

COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. 56A-5120-A	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT <u>Area of VORKUTA</u>			
AREA REPORTED ON <u>VORKUTA, USSR</u>		FROM (Agency) <u>7050th AISW (USAFE)</u>	
DATE OF REPORT <u>29-30 Jun 54</u>	DATE OF INFORMATION <u>Aug 49-May 50</u>	EVALUATION <u>F-6</u>	
PREPARED BY (Officer) <u>JOHN S. ALLISON, Major, USAF</u>		SOURCE <u>244303</u>	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)			
<p>I. <u>PREAMBLE</u>: S was interned in PW camps # ?/24,35 in VORKUTA (6622N7008E) from Aug 49 to May 50, worked as miner and laborer on constr of a new coal mine near town. He entered area of town very seldom, therefore info on it very sketchy. He was able to describe general layout of area around town and recalled most points in it. Info acquired through personal observations unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>II. <u>LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST</u>: Ref is made to incl 1, Memory Sketch of the area of VORKUTA, on which S located the following pts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP</u>. 500 internees, mixed male and female. S never entered, could not give further details. 2. <u>COAL MINE # 24</u>. Under constr; main shaft being blasted out, at time S worked here. Very little coal taken out. Approximately 400 former German PWs and several Russian specialists, such as blasters and drillers, as PWs were not allowed to handle dynamite for blasting. 3. <u>POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP # 25</u>. Approximately 600 Russian prisoners. 4. <u>POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP # 24</u>. Approximately 450 prisoners, mixed nationalities, such as former German PWs, Latvians, several Swedes who kept to themselves and never spoke to other prisoners, Estonians and a few White Russians. S was in here for approximately six (6) months in 1949-50. Swedes were in camp because they had been voluntary members of German Army. No other details recalled. 5. <u>GUARD FORCE BARRACKS</u>. Size of area unknown. Three (3) single storied red brick bldgs, each approximately fifty (50) m long, twelve (12) m wide and five (5) m high, slightly gabled shingle roofs. Guard force approximately seventy (70) to seventy-five (75) MVD men. Dressed in OD uniforms with red piping around their shoulderboards, armed with pistols, sub-machine guns and/or rifles. 6. <u>COAL MINE # 26</u>. Under constr; no coal produced as long as S was in VORKUTA. Labor force unknown. 7. <u>POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP # 26</u>. Approximately 800 prisoners. 8. <u>COAL MINE # 53</u>. Produced approximately 100 tons of coal per day as S heard several times from fellow internees working in mine. Electrified modern equipment, labor force unknown. 9. <u>COAL MINE # 55</u>. Produced approximately 100 tons per day. 10. <u>COAL MINE # 54</u>. Only partly in operation, newly constructed, side tunnels had not all reached coal vein. Approximate production: fifty (50) to sixty (60) tons per day. 11. <u>POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP # 27</u>. 520 to 530 internees, largely former German PWs, remainder Russians. No other info, as fellow PWs to whom S spoke had been in camp a very short time only. <p><u>1</u> INCLS. Memory Sketch of VORKUTA P.5</p>			
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12. AIRFIELD VORKUTA. Coordinates same as town's as far as interviewer could determine, as it was located very close to town area. It was roughly rectangular, size unrecalled, had an all grass surface, no improved surfaces such as runways, taxi strips, etc. were seen by S. At night a perimeter line of red warning lights could be observed from afar. S heard from natives of VORKUTA, that only occasional courier planes from MOSKVA (5545N3735E) arrived and took off here. No other flying observed.

13. RESIDENTIAL AREAS. Most dwellings wood, single storied, with a very few two (2) and three (3) storied structures of wood and/or red brick here and there. S did not observe any paved sidestreets between dwellings, as he only travelled on a few of the main streets in town. