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SECURITY INFORMATION

18457

PLACE: ALTA (Bosekop, Bukta, Elvebakken)

COUNTRY: NORWAY

Population: _____

Province: Finnmark

Date of Observation: 22 Mar. '51
and other dates.

General Description:

Group of 3 settlements each with separate histories, all destroyed completely by Nazis (except Bosekop church) now being built according to agreed plan. A farming, fishing, transport, tourist and mining center, potentially regional capitol for west Finnmark. Educational center.

Geographic Description:

Intermediate location between outer islands and interior plateau, location at head of large fjord. Strategically situated.

Occupations:

Agricultural

Small farming for milk and butter production for local use.

Fishing

Locally significant

Industrial

Fish processing, slate mining. Transportation.

Natural Vegetation:

While birch is common very far north in Finnmark, pine is rare. In the Alta area was the largest stand of pine in Arctic Norway. Much of the larger timber was destroyed by Nazis but a great deal of smaller sizes remain. The area is definitely wooded.

Land Forms and Geology:

Rugged, rocky outcrops locally form small hills. The Alta River has laid down a large delta and numerous terraces. Glacial boulders widespread and beaches are bolder type, merging in sand to eastward.

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Mining:

Slate mining south of town, former copper mines in locality. Other possibilities exist.

Population (racial, cultural, linguistic): Norwegian of mixed backgrounds including professional people from south, plus large group of settled Lapps at Bosekop, which was originally Lapp settlement and trading center. Elvebakken higher pro-

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SECURITY INFORMATION~~PLACE (cont'd): ALTAClimate and WeatherTemperatures: -10° C probably -18° at night, rising in succeeding days
to -3°

Precipitation: Snow on ground some falling.

Clouds: Overcast but clear on succeeding days. Wind north.

Other: Sea open no sign of ice. Note first thaw of Spring April 12,
succeeded by new snow.Electric Power:

Yes

Source: Kaafjord with some local diesel e. g. hotel.
Supplies at present inadequate.

Voltage: 230 Cycle: 50

Extent of Grid: Local, but to be linked with west Finnmark

Telephone Yes Telegraph Yes Radio Yes TV TV
16 wire on Rt. #50 poles at Elvebakken
(Alta is hdq. for Finnmark)TRANSPORTATION: (From: Alta To: North, south and Kautokeino)Railway: None

Station:

Ballast:

Power :

Gauge :

Bridges:

Highways:

Route No's : #50 north and south. Route #905 Kautokeino.

Surface Type: Gravel throughout

Width : Two-cars

Seasonal Use: Varied. #905 closed in Winter but operated by snowmobile
from Gargia to Kautokeino. Rt. #50 south closed on Kvaenangen
Underpass : height by snow. Rt. #50 north open. Alta is center of road
engineering for west Finnmark.Bridges: New suspension bridge across Alta River at Elvebakken.
Poor bridge on #905 south of Alta.~~CONFIDENTIAL
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PLACE (cont'd): ALTA

Ferries: None

Location:

Tonnage :

Capacity:

Schedules:

Steamers:

Routing: From Hammerfest and Øksfjord.

Tonnages: Around 400 tons, modern (1950) diesel passenger freight.

Capacity: 150 passengers with sleeping accommodations for 50.

Schedules: See Rutebok.

Bus Routes:

Summer: North and south on route #50 and to Kautokeino on Rt. #905. daily service. Local half-hour bus circuit of Alta suburbs. Through route by bus from Narvik to Kirkenes plan for 1952.

Winter: Snowmobile bus to Kautokeino, three time weekly with connection planned to Karesuando, Sweden, and Karasjok.

Other Transportation:

Reindeer sledges, horse sledges in interior. Taxis available at Alta. Trucking at slate quarry. Seaplane and flying boat in Summer season. Regular all year service planned using airfield at Elvebakken.

MAPS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Scale</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
German Army Note detailed town plans made of whole area by Norwegian government housing dept. 1948.	1:300,000	1944	

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PLACE (cont'd): ALTA

Guide and Other Books:

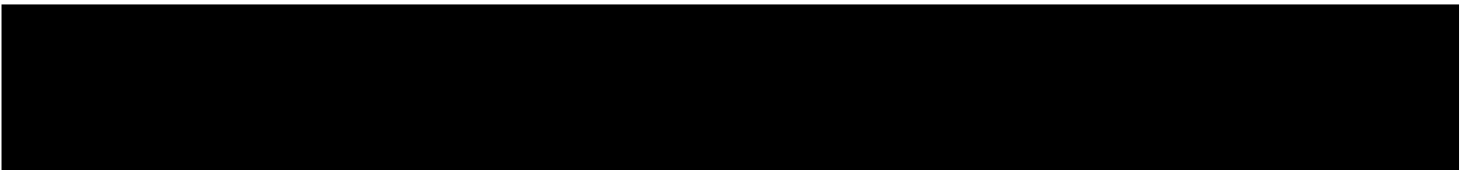
<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Cost</u>
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PERSONAL DATA:

Date of travel to this place: 22 Mar. '51 Arrived: 2300 hrs. 22 Mar. '51
 Starting Point: " Oksfjord Departed: Alta 25 Mar. '51 9:00pm
 Distance traveled (in kms): _____ Subsequent visit paid. See also notes of 1949 visit
 Vehicles Used: Ingby
Fjord motor vessel 420 tons.
 Where stayed: Alta Hotel Comments: Excellent & reasonable

CONTACTS:

25X1X6	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>T.ph.</u>	<u>Comment</u>
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PLACE (cont'd): ALTA

Photographs:

Purchased locally: None

Taken: Color and black and white of town, including highways, coast, local industries, etc. Conditions from dull to bright.

Sketches Made:

None

Location

Description

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Industries:

<u>Type</u>	<u>No. of Workers</u>	<u>Products</u>	<u>Power</u>
Slate	1,000 but varies Note slate is exported to	Slate South Norway and before 1939 to Scotland.	Hand plus trucks

Fish products

Electricity

A good deal of miscellaneous automobile and other mechanical repair work done both privately and at state highway garage and at telephone and telegraph department.

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SEAPORTS:

General Comments:

There are two main harbors in the area, Bosekop and Bukta. They have different advantages depending on wind directions, severnity of icing, etc. There are excellent anchorages for very large vessels to west of Bosekop, e. g. Kaafjord, hiding placing of German Battleship Tirpitz.

Cargo Handling:

Wharves:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Depth</u>
Bosekop - Steamship Wharf & 2 fish wharves	Town	20 ft. at high tide
Bukta - Steamship Wharf & Fuel oil wharf	"	15 ft.

Lighters:

Small

Cranes:

None

<u>Location</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Comments</u>
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Repair Facilities

<u>Machine Shops:</u>	Small
<u>Foundries:</u>	Very small
<u>Dry docks:</u>	None
<u>Salvage gear:</u>	Minor

Supplies Available

Water <u>Yes</u>	Coal <u>No</u>
Provisions <u>Yes</u>	Oil-Fuel <u>At Bukta</u>
Engineering <u>No</u>	Diesel Fuel <u>At Bukta</u>
Deck <u>No</u>	

Harbor Information See Norwegian Coast Pilot, page 94 for details. Beach at Bosekop is large bolders getting smaller eastward. At Bukta small rounded stones turning toward the east into Delta sand. Good anchorage on sand bottom at 25 meters off Bosekop. Bosekop never ice covered but occasional small drift from Kaafjord. Bukta may suffer from ice drifting from Alta River area, but is better sheltered.

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