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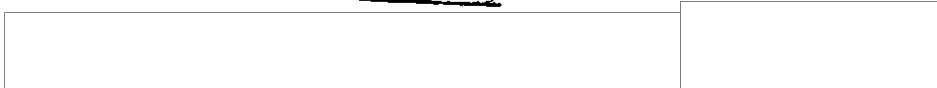
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S E C R E T



APPENDIX 'A'

INFORMATION ON POLTAVA AREA
Ukrainian SSR

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- 2. The AKHTYRKA-POLTAVA-BOGODUKHOV Area
- 3. The Town of CHERKASSY
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- Annexe 2. Sketch of Military Barracks in CHERKASSY

1. Introduction

The information in this Appendix concerns chiefly two areas:-

- (a) Those parts of the POLTAVA, SUMY and KHARKOV Provinces contained in the quadrangle:-

AKHTYRKA - KUZEMIN - POLTAVA - the KHARKOV railway to the ALEKSYEYEVKA Station - BOGODUKHOV - AKHTYRKA.

- (b) The town of CHERKASSY on DNIYEP.

[Redacted]

there are no essential changes there except the amalgamation of the collective farms.

[Redacted]

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2. The AKHTYRKA - POLTAVA - BOGODUKHOV Area

(a) Terrain

The terrain in the area is in general undulated, in many sectors intersected by deep and steep canyons. A rather flat plateau stretches approx 15 Km east of the river VORSKLA but there are also numerous canyons West of the VORSKLA, and south-east of the river MYERLYA hilly or undulated country extends, intersected by numerous canyons. There are also some swampy sectors in the area, chiefly in the river valleys.

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(b) Drainage

The area belongs to the river DNYEPR system being situated on both banks of its tributary, the VORSKLA.

The VORSKLA's main tributaries in this area are the rivers MYERLYA (Ukrainian MIRLA) and KOLOMAK, both on the left bank of the VORSKLA.

The river VORSKLA in its northern sector is narrow and shallow but from AKHTYRKA it is much wider and deeper. The western (right) bank is steep and high, the eastern (left) bank is flat and in some parts swampy. South of the confluence of the rivers VORSKLA and MYERLYA the eastern bank of the VORSKLA also becomes high and in some parts steep. Both banks are covered for the greater part by woods and bushes. Between AKHTYRKA and POLTAVA the river VORSKLA has changed its bed in some places and therefore there are the remnants of the old river-bed either in the form of dry canals, as between KOTYELVA and OPOSHNYA, or as small and narrow lakes and pools.

The width of the VORSKLA's valley and the river-bed itself as well as the depth of the river vary considerably. At AKHTYRKA the valley is approx 2 Km wide and the river-bed approx 60 metres. Near the village of KHUKHRYA the valley is swampy and approx 5 Km wide. At KUZEMIN the river itself is approx 40 metres wide. At KOTYELVA the valley becomes narrower (approx 3 Km). The old almost completely dry, river-bed is there on the foothills of the high and steep western side of the valley. The river flows approx 2 - 2½ Km eastwards of the old river-bed. The new river-bed is approx 30 metres wide.

Further to the south at OPOSHNYA the valley narrows to approx 2 Km and the river-bed is approx 30 metres wide

At POLTAVA the road-bridge within the town is approx 70 metres long, the river itself is approx 50 (?) metres wide.

[redacted] the following fords across the river VORSKLA:-

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At KUZEMIN: approx 150 metres north of the road bridge one ford approx 1 metre deep.

At KOTYELVA: two fords, both north of the road bridge - the first approx 500 metres and the second approx 850 metres from the bridge.

South of the bridge there is one ford on the road leading from KOTYELVA to MLYNKI. This is a very shallow one (approx 0.5 metre).

There is also one ford between the villages OPOSHNYA and DEREVKA.

[redacted] inhabitants, even the old women, used to cross the river there. The VORSKLA had entirely a sandy bottom.

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The river VORSKLA and the rather smaller streams flood almost every Spring, always at or about Easter. The floods do not last a long time, usually 7 - 10 days, but are in general rather strong. In some places the VORSKLA floods the countryside for a width of 7 - 9 Km, damaging bridges and houses situated in the vicinity of the river.

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[redacted] the VORSKLA between AKHTYRKA and POLTAVA forms a serious natural barrier. Its steep and high western bank and swampy or steep left bank, both covered by woods and bushes, are easier against an enemy advancing from the east to the west than against troops advancing from the west. The high western bank of the river is a natural line of observation points of the eastern side of the river. From an observation point situated between the villages KUZEMLIN and BILSK one can see everything for a distance of approx 15 Km. Only the nearest vicinity of the river covered by the woods and bushes is in some places almost completely invisible from the western bank.

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[redacted] in 1941 the Russians held the German fire a short time west of the river VORSKLA but were unable to stop the German advance on the river itself. Owing to the very difficult steep approaches to the river between AKHTYRKA and the confluence of the VORSKLA and MYERLYA, the Germans broke through north of AKHTYRKA and mopped up the whole area east of the river.

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In 1943 the situation changed when the retreating Germans successfully hold the Russians for a month along the western bank of the river. The German defence collapsed when the Russians broke through north of AKHTYRKA.

[redacted] confirmation of the general opinion that north of AKHTYRKA the VORSKLA is no more an obstacle and the terrain is much easier for large scale operational movements.

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[redacted] none of the above-mentioned fords across the VORSKLA are any good for MT traffic. At MLYNKI, [redacted] "an experienced tank driver would be able to cross the river, but any other motor vehicle would stick in the mud".

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During the winter frost, ice on the river VORSKLA is thick

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There are also some small streams flowing either in canyons or having flat but muddy banks which should also be considered as serious obstacles for military traffic.

[redacted] a small stream, the KOTYELYEVKA, approx 4 metres wide, flowing from the east through the villages MIKHAYLOVKA and KOTYELVA, cost both the Russians and the Germans heavy losses in tanks. [redacted] In its eastern part the stream flows in a deep canyon and west of MIKHAYLOVKA has swampy and muddy banks. In 1943 both the Germans and Russians lost many tanks in its muddy banks and bottom. Another KOTYELYEVKA stream (there are four KOTYELYEVKAs there) flowing in a deep canyon and through the lake at the village PARKHOMOVKA is also a dangerous and treacherous obstacle for military motor transport.

