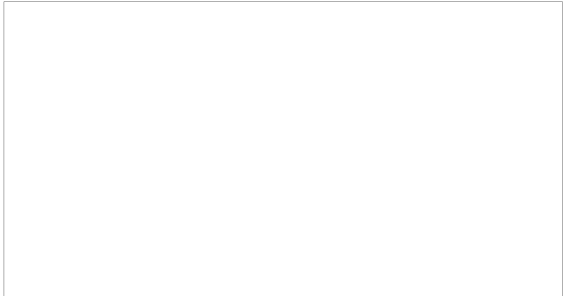
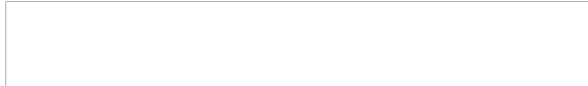


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INFORMATION ON URANIUM MINING IN EAST GERMANY



STAT

14 November 1950

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Notes: Each page of the original document was stamped (in German):

"Suitable for publication"

Pertinent Facts:

Assigned to mining from 19 March 1948 to 4 February 1950, to "Object A", Shaft Grosse Malvine, in Annaberg. Was last at the experimental installation at Roehrdorf near Chemnitz, as dispatcher.

After I was assigned to the mines, I was first sent to Annaberg. I was employed as dispatcher at the Malvine shaft. The daily output amounted to 160 - 180 minescars per shift. There were plenty of ore veins. The ore brought out was taken to the ore-dressing plant in Oberschlema. According to my estimate, about 500 workers are employed in one shift. Working conditions and safety conditions are very bad.

The Malvine shaft has three levels, at 110, 150 - 160, and approximately 180 meters. The lowest level was the most productive.

In June 1949 I was transferred to the experimental installation in Roehrdorf near Chemnitz, and was also employed as dispatcher there.

The experimental installation includes three shafts. The former second shaft was closed down in November ~~1948~~ 1949. When I left only 160 men were employed in one shift. The greatest amount of ore was being obtained by open-pit mining and from Shaft 4. In the west galleries in Shaft 1 there were indications of good ore production.

Production in Shaft 1 amounted to an average of 45 minescars per shift. The ore was sent to the railroad station for loading. ~~Stimmte~~ I do not know what the destination was.

Open-pit mining has been stopped at present and is supposedly not to be resumed until spring.

Engineer Rudi Kirschberg (of the SED -- Socialist Unity Party) is the manager of the installation. The technical manager is Heins Barth. The installation is/ not yet under Russian ^{supervision.} ~~guard.~~

Dated: 22 February 1950

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Pertinent Facts:

mining
 Employed in ~~mining~~ from 23 May 1948 to 10 February 1950, in "Objects" No. 99 and 100 in Aus. On 26 May ~~22~~ 1948 I started work in the laboratory of the Soviet corporation "Wismuth" (Bismuth) at Object 100. I worked on series analyses of production samples. Each ~~sample~~ ^{stage of production} was analysed. These included: the run of ore, solution, saturated solution, sludge solution, residue (ore and sludge), concentrate, and waste water. After a short time I was transferred to the experimental laboratory. There experiments were constantly being carried on to improve the production and the production processes. The laboratory ~~maintained~~ ^{maintained constant supervision} over the operations in the installation. When I was discharged after my accident, I was sent to Object 99 to recuperate. I did minor supervisory jobs in the laboratory at the installation and in the sludge department, which was still under construction, until I was transferred back to Object 100 after a week. Then my career really started. I went through the production process, and was under orders from the management of the installation to learn every stage of the work, so that actually I am one of the ^{very} few who really know the whole installation. *[Note: Although source may be familiar with the installation, his rather naive description of the processes make it appear unlikely that he is a technical expert.]*
 Here I should like to give a brief description:

The ore arrives ~~at~~ ^{on} by rail ~~at~~ the siding which runs to the installation. There it is unloaded and carried ~~in~~ ^{by} a lift about 500 meters long to the ball mill, where it is ground. From there it goes to Departments A and B.

Process: The ore is carried to a suction filter and covered with 6 - 9-percent hydrochloric acid. After ~~it~~ being leached twice with acid, the ore is washed with water so that any remaining acid solution will be separated from the ore. The residue is carried to the dump, while the solution is processed further -- that is, ~~precipitated~~ ^{precipitated} with powdered lime or soda lye. Thus the process is to dissolve ^{in the acid} the metal contained in the ore and then to precipitate the metal salts by treating the solution with soda lye. *[Note: part of the preceding sentence is missing in the original, but this appeared to be the sense of it.]* The solution containing the precipitate is then put through a filter press, and the residue is the concentrate. The solution is

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run off as waste water. The concentrate is then dried and mixed and made ready for shipment.

After I had worked in this branch of production in Department B, I was transferred, on 15 February 1949, and became shift foreman ~~in~~ in Department C, as foreman of a shift, My job, ~~involved full responsibility~~ the supervision of the chemical and technical process, and as leader of the workers I was also fully responsible for the Department during the hours which I worked. This Department, which operated much more profitably than the others, ^{used} followed the following ^{system:} principles: The ore ^{is} was pumped in the form of sludge from the ball mill into two concentrators, where it ^{is} was separated from the water. From there it progresses through seven vessels in which it is treated with soda ^[sic], during which process the metal is dissolved. It takes a long time -- about a week -- for a grain of ore to pass through all these vessels, and 97-percent extraction is achieved. The sludge goes through a filter press, and the residue from the press goes to the dump. The solution is sent to be precipitated. Before this can take place the ~~xxx~~ solution must be treated with acid. This is done by adding hydrochloric acid. The rest of the process is the same as in Departments A and B: the finished concentrate is put through a press, dried, and mixed. Further processing takes place in the "Weisser Hirsch" installation in Schneeberg.

