

**A 18**

**AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT**

FROM (Agency) Office of Special Investigations USAFE	REPORT NO. 49-DO3-547/6-0354	PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES
--	---------------------------------	-------------------

<u>KHAMMERYU</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>F-6</u>
<u>PLACE</u>	<u>AAF CHART NO</u>	<u>FN</u> <u>EVAL</u> <u>IN CODE NO</u>
<u>KOMI ASSR</u>	<u>Urban Area Information on KHAMMERYU (TAB 1)</u>	
<u>POLITICAL LOCATION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTIVE NAME</u>	
<u>NORTHWEST</u>		
<u>SOVIET ECON REGION</u>	<u>PROPER NAME</u>	<u>IMENI</u> <u>MN &amp; NO</u>
<u>Mar 53 - Dec 53</u>	<u>GRASSE, Fritz</u>	<u>11 March 1954</u>
<u>DATE OF INFO</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>DATE OF INTERVIEW</u>

**PREAMBLE:** SOURCE was interned in a convict camp at KHAMMERYU (68 42N/ 61 30E) a settlement approximately 190 km Northwest of VORKUTA (67 30N/64 00E). During this time he was engaged as a common laborer in odd jobs within the area of subject settlement. The information submitted by SOURCE is based on his own observations.

**I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE:**

KHAMMERYU (68 42N/61 30E) a settlement of approximately 3,000 inhabitants, was situated at the mouth of the KOROTAIKHA River. The distance between the settlement and the coast of the BARENTS SEA was approximately thirty (30) km. It had industrial importance because of its coal mines which gave a very fat coal for the chemical industry.

**II. LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:**

**Located Sites:** Reference is made to Inclosure 1, this Report, SOURCE'S memory location and layout sketch of subject settlement with an overlay to World Aeronautical Chart Pay-Khoy Range (49) which locates subject settlement. SOURCE gave information on the following sites:

**Point 1. CONVICT CAMP:** It comprised approximately twenty (20) wooden barracks, approximately fifty (50) by twenty (20) by four (4) meters each. Approximately 1,000 convicts (male) were retained in this camp. SOURCE stated that only four (4) Germans were in this camp. The other convicts were of all nationalities.

**Point 2. CONVICT CAMP:** This camp was only used during the winter. Approximately 800 PWs (female) were retained in this camp when SOURCE left subject settlement in December 1953.

**Point 3. OLD CONVICT CAMP:** This camp was not operational when observed by SOURCE from May to December 1953. He learned from fellow convicts that this camp was deactivated in 1952. The future purpose was unknown by SOURCE.

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Copy 1 of 2 Copies

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Office of Special Investigations USAFE	REPORT NO. 49-DO3-547/6-0354	PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES
--	---------------------------------	-------------------

[Point 4. WAREHOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION: It was located at the rail head of the VORKUTA to KHAMMERYU RR Line. This brick structure was approximately thirty (30) by fifteen (15) meters. The exterior walls were approximately fifty (50) cm thick. The height of the brickwork was approximately three (3) meters when last observed by SOURCE in December 1953. The scheduled height was unknown by SOURCE. He stated that the purpose of this building was to store supply and repair material for the RR line.

Point 5. RR STATION: The station building was described as a wooden barrack, approximately twenty-five (25) by fifteen (15) by four (4) meters. The slightly gabled roof was covered with wooden shingles. The VORKUTA to KHAMMERYU RR line branched off into four (4) or five (5) sidings within the station area.

Point 6. REPAIR SHOP: It was described as a single story wooden shed, approximately thirty (30) by fifty (50) by four (4) meters. The flat roof was covered with tar paper. This building was completed in early 1952. It was called "TRACTOR-KOMBINAT" among the convicts. SOURCE stated that motor vehicles were repaired within this shed. No further information was available.

[Point 7. RR LINE: This single track Russian gauge RR line connected the settlement of KHAMMERYU with the town of VORKUTA. The rails were nailed on the wooden ties which were spaced approximately seventy (70) cm apart. The ties were located immediately on the ground. No ballast or dams were observed by SOURCE. He stated that this RR line was used only by two (2) trains per week. These trains were loaded with timber, stones and steel girders. Subject line was affected by snow during the whole winter from November to March. An RR siding led from the station (Refer to Point 5, this Report) in an East direction. It was approximately five (5) km long. This siding was still under construction when last observed by SOURCE in December 1953.