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The river MYERLYA at BOGDUKHOV has a high and very steep right (northern) bank and a flat southern bank. The river itself is there less than 15 metres wide. Further to the west at RUBLIOVKA the river is approx 20 metres wide. The northern bank is higher than the southern. Approx 2 Km west of the KOTYELVA road the river is only approx 10 metres wide. The banks are flat and covered by grass.

There are in the whole area a number of small lakes; all of them have a sandy bottom and are comparatively deep.

Swamps are in general in the river valleys. They do not cover large areas but are in general difficult even for horses and oxen.

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(c) Soil

The soil in the whole area is a good Ukrainian black soil. There are in some places patches of sand, chiefly in the form of small hills. Sand is also on the river banks and in the coniferous woods.

(d) Vegetation and Agriculture

The area has a considerable percentage of wooded country. There are larger areas covered by various kinds of woods in the vicinity of AKHTYRKA and along the rivers VORSKLA and MYRILYA. Woods consist chiefly of deciduous trees, among them a large quantity of oaks. [redacted] there was comparatively very little devastation of woods during the war. In general the woods there provided a good cover for large troop concentrations as well as for guerilla activities.

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[redacted] in the non-wooded areas approx 70% of the land is cultivated, the remainder being meadows and pastures.

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The main crops are rye and wheat, then sugar beet, oats and others. Various types of vegetables are planted in the kitchen gardens. There is also a comparatively large quantity of fruit cultivated such as apples, pears, cherries, plums and water-melons.

The collective farms are well provided with agricultural machinery. In the KOTYELVA Region there are two machine and tractor service stations (MTS), one at KOTYELVA (60 tractors) and one at RUBLYOVKA. In the KRASNIY KUT Region there are also two MTS stations, each of approx 60 tractors. The AKHTYRKA region is also well provided with tractors. In each region there are tractor driver and mechanic courses training the tractor personnel during the winter periods.

There is a large quantity of livestock in the area but [redacted] there is still a decrease in comparison with the pre-war numbers.

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(e) Industry

[redacted] there is no heavy industry in the area. The existing industry is chiefly closely tied up with agriculture.

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[redacted] in POLTAVA there are textile factories and a large elevator and a grain store. [redacted] a large grain storage exists at the KOCHUBEYEVKA Station on the POLTAVA - KHARKOV railway.

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In AKHTYRKA itself are some alcohol distilleries and a brewery. There are also some other factories [redacted]

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At PARKHOMOVKA east of KOTYELVA there is a large sugar factory connected by a narrow gauge railway line with the BOGDUKHOV Station.

(f) Population and Settlement

[redacted] the greater part of the population are Ukrainians. Ukrainians dominate in the rural settlements. In the towns the population is rather mixed and consists of Ukrainians, Russians [redacted]

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The rural settlements as almost everywhere in the Ukraine are large, scattered or linear and built without any definite planning. The number of Russian population there is comparatively small but the Russian settlers and Russian officials occupy important positions everywhere.

[redacted] KOTYELVA situated on the river VORSKLA, is undoubtedly an outstanding one. It is the largest settlement between AKHTYRKA and POLTAVA and is considered the largest village in the UKRAINE. It occupies an area of approx 40 sq Km and has approx 30,000 inhabitants. KOTYELVA itself consists of 4 syel-soviets and 14 collective farms. The largest of them has over 500 houses and approx 7,000 hectares of land. Other villages are much smaller but the average size of a rural settlement there is 300 - 500 houses. A village of less than 300 houses is considered a small one.

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The villages consist in general of two-roomed white-washed wooden huts with thatched roofs. There are no wooden floors in the dwellings but only earth. Each hut is provided with a Russian stove which serves various purposes such as heating, cooking, drying, sleeping accommodation, etc. There is very little furniture and what does exist is very ugly and primitive. There are very few beds in the collective farms; people sleep chiefly on the stove or on wooden planks. All huts and their inhabitants are vermin-infested.

[redacted] "They wash themselves sometimes in summer, but in winter the water is cold and it is cold both outside and inside, therefore one does not wash".

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There was not very much left of the fences outside the houses, all that could be used for heating having disappeared long ago.

The "electrification of kolkhozi" exists only in the larger farms but the electricity supply there is only for Party and Government institutions such as Party Committee buildings, Militia, MGB, etc. These offices and institutions occupy the few brick buildings in the villages. There are in many collective farms small brick-kilns but bricks produced there are delivered to the towns and there are no new brick buildings in the farms.

The Fire Brigades exist in theory only. In practise, [redacted] the Fire Brigade arrives when the fire is already over. The fire equipment is worse than primitive.

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There are three towns in the area described: POLTAVA the chief town of the Province, AKHTYRKA which belongs to the SUMY Province, and BOGDUKHOV belonging to the KHARKOV Province.

(i) POLTAVA, the most important centre between KHARKOV and KIEV is situated on the right bank of the river VORSKLA. On the left bank extends a town suburb and the Southern Railway Station (POLTAVA YUZHNYA). The [redacted] town and the western outskirts occupy a flat area. In the eastern part of the town there is, on the right bank of the river, a wooded hill where a church and a cemetery are situated.

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POLTAVA is in general comparatively well built and a "civilised" town. The greater part of the dwellings are made of brick or stone. Some parts of the town have a water supply and sanitation installations. The main streets are paved with "bulyzhnik" cobbles but smaller than the usual "water-melon" size. There are also [redacted] patches of tar-macadam surface. Pavements are made of stone.

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/The town ...

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The town is rather poorly lighted. [redacted]

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The main transit roads running from the west, south-west and north concentrate on the main Kremenchugskaya Street which connects [redacted] the southern and KLEV railway stations.

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The VORSKLA steel road bridge, approx 70 metres long and approx 8 metres wide, is a dangerous and vulnerable point for military traffic. On the eastern side of the river between the bridge and the road forks the road runs in a steep canyon and could there be easily blocked,

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On the western side of the road leading [redacted] to the north in the direction of DIKAVKA, 750 - 1000 metres north of the KLEV Station there is a large POL Dump.

- (ii) AKHTYRKA a chief town of a Region, a medium-sized town of 40-50,000 inhabitants, situated on the left bank of the river VORSKLA. Approx 60% of the town buildings are built of brick. There is no water supply and no sewage system in the town. Mosquitos breed in the numerous lakes inside the town and in the vicinity as well as in the numerous swamps around the town. Dwellings in the town are vermin-infested. The greater part of them have no electricity supply and kerosene lamps are generally used as in the villages.

