

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 2 OF 5 PAGES
7050th Air INTSERWG (USAFE)	52B-11085A	

I. **PREAMBLE:** S was interned in VORKUTA (6730N 6400E) at the penal labor camps #1, 9/10 and 11 from Jul 50 to Jun 53; he worked as a coal miner and sometime as general laborer on bldg constr. His knowledge however limited, was derived from personal observations unless otherwise stated.

II. **LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:** Ref is made to Incl 1, this Rpt, a Memory Sketch of VORKUTA, on which S identified the following points:

1. **PENAL LABOR CAMP #1.** With adjoining coal mine. Camp consisted of 50 single story wooden barracks, each 50 m x 10 m with low gable roof covered with shingles. Surrounded by a double row of barbed wire fences with watchtowers. Four thousand male penal laborers were housed here, guarded by Russian soldiers wearing army uniform with red shoulderboards, armed with submachine guns and carbines. The inmates of the camp were to the largest extent Ukrainians, followed by inhabitants of the former Baltic States. Germans, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Spaniards formed minority groups. There were also 3 Japanese, 1 Frenchman, 1 Swede, and 1 Egyptian. They all were serving a sentence of 25 years each. They worked to the larger extent in nearby coal mines.

2. **RR SIDING.** SRR, RSG on 3 m high earthen embankment extending to Brick Yard, Pt 4. Surrounding area was flooded during the thawing period. Brick and coal trains passed over this line.

3. **PENAL LABOR CAMP #11.** With adjoining coal mine. Camp was similar to Pt 1, but consisted of 10 wooden barracks with 750 inmates. In Summer 52, two former German generals were interned here: LASCH, the defender of KOENIGSBERG (5445N 2030E), and SCHILMER. Both were transferred to unknown destinations in Nov/Dec 52.

4. **BRICK YARD.** Female penal workers were employed here.

5. **POWER PLT.** Under constr and not completed when S left. Ground breaking started in '51. S saw the activities from Pt 3; the distance to the constr site was estimated by S at 4000 m. A new penal labor camp was set up at the constr site. In the beginning of '53, no structure as yet was seen by S rising above the surrounding wooden barrack. It was the general opinion that here the new power plt was being constructed.

6. **VORKUTA RIVER.** In the average 100m wide, not navigable, 0,5 - 1 m deep in the summer time, horse carts were able to cross the river almost at any point. In the thawing period the river rose to 2 - 3 m height, flooding the surrounding land.

7. **RR BRIDGE.** Steel truss bridge 150 m long with a clearance of 10 m. Width was unknown to S as well as type and number of supporting pillars. A SRR, RSG track was supported by this bridge. The RR line ran S to N on a 10 m high earth embankment. A few times S was in the vicinity of this bridge on a work detail to load gravel for constr purposes.

8. **SWAMPY AREA.** Permanently marshy.

9. **DAM.** 4 - 5 m high concrete dam extending over the whole width of the VORKUTA River. Equipped with spill ways and a little bldg on N side of river. On the S side of river below the dam and at river level the water was heavily agitated. From this S assumed that some sort of outlets extended into the river. S saw this dam from a distance of 1200 m while working on a gravel detail near Pt 7.

10. **POWER PLT.** S saw this Power Plt from Pt 24; estimated distance 1500 - 2000 m. S had the impression that it was a complex consisting of 2 bldgs, each equipped with 2 smokestacks rising from the roof of the bldgs. S only saw smoke from 2 smokestacks in 1 bldg. He never saw any smoke issuing from the other bldg. S learned from Russians that light and power for the city, its coal mines and penal camps was supplied from this plt.

11. **STADIUM.** Surrounded by a board wall decorated with small turrets. For sport activity. S was never there.

12. **CONSTR SITE.** A total of 10 apartment bldgs were under constr here, each 2 story brick structure 50 - 60 m x 15 - 20 m with attic and basement, gable roof

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FROM (Agency) 7050th Air INTSERWG (USAF)	REPORT NO. 52B-11085A	PAGE 3 OF 5 PAGES
---	--------------------------	-------------------

covered with eternite slabs. All bldgs were to be provided with central heating system located in the basement. S worked here as general laborer in Jul/Aug 52. The framework of 6 bldgs was completed when S was last here in Aug 52. From free Russian laborers S learned that administrative personnel of the coal mines was to be housed here.