[Point 8. COMBINED RR AND ROAD BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION: This bridge crossed the KOROTAIKHA River approximately thirty-five (35) km South of the coast of the BARENTS SEA. The KOROTAIKHA was approximately one hundred (100) meters wide at this particular point. Forty (40) to fifty (50) wooden supports, approximately 3.5 meters above the mean water level were sunk in the river bed across the whole river. The distance between the individual supports was approximately two (2) meters. The surface of the bridge (not further identified) was completed at the Eastern bridge head up to thirty (30) meters, when last observed by SOURCE in December 1953. Subject bridge was to be used by a single track Russian gauge RR line (Refer to Point 7, this Report); it carried a road and pedestrian walks. The scheduled date of completion was unknown by SOURCE. No further information was available.

[Point 9. COAL MINE NO. 1: This coal mine was not yet exploited in 1953. The shaft was still under construction when last observed by SOURCE in December 1953.]

[Point 10. PROJECTED COAL MINE NO. 2: The shaft of this coal mine was still under construction in December 1953.]

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(CLASSIFICATION)

Copy 1 of 2 Copies

16-55570-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Office of Special Investigations USAFE	REPORT NO. 49-DO3-547/6-0354	PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES
--	---------------------------------	-------------------

Point 11. PROJECTED COAL MINE NO. 3: The shaft of this coal mine was also under construction in December 1953.

Point 12. LABORER SETTLEMENT: This settlement comprised approximately ten (10) wooden barracks, approximately fifty (50) by twelve (12) by four (4) meters. The slightly gabled wooden truss roofs were covered with tar paper. Approximately one hundred (100) "free" laborers were housed within these barracks. An undetermined number of Russian soldiers, were billeted here. A kitchen, mess hall, bakery and a club were also located within these barracks.

III. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

SOURCE stated that this area was a slightly undulating territory which was crossed by the KOROTAIKHA River. The individual hills were approximately thirty (30) meters high above the sea level. The swampy ground was covered with grass and moss. In a Western direction the spurs of the URAL mountains were located. SOURCE stated that the mountains were approximately 500 meters high. The distance between the KOROTAIKHA River and these mountains was approximately twenty (20) km. Summer in this area lasted from June to September with temperatures up to ten (10) degrees above Zero centigrades. Winter lasted from October to May with temperatures up to forty (40) degrees below Zero centigrades. Blizzards were observed by SOURCE mainly in spring and in fall. Wind was generally blowing from West. Everlasting night was observed from early December to early January.

IV. INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS:

SOURCE stated that no water or gas supply lines were available within the settlement of KHAMMERYU. Electric light was in all barracks. SOURCE stated that the electric power was carried by a power line (Not further identified) from VORKUTA into the area of KHAMMERYU. The construction of a power plant within the area of KHAMMERYU was not planned in 1953. The coal in this area was discovered by Professor STADNIKOFF a few years ago. SOURCE stated that this coal was very fat and exceptionally fit for the chemical industry. SOURCE learned from fellow convicts that approximately forty (40) shafts were to be constructed in the near future. He further stated that a chemical factory in Leningrad (59 55N/30 15E) was completed by this time for manufacturing this coal.

V. POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

SOURCE stated that all laborers in this area were so called "free" laborers and convicts. These "free" laborers were formerly convicts, inhabitants of the Baltic provinces and the satellite states and a small number of volunteers. Professor STADNIKOFF was also interned there because he was in the United States for a few months before World War II.

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(CLASSIFICATION)

Copy 1 of 2 Copies

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MM 974352  
By WJ NARA Date 9/4/01

21

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)  
Office of Special Investigations  
USAFE

REPORT NO.  
49-DO3-547/6-0354

PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

SOURCE stated that the Soviet Regime had not enough "free laborers" for the completion of the projected installations in this area. They were unable to hire volunteers at this time. It was impossible to leave the area of KHAMMERYU. All laborers (except the convicts) had special passes with attached photos. They could not leave the area of KHAMMERYU for more than one (1) km. Work was very hard and was described as slave-labor. The food situation was very bad. SOURCE stated that food became very rare during the winter because the traffic on the RR line was often blocked by snow drifts. The convicts wished they had weapons to be able to free themselves.