A few main streets are very badly paved with enormous "bulyzhnik" cobbles. The others are completely unpaved. Except for a few points the town is completely dark at night.

- (iii) BOGDUKHOV, a chief town of a Region, is in general of the same standard of civilisation as AKHTYRKA. There was considerable war damage in the [redacted] town.

50X1-HUM

(g) Railways

[redacted] on railways

only the following details:-

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- (i) BOGDUKHOV Station on the LYUBOTIN - SUMY railway. Approx 5 sidings. A single track branch approx 42 - 44 Km long runs to GUTY on the river MYERLYA. Freight and passenger traffic.

[redacted] the purpose of the GUTY branch. [redacted] large quantities of coal [redacted] were delivered by rail. There are no industrial enterprises there.

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- (ii) The narrow gauge branch from GUBAROVKA to PARKHOMOVKA Sugar Factory. A single track approx 1 metre wide. No passenger traffic.

(h) Roads

There is no road system in the area. The only decent macadamised road runs along the southern bank of the river KOLOMAK from POLTAVA to KHARKOV.

There is also a stretch of approx 5 Km of macadamised road between POLTAVA and the village ZHUKI, which is the only decent sector of the POLTAVA - AKHTYRKA road. 95% of all other roads are earth tracks of unlimited width or the narrow local "prosyelochniye" roads. Some small sectors of main tracks are paved with enormous "bulyzhnik" cobbles. 50X1-HUM

the main track POLTAVA - AKHTYRKA as follows:- 50X1-HUM

From POLTAVA approx 5 Km of tar-macadam road with approx 3 metres of earth track on both sides for horse traffic. From ZHUKI to DIKANKA approx 22 Km of "bulyzhnik". Further to the north there is a 5 Km stretch of earth track, then 21 Km of "bulyzhnik" to OPOSHNYA. From OPOSHNYA to KOTYELVA an earth track 22 Km long through the village DEREVKI. From KOTYELVA through KHUKHRYA to AKHTYRKA 30 km of very bad earth track. In general there are 5 Km of good road between POLTAVA and AKHTYRKA and the remaining 100 Km are hopeless.

All these roads are good for military MT during the dry periods. In rainy weather there is an incredibly deep and thick chocolate-like black earth mud which is impossible not only for wheeled motor transport but also for the horse and oxen. 50X1-HUM
During the last war only tanks and tracked heavy vehicles managed to move along these muddy roads. In winter (end December - March) snow makes MT traffic rather difficult.

Particularly dangerous for motor transport are numerous steep and deep canyons and muddy river and stream banks.

Road bridges are made of wood and some of them were strong enough to carry even tanks. The VORSKLA road bridge at KOTYELVA has the maximum weight capacity of 5 tons. The strongest bridges are of a maximum capacity of 7 tons. But they managed much more during the war. 50X1-HUM

(i) Glider landing areas (see Annex 1)

owing to the difficult terrain, numerous canyons and swamps, there are not many places in the area which could be used for glider landing purposes. 50X1-HUM

Between AKHTYRKA and POLTAVA the following landing areas:- 50X1-HUM

- (i) West of the village KHUKHRYA approx 3 Km south of the town boundary of AKHTYRKA along the KHUKHRYA - AKHTYRKA road there are approx 4 sq Km of flat cultivated land which, after harvest, could be used as a landing place.

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- (ii) The village IVANOVKA approx 7.5 Km north of the PAKHOMOVKA Sugar Factory.

Between the lake and the AKHTYRKA - KAPLINOVKA road there is a small area 2 Km long and approx 1 Km wide used in peacetime by the "U2" planes, called "KUKURJANIK". The "U2" planes delivered the mail from POLTAVA.

- (iii) KOTYELVA

On the south-east outskirts of the village between the HUBLEVOVKA and KOLCHAYEV roads there is a flat area of approx 4 sq Km used as a landing place for "U2" mail planes.

- (iv) The village MILORADOVO

Approx 5 Km south of HUBLEVOVKA and north of MILORADOVO on both sides of the road connecting these villages there is a flat and dry sandy space of approx 4 sq Km.

All these places can be used during the dry periods.

3. The town of CHERKASSY

- (a) Introduction

[redacted] information on CHERKASSY.

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- (b) Terrain

The town of CHERKASSY is situated on the western, higher bank of the river DNYEPER. West of the town the country is undulated and covered with bushes and groups of old trees. Further to the west a large wood extends a distance of approx 3 - 4 Km.

The left (eastern) bank of the river is flat and sandy, in some sectors covered by bushes. Further to the east are swampy meadows and pastures.

The town extends along the river [redacted] on a plateau which descends gradually to the river.

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- (c) The river DNYEPER

The river at CHERKASSY and its vicinity varies in width and depth. There are numerous sandy islands, some of them covered with bushes. In spring the majority of them are under water.

[redacted] the width of the river on its central sector as 800 metres. On the railway bridge sector the river is wider. During the spring and summer periods the river is navigable.

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- (d) General Information

CHERKASSY itself belongs to KLEV Province. The left bank of the river belongs to POLTAVA Province. The town is situated on the ROMDAN - POMOSHCHENAYA railway and is an important river crossing. The double-tracked steel railway bridge situated north-west of the town is approx 1,500 metres long, the pylons approx 25 metres high.

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[redacted] the present railway bridge was built after the war. [redacted] saw some old pylons approx 200 metres east of the bridge. The bridge is guarded by MGB troops ("KRASNOPOGONNIKI"). [redacted] there are also MGs on the bridge.

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Approx 3 Km east of the main railway bridge there is a small steel bridge over an arm of the river DNYEPR.

Between the main bridge and the CHERKASSY Station the railway runs on a dam 6 - 7 metres high. There are two steel bridges over the roads running west and south-west.

The town itself, which is built in blocks, consists chiefly of one- and two-storey brick buildings. The main streets are 8 - 10 metres wide and paved with "bulyzhnik" cobbles. Some State buildings have a water supply which as a rule is out of order 4 - 5 days per week. The water is delivered chiefly from the river. There are no sanitation installations. The electricity from the local power station is almost all over the town but the streets are rather dark.

(e) Glider landing area

[redacted] in the nearest vicinity of CHERKASSY the terrain is rather difficult for glider landing because of undulating and wooded land on the western bank of the river and flat but muddy grounds on the left bank.

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4. The CHERKASSY Garrison (see Annexe 2 to Appendix 'A')

[redacted] in Apr 49 the following troops were stationed in CHERKASSY:-

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(a) 28 or 48 Mech Div located in the barracks (VOYENGORODOK) situated on the south-western side of the town.

