pistols for officers and non-commissioned officers, rifles of Soviet make, and submachine guns with drum magazines (PPSh?) for approximately 20 percent of the soldiers. Communications equipment consists of an unknown number of camp telephones of various types and four field radios of unknown type; informant states that the equipment is of German make. Each of the communications apparatus is transported on a mule.
 - Four rifle companies, strength 100-120 men each, commanded by captains. Weapons for each company consist of Soviet-made rifles, approximately 20 sub-machine guns with drum magazines, and approximately 10 light machine guns. [redacted] the light machine guns resemble the Soviet Degtyarev model, but [redacted] the drum magazines are the curved box type inserted underneath the gun rather than the drum magazine attached over the firing mechanism as in the Degtyarev; the magazines resemble those of the most common types of submachine guns. [redacted]
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- One machine gun company, strength approximately 80-90 men. Personal weapons consist of pistols for officers, non-commissioned officers, and gun bearers, and rifles of Soviet make. Unit weapons consist of approximately 20 machine guns, partly Soviet Maksims and partly unidentified German models.
 - One antitank company, strength approximately 120 men. Personal weapons consist of pistols for officers, non-commissioned officers, and gun bearers, and Soviet short-barrel carbines. Unit weapons consist of approximately 10 antitank rifles of unknown make and caliber, each carried by one man. These guns have a barrel about 1.20 meters long, wooden stock similar to that of rifles, a bipod mount, and fire a single shot.
9. The regiment has 10 or 12 Soviet ZIS trucks of old model, 20-25 saddle horses, and approximately 15 mules.

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Tank Units at Kazanluk - 1952

10. Unidentified tank units are located in the restricted "Military Zone" in the hills approximately four kilometers northeast of Kazanluk. Armed guards were noted around the edges of the area. The area is closed to traffic [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] it is a well-known fact that there are tank units in this area.

Motorized Regiment at Stara Zagora - October 1952

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11. An unidentified field artillery motorized regiment occupies barracks approximately four kilometers from the center of Stara Zagora on the road to Kazanluk. [REDACTED] about 30 or 35 cannons parked in the immediate vicinity of the barracks. The guns have barrels approximately 1.20 meters long, are about 75 mm. caliber, and are mounted on wooden wheels with iron rims. Each artillery piece was coupled to a truck of unknown model.

MILITARY AIRFIELDS AT KAZANLUKUnidentified Military Airfield - November 1952

12. An unidentified military airfield which is now used as a fighter base is located approximately three kilometers northwest of the center of Kazanluk, on the north edge of the road to Golyamo Selo. (See Appendix, page 10.)
13. The airfield is approximately 1,500 by 1,300 meters in size and has a natural grass surface. It is surrounded by level plains which are planted to various farm crops. The field is occupied by approximately 100 Bulgarian student pilots. [REDACTED] Soviet specialists are employed at the airfield. The commander is an unidentified Bulgarian Air Force colonel.
14. [REDACTED] approximately 15 YAK fighter planes at the field. Every morning and afternoon training flights of one or two planes at a time, are in the air for two or three hour periods. The planes are usually heading toward Lovech, which is northwest of Kazanluk.
15. The airfield can be reached via a road which branches to the west from Skobelevska Street approximately one kilometer north of the center of Kazanluk. This road skirts the southern side of Zavod No. 13 and leads directly to the only entrance to the field. There are no railroad connections.
16. There is no runway at the field. Installations are as follows (numbers correspond to the sketch in the Appendix, page 10):
- Two hangars, iron and concrete construction, single-sloped roof, approximately 150 by 50 meters in size, located on the western side of the field. A concrete apron approximately 15 meters wide is located in front of the hangars.
 - Barracks, consisting of a main 1-story building approximately 120 by 40 meters in size, around which are two or three small buildings. This complex, which is located on the southern edge of the field, is enclosed on the east, south, and west by a wall and on the north by a picket fence.
 - Control tower, a square concrete building approximately 20 meters high with a wind sock on top.
 - Fuel depot, located between the hangars and the northwest corner of the field. Consists of three excavations approximately 50 meters apart where cylindrical barrels are stored. The excavations are covered with boards and foliage.