Production at Object 100:

The processing departments A, B, and C had the following production plans: ^{dressed}

Department A: 100 tons of ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ore per day. With one large and four small concentrate presses, this would produce a theoretical yield of ^{Note: Figure was not clear; may have been intended to read: 235 kilograms} 23 - 25/kilograms of dried concentrate per day.

Department B: 116 tons of dressed ore with 200 kilograms of concentrate.

Department C: 50 tons of dressed ore and about 50 kilograms of concentrate every 48 hours (two working days).

The average content of pure uranium for the various samples averaged:

Run of ore: 0.01 - 0.018 percent

Solution (normal): 180 - 230 milligrams per liter

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Solution (sludge): 250 - 320 milligrams per liter

Concentrates: 1.6 - 1.8 percent

Concentrate sludge: 1.7 - 2.7 percent

} Evaluation after conversion
into pure uranium
terms of

Waste water: 8 - 14 milligrams per liter

The actual production was usually about 5 - 12 percent above the planned figure for dressed ore and about 1 - 1.8 percent below the planned figure for concentrates.

All other departments -- such as the ball mill, the acid, ore, and soda transportation departments -- had to adapt their work to that of the production departments.

Personnel at Object 100, May 1949

Plant manager: Dr Meister

Department managers: Rudolf Zimmer** (Department A), Heinz Roehmisch (Department B), Erhard Irmisch (Department C).

Shift foremen:

Department B: Max Birgfeld*, Kurt Freitag, Emil Zacharias*

Department A: Karl Martin, Fritz Noetzold*, Horst ?*

Department C: Josef Somiecky, Kurt Leistner, Hans Juergen Espig

Ball mill: Fritz Martin (new mill), Kraemer (old mill)

Transportation: Fritz Dangel **

Laboratory: Eva Mog

SED plant group: Herbert Hiller**, Manfred Mehlhorn**

FDOB (Free German Trade Union) plant group: Paul Viol**

Construction department: Construction specialist Richter

Technical department: Herbert Sonntag (chief engineer)

* Indicates members of the SED

** Indicates members of the SED who hold special positions.

Dated: 24 February 1950

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Pertinent Facts:

Employed in mining from 13 January 1949 to May 1949, as dispatcher in Object 12, Shaft 157/58, then as bookkeeper in the installation's SED and FMOB administration.

Object 12 employs about 2,500 - 3000 men, and was the ²mining installation. The Object operates the following shafts: Shaft 30-22, 2/27/51/199/154/187/54/39.

There is also a 15-man transportation ~~unit~~ unit attached to Object 12.

A dispatcher receives 200 - 300 Deutsche marks net per month; a miner, 500 - 1200; a master miner, 1,400 - 2,000; a chief master miner, 1,500 - 3,000; a deputy shaft manager, the same as a chief master miner. These wages include bonuses, prizes, etc. The formula of ~~25~~ 55-percent supplement for underground work and 20-percent supplement for above-ground work has been maintained. The salaries of white-collar workers run between 250 Deutsche marks, plus 20-percent supplement, and 600, plus 20percent supplement (chief bookkeeper).

During the last quarter year I was employed mainly as a recruiting agent. I organized assemblies in conjunction with the Labor Office. We were not assigned a quota to ~~recruit~~ recruit. Most of the recruiting operations were negative. I was employed in the Labor Office districts of Kamenz, Bautzen, and Goerlitz. The Labor Offices, however, had a quota to fill. For example, Kamenz had to furnish 300 men per quarter year, Bautzen 500 men, and Goerlitz 800 men.

I know that a new installation of the Wismuth Corporation (Object 28) was put into operation in the Food Supply Office between Ostritz and Goerlitz. Its main office was in Goerlitz. After drillings in this area were completed, in December 1949, mainly women were employed up to the time of my departure. The number of persons employed in the installation may probably be estimated at about ~~2~~ 250 women and 50 men. I also know that drillings are being undertaken between Ostritz and Zittau and around Zittau. It is said that copper has been found.

Dated: 14 February 1950

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Pertinent Facts:

I know that the ore from the Oberschlema region was shipped as follows:

1. The best grade of ore (Stoffers) is shipped as crude/^{ore}to the forwarding terminal in Brest (USSR)

2. Less valuable ores are sent to Lengenfeld (Vogtland), Tannenbergthal, and Freiberg for dressing.

The shipments of high-grade ~~xxx~~ crude ore are made from the Oberschlema railroad station direct to Brest. Ordinary box cars, which have been checked for serviceability, are used for the shipments.

The ore from the ore-dressing plant is carried by truck.

The following shipments were made from Oberschlema:

In October 1949, about three or four trains of about 40 cars each (15 and 20 tons). About 60 cars of grade II ~~xxx~~ ore were said to have been loaded and shipped out daily. During the period from mid-January 1950 to the beginning of February no shipments were made to Brest.

Dated: 17 February 1950

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