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(b) An MGB Special Detachment located somewhere in the town [redacted]

Of the Mech Div [redacted] only [redacted] 59 Mech Regt

[redacted] and [redacted] 2 more regiments were in the Barracks. [redacted] in CHERKASSY this Mech Div had already been there over 3 years and was due to be moved to another place during 1949.

The barracks area in CHERKASSY extends along the main railway track leading to the railway bridge. They consist of numerous one-storey brick buildings. There are only 2 two-storey buildings. There are also some wooden sheds. There are no trees in the barracks area.

On the other side of the railway extends a thin forest where the Summer Camp is situated. There are also 2 small-arms shooting ranges and tanks and MT parks. During the summer period troops camp there under canvas.

[redacted] details concerning the MGB Special Detachment. They were called "KRASNOPOGONNIKI" and carried out the railway bridge guard and town patrol duties. They used to carry out their training on the same ground as the 59 Mech Regt in the Summer Camp area. [redacted] never seen more than one Coy of the MGB troops in training. Relations between them and the Mech Div personnel were rather cool.

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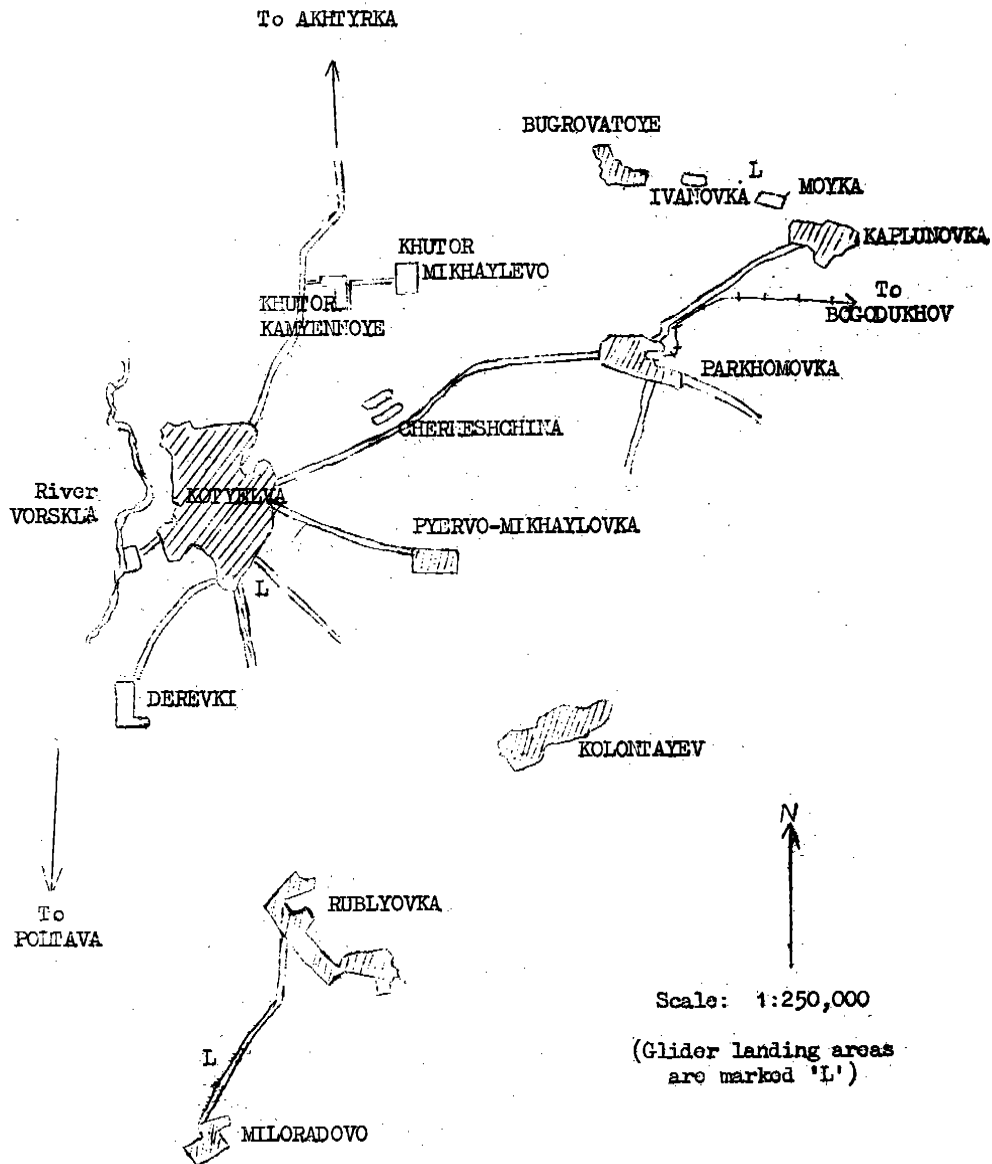
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ANNEXE 1 TO APPENDIX A



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SKETCH OF THE KOTYELVA AREA



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EXPLANATORY NOTES TO

ANNEXE 2 TO APPENDIX 'A'



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1. Check Point
2. Saloon Cars and Motorcycles Park
3. 59 Regt Quarters (Tank and MG personnel. Gymnasium).
- 4.)
- 5.) 59 Regt Quarters
6. Voyontorg Shop and ORs Quarters
7. 59 Regt Club
8. Class rooms
9. Artillery Workshops and Clothing Store
- 10.)
- 11.) Artillery Park
12. HQ 59 Mech Regt
13. 59 Mech Regt Dining Hall
14. Lavatories
15. Guard Room
16. Obstacle course
17. Bath and Laundry
18. Food Store
19. MI Room
20. 59 Mech Regt Arty Battery
21. Tank Unit
22. Voyontorg Store and ORs Quarters
23. ORs Quarters (two-story building)
24. Regimental Club
25. Wooden Shed (salvago)
26. Regimental Club
27. MT Park
28. ORs Quarters
29. Tank School. Classrooms and ORs Quarters (two-story building)
30. FT Ground
31. Garrison POL Dump (underground)