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17. At the eastern edge of the field [REDACTED] a row of lights outlining the landing area. These are large mushroom-shaped posts much like mooring posts in ports, approximately 30 centimeters high, with a red light on top of each. The posts are set at 20-25 meter intervals.
18. The airfield is delimited as follows:
- On the east, from the entrance to the southern corner, by a wall approximately two meters high;
 - On the south, by a wall approximately two meters high;
 - On the west, partly by the hangars and partly by a barbed wire fence and a low acacia hedge (approximately 50 centimeters); the Bayata River also marks the western boundary of the field; and
 - On the north and part of the field, by a barbed wire fence and an acacia hedge approximately 50 meters high.
19. Armed guards are located around the edge of the fields, at vital points, and in the barracks zone.
20. In 1947, nearly all the airplanes, personnel, and equipment at this airfield were transferred to the Lovech airfield. [REDACTED] the unit now at the field is subordinate to an unidentified command with headquarters at the Lovech field.

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Unidentified Military Airfield - Summer 1952

21. An unidentified military airfield is located approximately 3.5 kilometers southeast of the center of Kazanlık, on the east side of a road which branches from the Stara Zagora road and leads to the Thermal Baths on the left bank of the Tundsha River approximately 800 meters south of the edge of the airfield. This airfield is approximately six kilometers from the field described above.
22. The airfield is approximately 2,000 by 1,000 meters in size and has a natural grass surface. It is surrounded by a level plain planted to farm crops. The area between the airfield and the Tundsha River is wooded. The field could be enlarged substantially because of the level terrain which surrounds the area.
23. The field is occupied by unidentified Bulgarian units. [REDACTED] five or six single-engine planes and three or four old model biplanes [REDACTED] 15 or 20 airmen at the field servicing the planes [REDACTED]
24. The only access road to the field is the one listed above, branching to the south from the Stara Zagora road to the Thermal Baths. Farther on, after crossing the river on a wooden bridge, the road forks in two directions, one branch going to Gorno Cherkovishte and the other toward Surnena Gora Mountain.
25. There is no runway at the field. Installations are as follows (numbers correspond to the sketch in Appendix, page 10):
- Hangar, a concrete construction approximately 100 by 40 meters in size, located on the south side of the field about 150 meters from the eastern edge of the road which skirts the western side of the field.
 - Two wooden sheds, approximately 20 by five meters in size, located in the south-west corner of the field between the hangar and the road. [REDACTED] these buildings are used as personnel quarters.

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FACTORIES AT KAZANLŪK

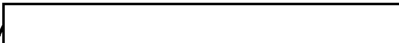
Zavod No. 13 - Summer 1952

26. Zavod No. 13 in Kazanlŭk is the former Caproni Aircraft Works. Prior to the war, it produced airplanes. From 1945 to 1950, it was engaged in manufacturing non-aeronautical products such as surgical instruments, drinking water filters, and other medical and hygienic articles. In 1950, it again started aeronautical activity.
27. The factory is located approximately three kilometers northwest of the center of Kazanlŭk, along the east side of the military airfield described above. Access to the field may be attained by a road which forks to the west from the road to Shipka at one kilometer north of the city. The road skirts the southern edge of the plant and continues to the airfield entrance. (See Appendix, page 10.)
28. The complex occupies an area approximately 600 by 400 meters in size and is enclosed by a brick wall about 2.50 meters high. [REDACTED] the number of workers as 600-700, [REDACTED] work is done in two shifts per day. The factory director is an unidentified Bulgarian Army colonel, an engineer.
29. The factory produces planes of various types. [REDACTED] the planes are of wooden construction covered with aluminum sheets. The factory receives unassembled engine parts which it assembles for the planes. It also produces metal parts for unknown uses. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The planes produced here are tested at the adjacent airfield and then flown to their assigned destinations.
30. The factory has the following installations (numbers correspond with those of the sketch on page 7):
1. Directorate and offices. A 1-story building, 30 by 20 meters in size, twin-sloped tile roof, has the following sections: Ground floor - drafting room, administrative offices, quarters for the factory Militia, and workers' control point. First floor - directorate and other offices.
 2. Stone masonry shed, approximately 120 by 40 meters in size, saw-toothed roof with skylight running lengthwise. Divided into two sections (communicating):
 - a. Foundry.
 - b. Metal parts production and engine assembly unit. Equipped with an unknown number of machines, such as milling machines, lathes, planes, etc.
 3. Stone masonry shed, identical to the one above, divided into two sections:
 - a. Carpentry shop. Equipped with various machinery for making the wooden parts for the airplanes.
 - b. Assembly section for the wooden parts.
 4. Section for the assembly of complete planes and equipping with accessories. Stone masonry shed 200 by 60 meters in size, roof like those of the other sheds.
 5. Fuel storage area. Fuel contained in cylindrical barrels standing in the area indicated.
 6. Open air depot for scrap aluminum. Enclosed by a fence around an area approximately 100 by 25 meters in size.

