

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Airfields at Borongaj, Ljubljana and Skopice (Cerklje)

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1. Borongaj Airfield - 1 October 1948

- a. There is a glider school in Borongaj, near Zagreb, under the direction of Mirko Vlahovic, age 35. The school has five glider monoplanes named Orlik, Zdral, Kavka, Jastreb and Vrabac. All gliders are single-seaters with a 10 meter wingspread, and were constructed by an Engineer Sostaric. They are started by towing machines of German origin.
- b. Courses in Borongaj last for a period of one month, after which two examinations are given. Each course is attended by about 80 pupils, including girls. Pupils are between 16 and 25 years old. Further training is given in Vrsac, where a third examination is held.
- c. Motor piloting is taught in Ruma and Vrsac. After completing the course, which lasts three months, the pupil is given the rank of lance sergeant. Motor piloting courses in Ruma and Vrsac are open to SKOJ members only.
- d. On the Borongaj airfield, there is an aircraft workshop where fuselages of Russian Stormoviks are replaced by metal fuselages.

2. Ljubljana Airfield - 1 November 1948

- a. During 1948, the ground south of the Ljubljana-Zagreb railroad line has been leveled as far as the Ljubljana-Zalog national highway. An additional area of 750 by 450 meters has thereby been added to the field along the railroad to the south. As of 1 November 1948, this area had not been used for landing of aircraft but was being used as training ground for the Ljubljana garrison. The airfield was also extended to the west to take in an area about 1,000 by 500 meters which had been partly cleared of shrubbery and trees during the Italian occupation.

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- b. Jakob Bricelj is now deputy airfield commander and political commissar; he is a trained pilot, about 30 years old, born in Ljubljana.
- c. On 1 November 1948, there were 20 aircraft of various types on the field, including two Russian PE-2; five I-153; four Stormovik fighter-bombers; three Spitfires; and three unidentified training planes.
- d. An anti-aircraft battery consisting of three guns of Soviet origin, caliber 3.7 centimeters, is located immediately south of the airfield's first-aid station and the railroad track; another battery with three guns, also of Soviet origin, caliber 3.7 centimeters, is located in the village of Hrastje, north of the airfield; a third battery including two quadruple-barrel machine guns of German origin is located at the far southwest end of the field.
- e. Two companies of the 1 Battalion of the 2 KNQJ Division guard the field. The men are billeted in the village of Slape, southeast of the field, and are transported by truck to and from the field. An additional company of the 1 Battalion is billeted in the Fuzine Castle on the Ljubljanica River, south of the field.
3. Skopice (Cerklje) Airfield - 2 October 1948
- a. Work on a concrete road eight meters wide was started in the fall of 1946 and the road was finished in mid-1947. It runs almost through the middle of the Skopice airfield, linking the village of Cerklje, southwest of the airfield, with the village of Mrtvica on the north. Along both sides of the concrete road, two landing strips have been built. They are not made of concrete. Originally, the airfield extended only to the east of the new road. During 1947, however, it was extended to the west of the new road, reaching almost to the road which leads from Cerklje through Zasip to Drnovo. [REDACTED] Comment: It is possible that the new road is intended to serve as a runway.)
- b. Three new barracks, 100 by 20 meters, are now being constructed along the national highway between Zagreb and Ljubljana. They lie east of the highway, at the entrance to the village of Cerklje, opposite the elementary school. The barracks will be three stories high; construction is of concrete as far as the second floor, and above that, of brick. These three barracks will be finished by winter of 1949. Another barracks is being built on the outskirts of the village of Mrtvica.
- c. Construction work is directed by Engineer Ciril Vrhovec, age 27 of Celje. His assistant is a construction engineer, Jozef Pacek, age 35, of Bucka. Both are non-Communists. All building projects at the airfield are undertaken by the state construction organization, Gradis.
- d. There are 30 aircraft on the airfield at present. Among them are Spitfires, Messerschmidts, and YAKs.
- e. The airfield is guarded by a battalion of young, poorly equipped soldiers. They are billeted in Cerklje and Mrtvica and are commanded by Major Sabnik, a Slovene, age 35, who lives in Cerklje. Soldiers are armed with infantry weapons only and have no heavy weapons.

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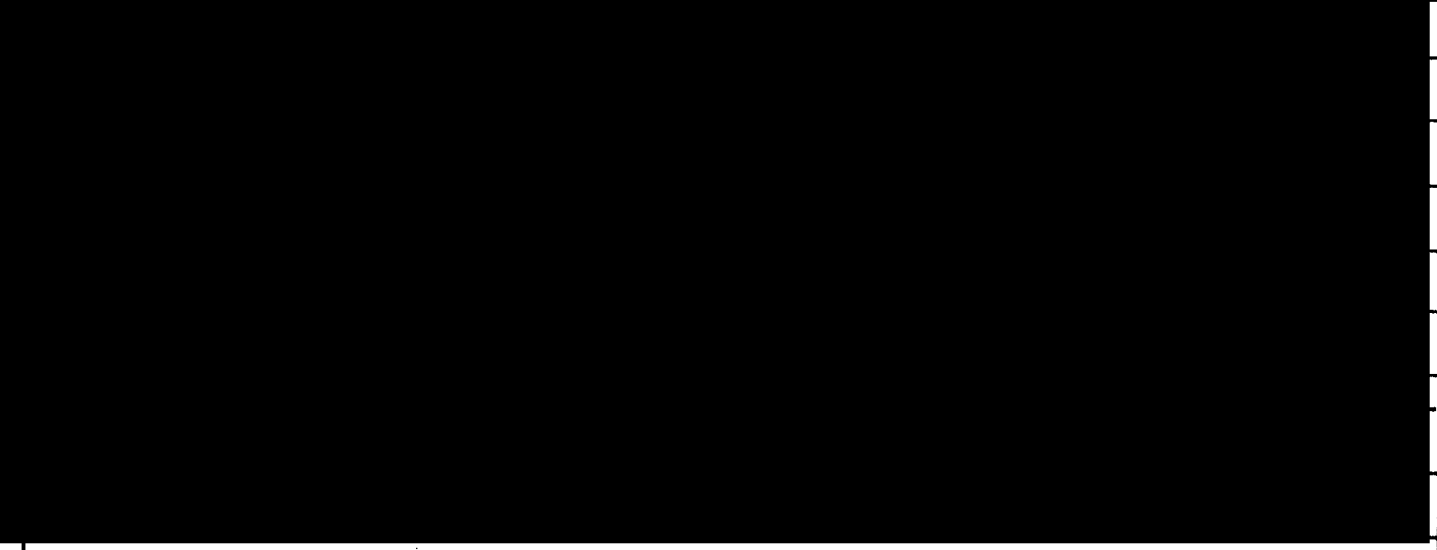
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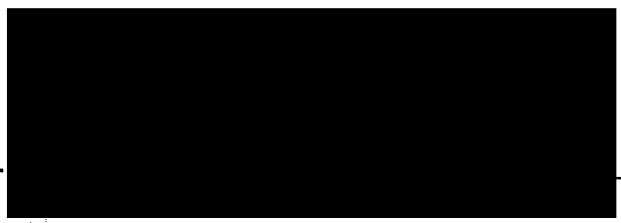
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Chief, Transportation Group

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