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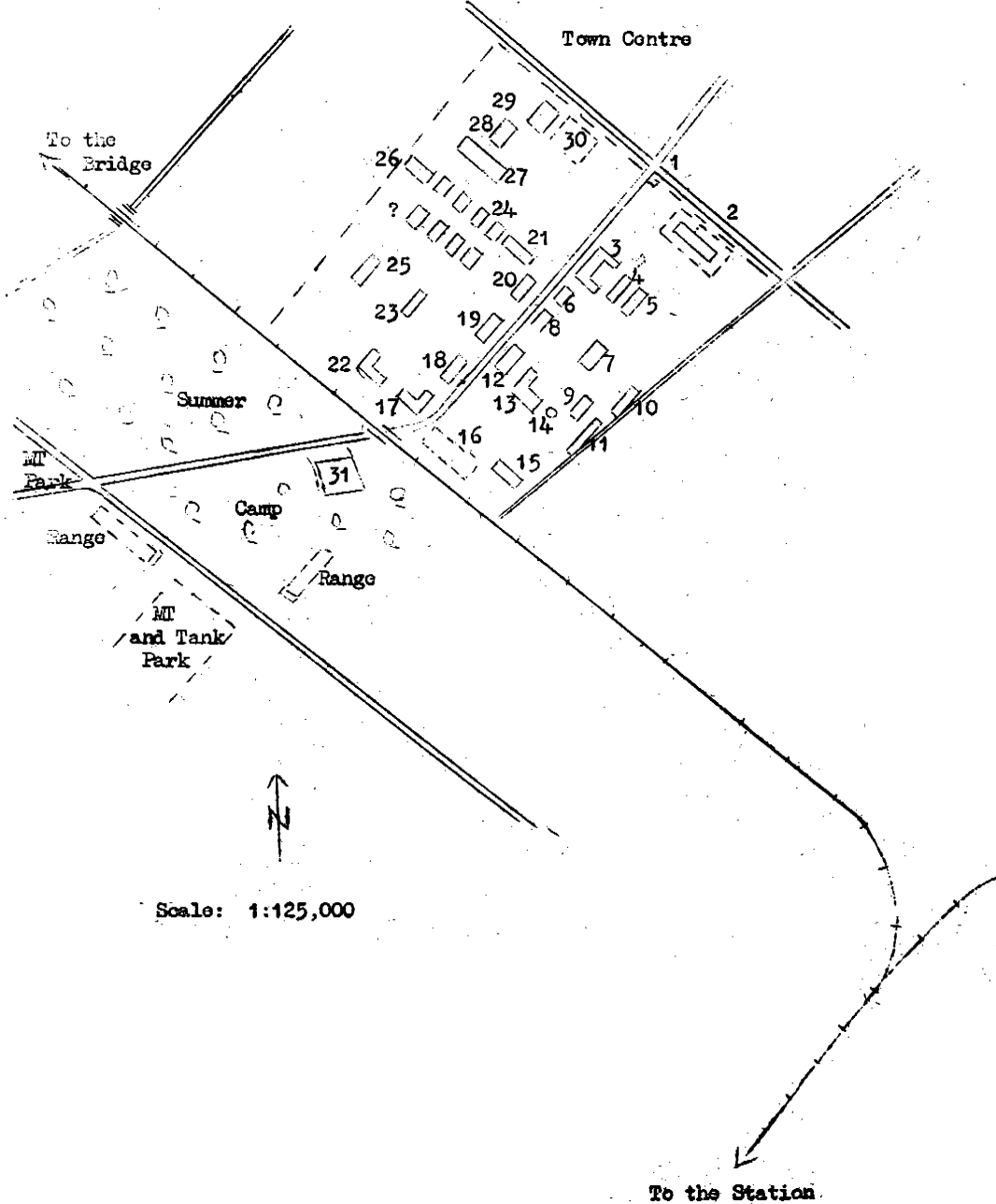
ANNEXE 2 TO APPENDIX A



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SKETCH OF THE MILITARY BARRACKS

IN CHERKASSY



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[Redacted]

APPENDIX 'B'

[Redacted]

INFORMATION ON CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND

SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE UKRAINE

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1. Introduction
2. Life in the collective farms
3. Life in the towns
4. Religion
5. Education
6. Anti-Semitism
7. The Russian drive in the Ukraine
8. Political feeling
9. Morals

1. Introduction

50X1-HUM

[Redacted] part of the Ukraine situated on the borders of the present provinces POLTAVA, KHARKOV and SUMY.

[Redacted] in KHARKOV the life is entirely different. "There are even taps with water there", things [Redacted] never seen in AICHTYRKA and [Redacted] not notice in POLTAVA.

[Redacted] social problems and life in POLTAVA area which, being situated between KIEV and KHARKOV and being always very Ukrainian, plays an important role in the life of the Ukraine.

2. Life in the collective farms

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[Redacted] in comparison with the spring of 1949 the present standard of life in the collective farms in the POLTAVA area is in some respects higher. This improvement concerns chiefly the quantity of food obtainable for a collective farmer, in particular the amount of grain which farmers obtain for one working day. There are also more goods and of better quality in the "RAYMAGs" (Regional wholesale stores) than in 1949.

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- B2 -

On the other hand there is very little change in the conditions in which the peasants have lived during the last twenty years and the general standard of civilisation, culture and morals is the same as it was before.

[redacted] the amalgamation of the collective farms did not exercise much influence on conditions of life in the villages. This is caused first of all by the difficulties of structure of Ukrainian villages which are usually much larger than the Russian or Byelorussian ones. They are built irregularly, occupying a large space and are very densely populated. While in Russia a village of 200 houses is considered a large one, 200 - 300 houses and 2,000 inhabitants represent the average size for a rural settlement in the Ukraine. There are settlements extending along the rivers or canyons for 6 - 10 Km. The distribution of land and organisation of agricultural work in such villages is extremely difficult. Larger settlements consist of two and more collective farms. KOTYELVA, an unusually large village of approx 30,000 inhabitants, comprised before the amalgamation fourteen collective farms, the smallest of them having 280 houses and 1,000 hectares of land. At present the number of kolkhozi there has been reduced to eight.

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The only real effect of amalgamation was a reduction in the number of all types of clerical staff and officials and an increase in man-power. But the increase in man-power was much smaller than expected. The amalgamation caused great dissatisfaction with the new distribution of land among the farms. It is an almost impossible task in the USSR to satisfy the farmers after their experience of the last 30 years. None of the Government promises have been fulfilled. On the contrary, farmers live in constant fear that the Government, in order to increase the standard of discipline of work still considered inadequate, will put all collective farmers in common barracks. Therefore even an innocent innovation raises immediately a wave of panic. [redacted] as an example [redacted] the construction of a brick-kiln in a collective farm immediately causes rumours that the Government is going to build barracks for the farmers. For a collective farmer deprived in fact of all his rights and being a pariah of the Soviet community desperately defends the last thing left to him - his own home.