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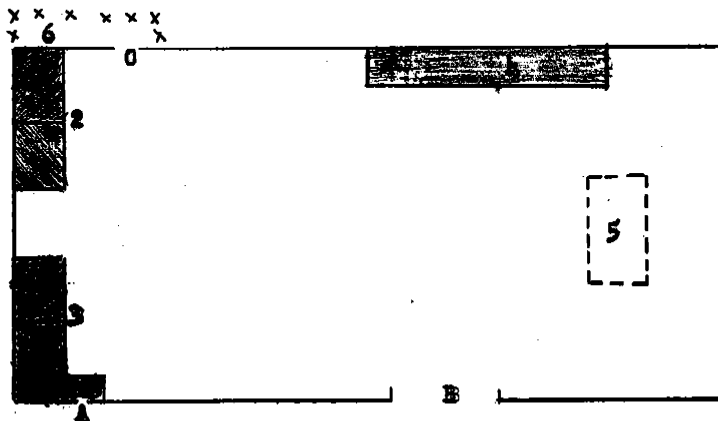
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- A. Main gate.
- B. Airplane entrance.
- C. Passage to the aluminum scrap depot.



31. The area is guarded by Militia personnel. A detachment of approximately 15 men is garrisoned near the factory. Armed guards are located at the various entrances and around the factory area.

Zavod No. 10 - Spring, Summer 1952

32. Zavod No. 10, a military factory, is located approximately one kilometer south of the center of Kasanlik, 600-700 meters from the railroad station, on the east side of Georgi Dimitrov Street which runs to the Tundaha River. (See Appendix, page 1B)

33. The factory occupies an area approximately 1,300 meters (east-west) by 1,500 meters (north-south). It is enclosed partly by a wall and partly by a fence.

34. The factory director is an unidentified Bulgarian Army colonel. Chernev (fn), a native of Kasanlik, is employed in the Commercial Section. [redacted] the complex, although directed by Bulgarian personnel, is actually under Soviet control. An unknown number of Soviet technicians and specialists are employed.

35. A total of approximately 3,000 workers are at the factory, divided into three shifts per day. [redacted] following items produced [redacted]

- a. Standard-type rifles;
- b. Miscellaneous guns; and
- c. Ammunition for portable weapons and artillery.

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36. [redacted]

(numbers correspond to the sketch on page 5): following installations at the plant:

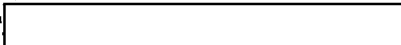
- 1. Swimming pool and kindergarten for the children of the workers. Separated from the rest of the complex by a metal fence. There are gardens between the plant and the kindergarten and swimming pool.

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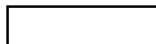


