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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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- 1. The airfield northwest of Melitopol (35°22'N/46°51'E), Ukrainian SSR, west of the railroad line to Zaporozhe (35°10'E/47°50'N), was a military airfield. Its destroyed installations were being reconstructed. There was a railroad connection from the southeast.
- 2/ The landing field of firm, sandy soil had a thin grass cover.
- 3, Some destroyed buildings and the following installations were on the southeastern edge of the field :
 - a. Two new stone buildings, each 20 x 60 meters, the frame work of which was completed
 - b. Three cantonment buildings
 - c. A two-story stone building
 - d. Six storage sheds with loading ramps

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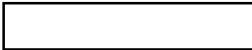
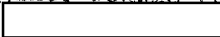
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4. The field was occupied by twin-engine bombers and biplanes. Description of bomber aircraft : In-line engine, tail of engine protruding beyond trailing edge of wings, double rudder assembly, landing gear retracting rearward, tail wheel, fuselage considerably shorter forward than aft of wings.
5. There was day and night flying. In fine weather up to 20 twin-engine aircraft and 5 biplanes were in the air at the same time. Three or four twin-engine aircraft were often observed firing at a large sleeve target towed by a twin-engine plane.
6. The officers and EM stationed at the field arrived every morning on 25 to 30 buses and trucks (capacity 20 to 25 men each), as the airfield quarters were not completed.
7. The airfield northwest of the Melitopol railroad station had no runways. It could be expanded to all sides except the south. The field was serviceable in spite of the destroyed hangars and buildings on the southern edge.
- 25X1 8. The following installations were at the field 
 - a. Two officers' dwelling houses, one of which was occupied by air force field officers and their dependents in October/November 1949.
 - b. Two large EM quarters, one of which was fully occupied.
 - c. A PX shop.
 - d. Two destroyed buildings in the cellars of which ammunition and ordnance equipment was stored.
 - e. A flight control station and a radio station.
 - f. Officers' club.
9. There was a fuel dump of six to eight large tanks dismantled from railroad tank cars.
10. The field was permanently occupied by :
 - a. Thirty twin-engine bombers (in-line engine, double rudder assembly) which were called "improved Pe-2s"  Sixty to ninety aircraft of this type were parked at the field up to mid-October 1949 and only 30 from mid-October to November 1949.
 - b. Four biplanes.
11. There was day and night flying of individual planes (take-offs and landings) and of aircraft in formations of up to 30 planes.

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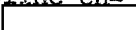
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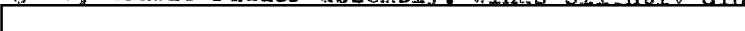
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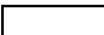
Firing at sleeve targets and firing from aircraft weapons at ground targets was practiced.


12. The airfield was northwest of Melitopol, west of the railroad line to Zaporozhe. PWs of PW Camps Nos 7427/7 and 7427/8 were assigned to construction work on quarters at the southeastern edge of the field.


25X1 13. The field was occupied by twin-engine bombers with in-line engine, double rudder assembly, wings slightly dihedral. 


25X1  an "improved version of the Pe-2." From 90 to 100 planes of this type were allegedly stationed at the field up to October 1949 and only 30 afterwards.

14. A large building, occupied by 150 to 200 air force soldiers, was in the town on the main road to Zaporozhe. The soldiers were given technical instruction on biplanes and twin-engine planes parked in the garden behind the building.

25X1  Comment :

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25X1  The permanent occupation of the field by a bomber or bomber training regiment is also considered credible.

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