50X1-HUM

The real tragedy of life of the collective farmers is constant lack of money. In the present structure of the collective farms a farmer has no money and cannot obtain any. Paid for his work in grain and obliged to pay various taxes in cash and buy manufactured goods for cash, he struggles for every single rouble. The system of Government deliveries is ruthless and in some ways also ridiculous. For instance, a collective farmer is obliged to deliver 120 eggs per year whether he has any hens or not. If he has no poultry he must buy eggs on the market for delivery to the Government. In order to obtain money for the purchase of eggs he has to sell something, for example a pig. But if he possesses a pig he must deliver meat etc. to the Government. The Government deliveries and taxes are an endless chain of vexations. A farmer who possesses a cow delivers milk, butter and 40 Kilogrammes of meat yearly to the Government.

The small plots of land which collective farmers own are their main and almost only sources of living. According to the present regulations the pre-war farmers can possess 0.6 hectare of their own land. Until 1951 it was 0.8 hectare but the new farmers who joined kolkhozi after 1945 are entitled only to 0.4 hectare of land. From these plots they live, pay taxes and try to obtain some money for buying manufactured goods.

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Owing to this economic policy the peasants of the POLTAVA area, one of the "grain stores of Europe", land of fruit, sugar beet, vegetables and livestock, live on a diet consisting chiefly of bread and potatoes. Meat and milk they consume only at the Christmas or Easter holidays and sometimes on Sundays. They have no butter whatsoever and use sunflower-seed oil as a substitute. [redacted] a collective farmer eats 10 - 20 eggs per year. Sugar in a small quantity is obtainable only for people working in the sugar beet fields. The main vegetables are cucumber and cabbage. Only those who have fruit trees in their own kitchen gardens are able to eat fruit. Until 1947-48 there were no restrictions on collecting crab-apples in the woods. At present for some unknown reason this is forbidden and the apples and pears rot in the woods because the foresters are not willing and have no time to collect them. 50X1-HUM

Accommodation is also an acute problem for the villagers and the situation is even worse than before the war. There was no Government help for the repair of war damage. Dwellings repaired by the farmers were rebuilt exactly in the same way as before the war, in other words they are wooden huts with earth floors and thatched roofs. There are still some people living in cellars or dug-outs. [redacted] never seen the "new, lovely dwellings in which the happy farmer lives" (according to official propaganda). There is no electricity in the villages except for the office buildings in the large kolkhozi. The huts are illuminated with kerosene lamps. During the war and until 1946 there were no lights in the huts. Heating is also a very serious problem. There is no coal and the woods belong to the State. Villagers heat their huts with straw, thorns and anything which can be burnt. All fences were used up long ago. In winter there is bitter cold and darkness in the huts. 50X1-HUM

The next problem is furniture, pottery and cutlery. The collective farmers live in unfurnished huts. A very lucky and wealthy family has one bed. The majority sleep on the stove or on wooden planks or on the floor. [redacted] described the normal "bed and bedclothes" in an average hut as "one to three small incredibly filthy pillows, maximum one rotten blanket and a couple of planks, put away during the day in a corner of the room". Some villagers have sheets but never more than two for a family. Towels are in some houses but the majority use old rags instead. Furniture consists chiefly of one table, a couple of very primitive stools, one empty wooden box and one or two wooden benches. 50X1-HUM

Pottery usually consists of a couple of pots which serve for various purposes such as cooking, eating, washing etc. Every one has his own spoon, chiefly a wooden one, and a home-made knife and that is the usual equipment of a farmhouse kitchen. In the old times of "Czarist oppression" there were jugs, cups and sometimes glasses in every house. There were also knives and forks. At present there are very few forks and all are of the "Czarist" make.

[redacted] an average farmer and his family wash themselves "sometimes in summer in the river". During the winter they do not wash at all except on holidays at Christmas, Easter or the New Year. "There is no hot water, it is cold inside and outside and soap is very scarce and expensive therefore they do not wash themselves". Toothbrushes are not used at all. They cost money, they also need tooth-powder, and [redacted] "people are not accustomed to using them". There is a lack of the most necessary implements in a peasant family; each house is provided with a hammer but there are very few pincers, scissors, screwdrivers, irons, etc. 50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

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[redacted] before the war there were no bicycles in the collective farms, they appeared for the first time in 1945, chiefly as "booty". Between 1946 and 1949 the number increased and in 1949 there were 400 cycles in the KOTYELVA region. A woman cycling is still considered there as shameful ("POZOR").

50X1-HUM

[redacted] the rural population is very badly dressed. In general they have no underwear, they do not use handkerchiefs, many of them were in rags. The "ladies underwear" horrified [redacted]

50X1-HUM

[redacted] There are some girls who look after themselves but they are only dressed in their best when visiting the market square (BAZAR) which is for a Ukrainian peasant the place where the village "society" meets. "NA BAZARIE" girls do not pick their noses with their fingers (men do this everywhere) but use handkerchiefs and it is not good to be seen in the BAZAR bare-footed.

50X1-HUM

[redacted] there is very little of cultural life and amusements in the collective farms. Clubs exist in the majority of the villages but there are also many where a club exists only in theory. In KOTYELVA, which is a regional centre, there are two clubs, one of them the "Lenin" Club which every autumn is used as a grain-store and the other "1 Travnya" Club which is open all the year. There is a large lecture and theatre room, a library and a dance-hall called by the local inhabitants "KHFOIYE" (foyer). People dance there, fight sometimes. Very seldom a cinema show is given there. This is the only place of entertainment for 30,000 inhabitants. Owing to the Ukrainian's sociable and gay nature there is more social life in the Ukraine than in Russia. People like singing together and in spite of the hard life they are rather cheerful.

50X1-HUM

People do not read either books or papers. Newspapers are used chiefly as cigarette paper. Books are expensive and there is no light for reading.

In each village there exists an "upper class" comprised of all local authorities, Party leaders, Government officials, technicians, cashiers, etc. and they avoid contact with the collective farmers. In the Regional centres such as KOTYELVA and KRASNIIY KUT where the officials are very numerous the distance between the upper and lower classes is very great. The Regional Party officials, MGB officers, State Bank and Savings Bank managers and the magistrate are the highest caste, completely cut off from the peasants.