VI. SECURITY SYSTEMS AND MEASURES:

SOURCE stated that the security measures were not too strict because the swampy open terrain made it impossible to leave this territory. A small garrison (number of soldiers unknown by SOURCE) was stationed within the laborer settlement (Refer to Point 12, Inclosure 1, this Report). The convict camps were guarded by MVD soldiers armed with rifles or sub-machine guns. Radar installations, anti-aircraft guns or search lights were not observed by SOURCE.

*John B. Adams*  
JOHN B. ADAMS  
S/A OSI

1 Inclosure: SOURCE'S Memory Location Sketch - KHAMMERYU

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

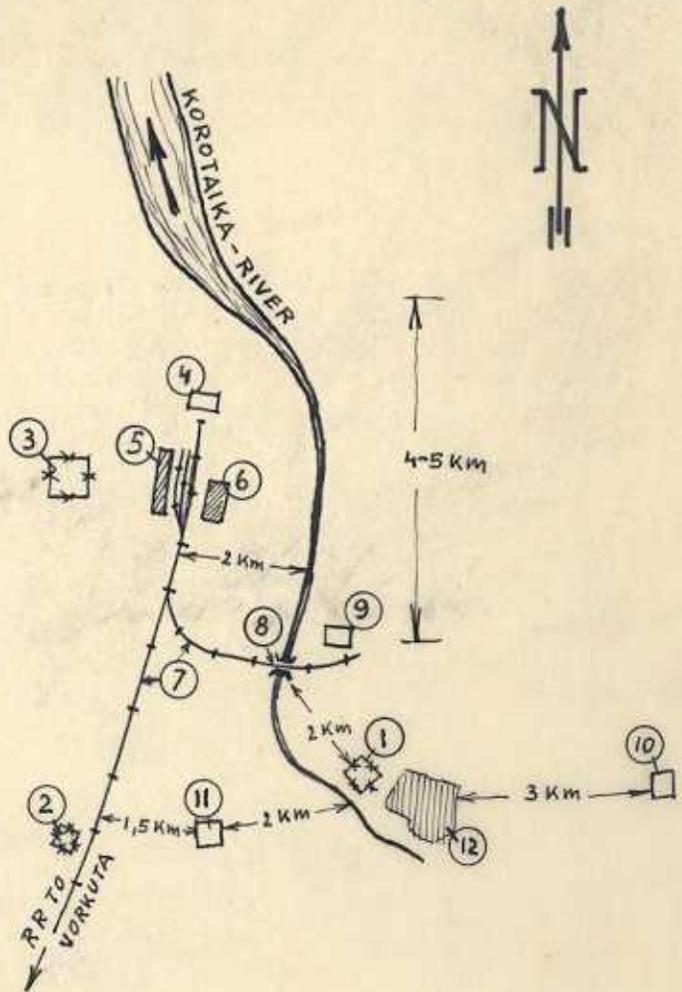
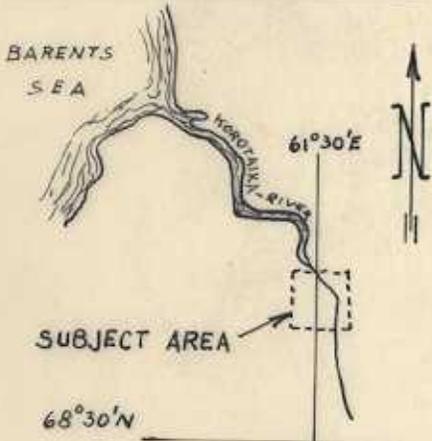
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(CLASSIFICATION)

Copy 1 of 2 Copies

# KHAMMERYU (68°42'N/61°30'E)

## SOURCE'S MEMORY LOCATION SKETCH (UNRETOUCHED)

OVERLAY  
 TO WORLD AERONAUTICAL CHART  
 PAY-KHOY RANGE (49) - 1:1,000,000



LEGEND

- ① CONVICT CAMP
- ② CONVICT CAMP
- ③ OLD CONVICT CAMP
- ④ WAREHOUSE UND. CONSTR.
- ⑤ RR STATION
- ⑥ REPAIR SHOP
- ⑦ RR LINE
- ⑧ COMBINED RR AND ROAD BRIDGE  
UND. CONSTRUCTION
- ⑨ COAL MINE # I
- ⑩ PROJECTED COAL MINE # II
- ⑪ PROJECTED COAL MINE # III
- ⑫ LABORER SETTLEMENT

#  
INCL. 1

REPORT 49-D03-547/6-0354

**CONFIDENTIAL**