13. **FOOD MARKET.** Single story wooden structure 80 m x 30 m with metal sheet covered gable roof. Potatoes, cabbage, salted fish and other foodstuff was sold here to the towns people.

14. **TOWN HOSPITAL.** Two story brick structure 100 m x 50 m with entrance decorated with columns. Roof constr and coverage thereof unknown to S. Learned from other prisoners that this was town hospital.

15. **THEATER.** Brick structure 50 m x 30 m x 15 m, low gable roof coverage unknown to S.

16. **FOOD STORE.** With attached restaurant. Two story brick structure 40x20m with gabled metal sheet roof. Bldg bore inscription ECONOMIST. In the show window of the food store painted wooden carvings of hams, sausages, fish and other provisions were exhibited.

17. **STREETS.** 10 m wide, surface unknown and in bad condition. Light traffic.

18. **BARRACKS AREA.** Composed of approx 20 single story wooden structures, each 50 m x 10 m, covered with shingles. In the center was a large square with parked trucks. The soldiers billeted here wore army uniform with dark blue shoulder boards. Weapons seen by S were submachine guns, carbines and mortars, the cal of which was unknown to him. Russians called this place STAB POLKA (Regimental Staff).

19. **MARKET SQUARE.** 200 m in diameter with partly rolled surface. In winter time natives with Mongolian features, called COMI, came here with large reindeer herds trading their animals for food.

20. **ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX.** Composed of 7 - 8 two story brick structures. S learned from Russians that here the districts administration for the nomadic native population was housed.

21. **RR LINE.** SRR RSG, extending towards S to UTKHA (6334N 5342E), towards N it was said one could reach the island of NOVAYA ZEMLYA.

22. **RR STATION BLDG.** Two-story brick structure, 60 m x 20 m, with gabled metal sheet roof; a number of wooden sheds were in its vicinity. The station had 5 - 6 SRR RSG tracks. S saw locomotives similar to the German type 52, and smaller ones with funnel shaped smokestack of which it was said that they were pre-WW I types.

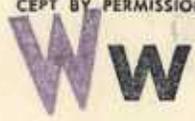
23. **BARRACKS AREA.** Similar to Pt 18, but composed of 10 wooden structures.

24. **PENAL LABOR CAMP #9/10.** With adjoining coal mine. Similar to Pt 1.

III. **GENERAL INFO:** S learned from Russians that a total of 26 coal mines were in operation in VORKUTA Area. The norm for the penal laborers was to load 10 RR cars of 60 tons cap each per 8 hr shift. It was said that the VORKUTA coal was shipped to LENINGRAD (5955N 3015E) for the chemical industry. In Jun 53, on his home journey, S passed a place where he saw oil derricks and learned from fellow prisoners who had been working here that this was the UTKHA oil field. The derricks were of wooden constr; he did not learn anything about the extension of the oil field or the use of the oil.

While confined in VORKUTA, S saw and spoke several times with a fellow prisoner who claimed to be an American. Learned from him that his name was MATTHIUK, Bill, and that he was a corporal in the US Army and a member of the US Occupation Forces in BERLIN (5231N 1324E), that he was arrested in POTSDAM (5224N 1304E) in 1948, having fallen asleep in a suburban train on the way to his billets, that he was sentenced for espionage to 25 years penal labor and sent to VORKUTA. S saw this man last in Dec 52. He was liked by his fellow prisoners and respected by the Russian guards since he did not hesitate to use his fists. He was working in coal mines, but if he did not like to go to work he was not too much hindered by the

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 7050TH Air INTSERWG (USAF)	REPORT NO. 52B-11085 A	PAGE 4 OF 5 PAGES
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guards.

Estimated age 25 - 26, color hair - dark blond, color eyes - unkn, bushy eyebrows, weight 90 kg, stout figure. Besides English, he spoke some German and a little Russian. He was unassuming and goodnatured.

Another prisoner was a former Russian nobleman named UCHTOMSKY (60), who spoke German fluently and claimed to have lived in BERLIN after WW I. He was arrested after WW II in MANCHURIA and confined to VORKUTA. He was not compelled to work outside the camp.

Marcell E Fountain
for Major USAF

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