50X1-HUM

[redacted] The upper class are well lodged, earn money, [redacted] eat and drink very well and do not pay much attention to the peasants.

The second social class, also well situated, are the mechanics and drivers from the MTS stations, local factories and institutions. The MTS personnel for example have enough kerosene for their lamps, they are paid in cash, buy bicycles and cigarette lighters. Some of them who were abroad during the war have pocket-watches.

[redacted] there were in 1949 approx 10 pocket-watches for approx 1,200 inhabitants (6 of them were "booty" from Germany and Poland).

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- B5 -

There is still a great lack of manpower in the farms. Men run away at every opportunity from the farms to the towns. In particular the demobilised soldiers do their best to avoid returning to the collective farms.

3. Life in the towns

50X1-HUM

[redacted] life in the town [redacted] much easier and better than in the farms. Except POLTAVA the other towns are filthy and lacking in essential civilised installations.

4. Religion

50X1-HUM

[redacted] there is no persecution of people attending the church services. In KOTYELVA two churches are open. In AKHTYRKA [redacted] one church open and in almost all of the larger villages one church is open. There are comparatively small congregations. People in general believe, but are no longer accustomed to attend the services regularly. The larger congregations are at Christmas, Easter and Epiphany services when a large number of young people take part. Generally speaking the Church does not exercise much influence on the population but the priests, all of them old men, are respected.

5. Education

50X1-HUM

[redacted] There are medical schools (TYEKHNIKUM) in AKHTYRKA and in BOGODUKHOV producing doctors of very poor quality. There is also an agricultural TYEKHNIKUM in AKHTYRKA. The only secondary school in the Region is at KOTYELVA. The school is located in a quite good building and is well equipped.

[redacted] the elementary and secondary schools have in general a good staff and teachers are in close contact with parents. There is a constant lack of text books and copy books in the elementary schools.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

6. Anti-Semitism

[redacted] the traditional Ukrainian anti-Semitism still exists in the rural settlements. In spite of a very small number of Jews in the villages, they always occupy the good positions and are very unpopular among the population.

50X1-HUM

7. The Russian drive in the Ukraine

50X1-HUM

[redacted] the larger percentage of the town population are Russians. In the rural settlements they are in the minority but nevertheless they occupy better positions than the Ukrainians.

[redacted] has never seen a Russian in a kolkhoz working in the fields. They are in the Party offices, in the kolkhoz stores, they are "brigadiers" on the farms or work in the MTS stations but they do not work as collective farmers.

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S E C R E T

- B6 -

In the Regional [] the MGB and Militia personnel is almost entirely Russian. They do not speak or do not like to speak Ukrainian and often behave as "senior brothers"

50X1-HUM

[] the number of Russians and the Russian domination has increased considerably since the end of the war.

50X1-HUM

8. Political feeling.

As previously stated, the rural population of the POLTAVA area could be divided into four social groups:-

- (i) The "upper class" consisting of the well-paid officials and technical personnel.
- (ii) The "middle" class, also living comparatively well, which consists of the workers of the industrial or transport enterprises.
- (iii) The former wartime Red partisans and their families, favoured by the Government.
- (iv) The lowest class consisting of the masses of collective farmers.

The first two groups are to a considerable extent Russians and for the most part they are the "vigilant Bolsheviks". The last group is almost entirely Ukrainian, mostly very nationalist and anti-Communist in their outlook.

The nationalist Ukrainians undoubtedly hate Russians, Jews and Communists but are in general rather passive. During the first period after the war (1945-48) many of them carried out non-organised sabotage activities against the representatives of the Soviet regime. During the summer and autumn of 1948 in KOTYELVA alone three members of the kolkhoz authorities, among them two Kolkhoz Chairmen, were killed and one was wounded. There were many cases of robbery of the kolkhoz stores and Party offices but there was no organised action and no political idea or leadership.

[] at present there is no guerilla warfare in Ukrainian territory except in the areas which until 1939 belonged to POLAND. [] people were always talking about the famous "BANDERA" partisans fighting somewhere in the west but no-one has ever seen a real anti-Soviet partisan there. Single acts of sabotage always were and still are carried out in various parts of the Ukraine but there is not a large-scale anti-Soviet action and it would be a great mistake to count on it. People live there in the atmosphere of distrust and depression. They are very tired morally and physically and absolutely unable to organise any serious action. [] even in case of a war against the west a considerable part of the rural population, chiefly officials, workers and farmer partisans, would support the regime. The anti-Soviet mass of Ukrainians would be most probably hostile but idle and not ready for any anti-Soviet action until the Allied troops entered Soviet territory. The last war experiences with the Germans exercised a considerable influence on the Ukrainian mentality.

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/9. Morals ...S E C R E T

S E C R E T

- B7 -

9 Morals

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[redacted] the general standard of morals in the POLTAVA area is comparatively high.

There are many cases of theft and robbery but people rob chiefly the Government stores and steal food and clothing. Murders occur very seldom. Women are safe in the rural settlements. There is a lot of fighting among the youth but this is an old tradition of famous bandits and Cossacks which still survives. Men are often brutal and very rude but they are not completely demoralised. A considerable number of people indulge in alcohol but the "authorities" drink much more than the peasants because the latter have no money for vodka. There are also many fewer hooligans in the villages than in the towns.

Married families live in general quietly and properly. Youths have very little moral restraint but the married women behave themselves decently as a rule.

It appears that the rural population, except the upper privileged classes, is much cleaner morally than physically. For [redacted] the lack of cleanliness of men and women as well as of their houses, caused by poverty and very low standard of civilisation, is really disastrous.

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APPENDIX 'C'

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EFFECT ON SOVIET POPULATION OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA
AGAINST THE WEST

INDEX

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Effect on Soviet population of
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Effect on Soviet population of Soviet Propaganda against the West

[redacted] in general the people from the towns are inclined to believe the Soviet propaganda more readily than the villagers and support the Soviet policy for the simple reason that they live better than the rural population and because the percentage of real Communists is much larger in the towns than in the villages. Often during discussions on various problems such as politics, economics, etc. [redacted] the most ardent Communists and the most chauvinistic were always workers from MOSCOW and the MOSCOW Province. They were usually supported by the GORKIY workers. The soldiers from LENINGRAD were much quieter and undoubtedly less pro-Soviet than those from MOSCOW and GORKIY. The MOSCOW "boys" were always proud of the Soviet achievements, objected against any criticism of the life in the USSR and were in general strongly anti-Western.

