

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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50X1-HUM

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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Tractor and Tank Works at Chelyabinsk

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Location

A tractor and tank works is located a few kilometers south of Chelyabinsk and initially runs along the east side of the main road leading south from the town. This road is known as Leninskaya Ulitsa in the middle of the town.

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History

The works, which consists of plants producing tractors and tanks, a steel foundry and rolling mills, and an electric plant, was constructed before the war, over a period of years, under the development plan for the mineral and industrial area of Chelyabinsk. The works is known as the Chelyabinsk Tractor Works (Chelyabinski Traktorny Zavod), because it was originally built as such and tractors are supposed to be the main product. The tractor plant is said to have been built first. The tank plant was joined on to it shortly before or during the war. The rolling mills were built about the same time as the tank plant.

Production

The heaviest caterpillar tractors were constructed in the tractor plant. Machinery was American and German; 80 per cent of the work was on the conveyor belt system. Informant heard that modern tanks were manufactured in the tank plant situated south of the tractor plant. Ore was treated in blast and Martin furnaces at the steel foundry and rolling mills, situated south of and adjoining the tank plant. The number of furnaces was not known.

Labor

In the tractor plant nearly 15,000 workers were employed, including Soviet civilians, prisoners, and German P.W.s. In the tank plant Soviet civilian workers and prisoners, but no German P.W.s, were employed. Type of workers in the steel foundry and rolling mills was not known. It was said that the works employed in all about 50,000 workers in three shifts.

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Source of Raw Materials

6. Metals of various kinds and shapes were received by the tractor plant from the steel foundry and rolling mills. Ore for the blast furnaces was received from the Chelyabinsk area. Coal for the electric plant came from a coal mine about 30 kilometers from Chelyabinsk. Its name and direction were not known. It was known, however, that this mine had 46 shafts and that the coal was at a great depth underground. It was not of good quality but was plentiful. (Owing to dampness, work in this mine was performed in rubber suits. Information about the coal mine came from men who had worked there.)

Security Measures

6. The tractor plant itself, and as far as the eye could see beyond it, was surrounded by a high fence. Watchtowers were situated outside the works at intervals of about 200 meters. Inside the works and at the entrances there were civilian guards. Workers' passes were examined. Supervision of the Soviet prisoners and the German PWs was carried out by military guards.

Layout of Works

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7. [redacted] the works was spread out over an area of more than 20 (square ?) kilometers. [redacted]

[redacted] the buildings and workshops were unusually large and thus prevented [redacted] a wider view. Details are as follows: 50X1-HUM

a. Tractor Plant: Approximately 3 km long by 2 km wide.

- 1) 1-3 on sketch are very long, two-storied brick buildings. 1 and 2 were used as the administration offices of the tractor plant.

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- 2) [redacted] were reinforced concrete shops, averaging 200 meters in length and about 15-20 meters high. They were used for the most part for the assembly of tractors on conveyor belts. South of these shops there were many other buildings which could not be identified.

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- 3) [redacted] is the approximate site of the electric plant, which may have been about 300 meters long.

b. Tank Factory: Extends over an area of 2 x 2 kilometers.

c. Steel Foundry, Rolling Mills and Blast Furnaces.

- d. Running along the western and eastern sides of the works there were several Soviet gauge railway lines which branched off into the works. There were stopping places and long ramps. Besides smaller roads, one or two main roads ran through the tractor plant from north to south which apparently connected the different plants. The impression which may be gained [redacted] that all the plants are rectilinear is not correct. 50X1-HUM

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