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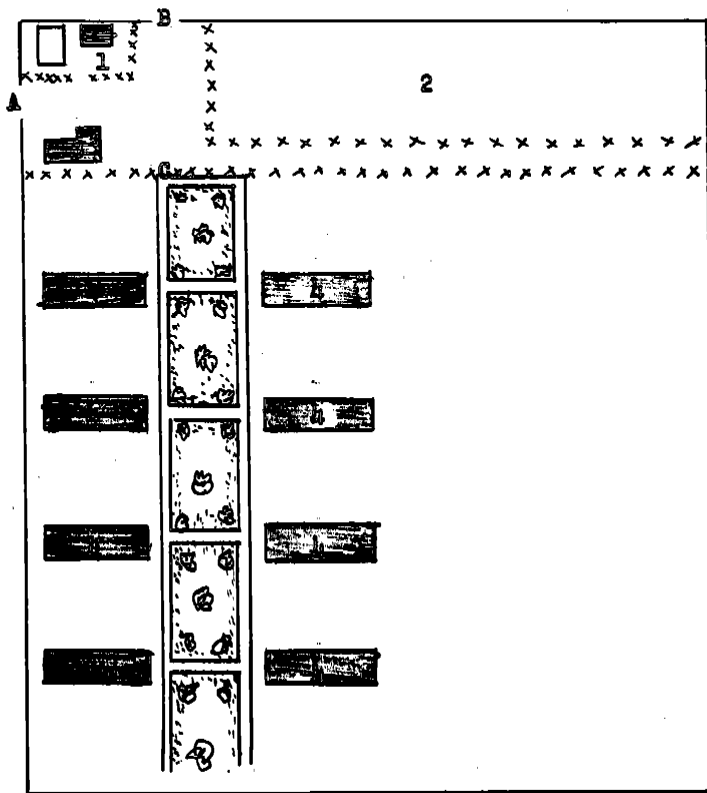


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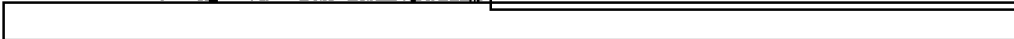


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- 2. Farming concern of the complex. Produces vegetables and barnyard animals for the workers' mess. This area is enclosed by a metal fence.
 - 3. Directorate and various offices. Building of unknown size. The eastern wing is one wing higher than the rest of the building.
 - 4. Production sections. Consists of eight sheds, arranged in two rows of four each. The sheds are all identical and are approximately 200 by 60 meters in size. The roofs have three saw-toothed skylights running in a lengthwise direction. There are gardens between the two groups of sheds. A metal fence which crosses the complex in an east-west direction divides the area of the offices, kindergarten, etc. from this zone.
- A. Main gate.
 - B. Entrance to the swimming pool, kindergarten, and farming concern.
 - C. Passage reserved for workersgoing to the various production sections.

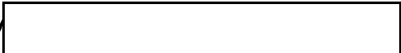


- 37. The other constructions located on the eastern side of the plant area are used as depots, dining rooms, etc.
- 38. The factory has railroad connections with the Kasanlik station.
- 39. Surveillance inside and outside the factory, the control of workers and clerks, etc. is carried out by a special armed guard known as "Vutreshni Voyski" or "Baykaltsi." These are blindly faithful individuals



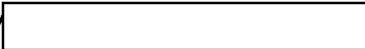
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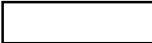
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Agricultural Machinery Repair Shop - November 1952

- 40. The MTS (Meterno Traktorno Stantsiya; Machine Tractor Station) in Kazanluk is located on the east side of Georgi Dimitrov Street in the southern periphery of the city. (See Appendix, page 10.)
- 41. The shop is subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture. It employs a total of approximately 120 workers and produces spare parts and repairs all kinds of agricultural machinery.
- 42. The plant consists of one building, about 50 by 20 meters in size, which is divided into two sections as follows:
 - a. Production of spare parts, equipped with two lathes, one milling machine, and an unknown number of drills, grindstones, etc.; and
 - b. Repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery.
- 43. The guard unit consists of Militia personnel. Only workers are permitted inside the shop.

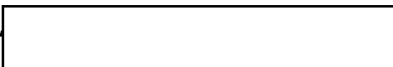
The I May Furniture Factory - November 1952

- 44. The I May Factory, which produces home and office furniture, is located in the western outskirts of Kazanluk. It consists of a single L-shaped building of unknown dimensions, occupies an area approximately 300 by 200 meters in size, and is enclosed by a wall about 3.5 meters high. (See Appendix, page 10.)
- 45. The factory employs about 250 workers, most of whom were formerly employed at Zavod No. 10 and were fired for being politically unreliable. These workers are known as "American Communists."
- 46. The factory is guarded by the Militia. Only workers and bearers of special passes are allowed to enter the plant.