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[redacted] in the USSR and in Germany [redacted] almost every one who was very loyal to the regime and glorified the life in Russia and the Soviet achievements, attacking the West, was either in a good position himself or had some one of his nearest relatives well situated in the Party, in a Government office or in industry.

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[redacted] the greater part of the Government defenders supported the regime purely for materialistic reasons.

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S E C R E T

- C2 -

On the other hand people from the town are much more highly educated and better "fed" with Communist propaganda than the villagers. A collective farmer or a farm worker is less educated and politically developed but also much more tired physically and morally than the town people. The villagers also have much more reason to be dissatisfied and have more evidence against the Government policy. The conditions in which they live speak for themselves.

This moral and physical tiredness is for a collective farmer the best reason against any propaganda anti- or pro-Communist. A villager does not believe in anything the Soviet propaganda says. [redacted] considers the Soviet propaganda among the rural population as "NAPRASNIY TRUD" (waste of time). At the same time a villager is not prepared to believe everything [redacted] propaganda might say. As long as the [redacted] inform the people of the USSR what is wrong in the Soviet Union the peasants would believe them. But information on [redacted] would be received rather cautiously. A Soviet collective farmer realises how he lives and knows that anywhere outside the USSR life must be better, though he would never believe in the existence of absolute happiness anywhere.

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50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

[redacted] for a Soviet peasant the best propaganda would be a parcel [redacted] containing clothing, food or various things which could improve his standard of life. In particular the Ukrainian peasants [redacted] are very suspicious and it is always a very long time before they will trust a stranger. During the last war they were "liberated" twice, once by the Germans and for the second time by the Soviets. In the POLTAVA area the majority of peasants greeted the Germans as liberators but about six months later the woods were full of anti-German partisans because they had been bitterly deceived by the Germans. In 1943 they were liberated from the Germans but the Soviets punished them severely for their short period of idyllic existence under the Germans. Then again came the period of great expectations of a new life after the victory over Germany, followed by the disastrous famine of 1946 and a new wave of Soviet economic and political terror. At present after all these experiences they are tired and disillusioned. Therefore propaganda among the Ukrainian peasants is a very complicated problem and needs very delicate handling.

50X1-HUM

[redacted] it became clear that before starting any propaganda activities there it is very essential to realise:-

50X1-HUM

- (a) what an average Ukrainian peasant knows about the Soviet policy;

[redacted]

50X1-HUM

- (d) what is the best method of propaganda.

The first question can be answered very easily: an average Ukrainian peasant knows everything about the Soviet policy. He does not know or understand the complicated scientific theories of Communism in general and political and economic policies in particular, but he does know the practical life very well and what happened to him during the last 35 years. At present nothing can change his attitude towards the Soviet regime, no half-measures such as increase of pay for a working

/day or ...

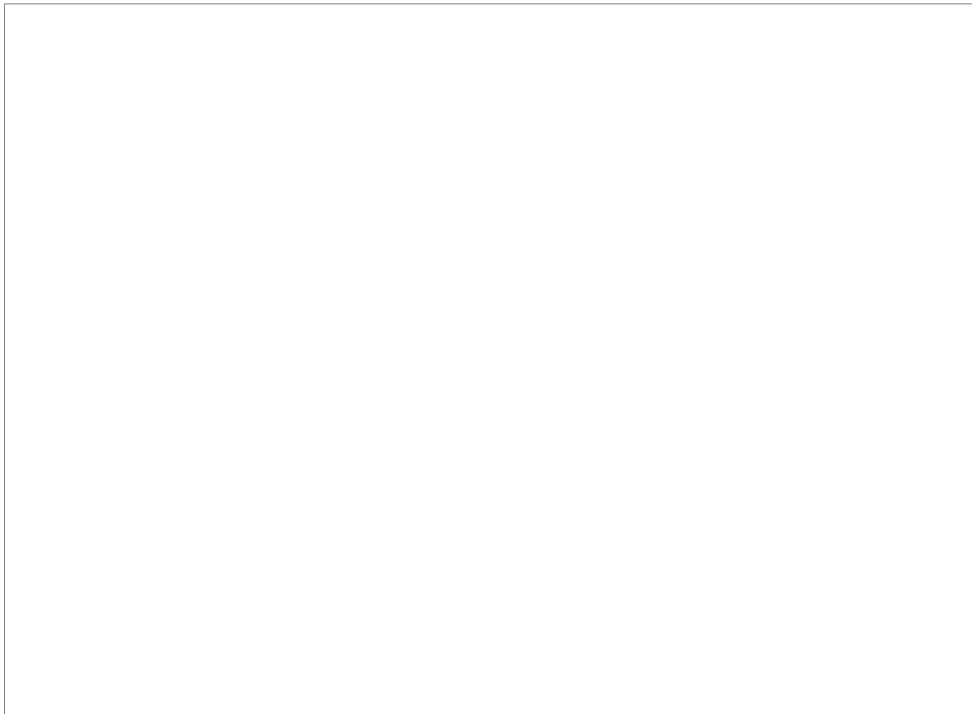
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day or bicycles for sale in the Regional stores; nothing but the complete freedom of life and work, no amalgamation but liquidation of the collective farms could probably make him softer. Owing to their experience and their attitude, Ukrainian peasants do not believe anything that the Kremlin says, either in the future happiness of life in Russia or that the Russians invented radio, tanks and aeroplanes.

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The last point is what is the best method of successful propaganda there. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

The foreign broadcasts which can do much among the workers in the towns and industrial settlements are almost useless in the villages. Those couple of [redacted] sets in large villages, chiefly in the clubs or belonging to the local "big men", are not available to the average peasant. 50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

The best method of propaganda, [redacted] would be leaflets, provided that they contained good material, and there was no doubt that they had been made abroad and not in the nearest wood or in the POLTAVA MGB printing office.

50X1-HUM

Leaflets [redacted] would be the real evidence that [redacted] honestly think about the suffering people in the Ukraine and at the same time they would prove that the Soviet regime is not strong enough to stop foreign propaganda inside the USSR.

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[redacted] it would not be necessary to distribute the leaflets in large quantities. A good leaflet would be read by hundreds of people and passed from one village to another even faster than the MGB alarm signals. A good printed propaganda would undoubtedly wake up the anti-Soviet section of Ukrainian peasantry which apart from their feeling is rather passive and suffers from lack of initiative and leadership.

S E C R E T