

INFORMATION REPORT

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File 306

COUNTRY USSR (Kirov Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 5 March 1952

SUBJECT Shell Factory No. 324 in Kirov

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25X1A

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. 2 (4 pages)
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

- The Kalinin Shell Factory No 324 was west of Kirov (56°37'N/49°49'E) between the highway to Khalturin (53°33'N/40°50'E) and the railroad line to Gorli (53°21'N/43°52'E). The plant was said to be 2 to 3 km from the outskirts of Kirov and from the crossing of the Kirov-Kotlas (61°16'N/46°33'E) railroad line with the highway to Khalturin. *
- The plant built in 1941 or 1942. Almost all the plant's buildings were wooden structures which were over 100 meters long and were in part lined with masonry. The roofs, made of wood covered with roofing paper, had ridge skylights. The plant had a crushing department, two pressing shops, a latho shop for rough-turning, a latho shop with threading lathes, a latho shop with precision turning lathes, a department for the construction of cultivators, a department for the construction of harrows, a department for the construction of spare parts, a repair department and an electric repair department. ** A new foundry was allegedly scheduled to be built on the construction site south of the plant. By 1945, 60 percent of the machinery was of British and American make. In 1947 antiquated Russian machines were replaced by 60 to 100 German special machines.
- Wartime production consisted exclusively of 76.2 to 122 mm shells. According to Soviets, half of the production was converted to the construction of harrow and cultivators between the end of 1945 and the beginning of 1947. But the plant continued to produce shells even after the war. The round and square iron pieces supplied to the plant were broken in the crushing department into slugs 30 to 45 cm long. The daily norm of a 15 to 20-man brigade was 600 pieces of square iron, 15 cm thick. The slugs then were moved by crane or truck to workshop 1 for pressing. They were rough-turned in workshop 2. The fuze part was processed in workshop 3. The shells were laquered and packed in boxes, two at a time, in workshop 5. The wartime production norm varied between 2,000 and 3,000 shells daily. The daily production early in 1945 was 2,500 pieces. The production figure was between 1,000 and 1,500 late in 1947 and between 1,300 and 1,500 late in 1948. The shells were without fuzes and filling. The calibers were 105mm, 122 mm, and 150 mm.

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4. The construction of cultivators started in January 1947. One source heard that in autumn 1947, the production target for cultivators was approximately 500 a month. For harrows, the prescribed quota was 1,000 units, presumably per month. Ball races (Kugellagerringe) were produced from the shell clippings until mid-1946. Small turbines for Kolkhoz farms were produced until late in 1946. Raw material shipments arrived at the plant included iron bars 4 meters long and longer. ***
5. The plant employed between 2,200 and 2,700 men, working in three shifts. The plant was surrounded by a wooden fence and watchtowers. Women were employed as plant militia.

25X1A* [REDACTED] Comment. For the location of the plant, see the sketch in Annex 1. The actual location of the plant has not yet been determined. The indications of the [REDACTED] plant installations largely correspond. In addition to the plant number 324, which was mentioned repeatedly, the numbers 266 and 247 were also indicated. It is not yet clear whether [REDACTED] were mistaken 25X1X or whether these numbers refer to individual workshops. It is also possible that the plant was given another number after it had partly been converted to another production.

25X1A** [REDACTED] Comment. For the plant's layout see Annex 2. The information from the various PW's agrees in general. [REDACTED] electric power was 25X1X supplied by a plant-owned power station. The existence of the power station was indicated by [REDACTED] with certain reservations. 25X1X

25X1A*** [REDACTED] Comment. The plant's production has largely been determined. In particular 105-mm AA shells and 150-mm artillery shells are produced. The shells are filled in another plant not yet identified. Only [REDACTED] that 25X1X filled AA shells left the plant.

Annexes:

1. Location of Shell Factory No. 324 in Kirov
2. Layout of Shell Factory No. 324 in Kirov with Legend.

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