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APPENDIX

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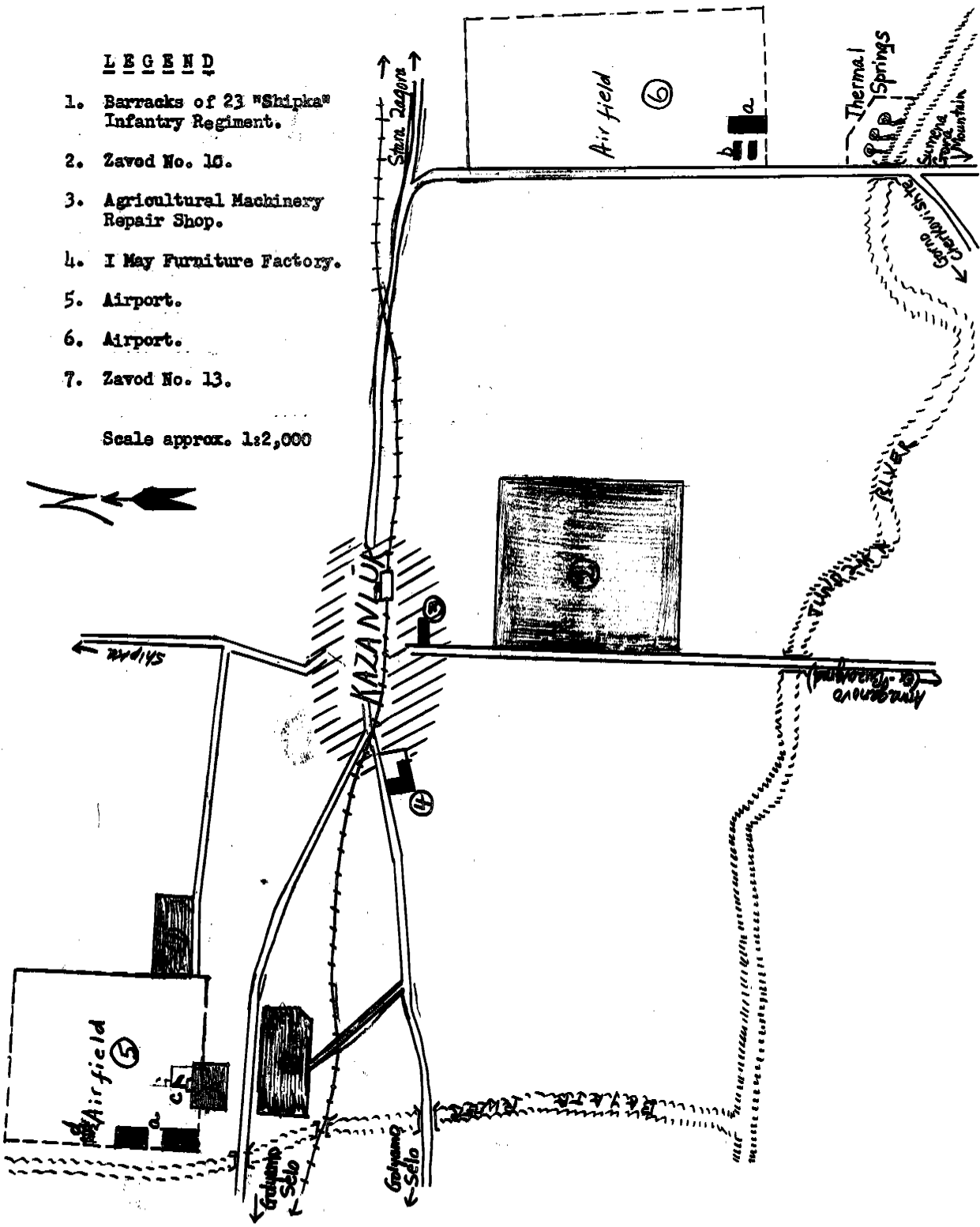
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Installations at Kazanluk

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- 1. Barracks of 23 "Shipka" Infantry Regiment.
- 2. Zavod No. 16.
- 3. Agricultural Machinery Repair Shop.
- 4. I May Furniture Factory.
- 5. Airport.
- 6. Airport.
- 7. Zavod No. 13.

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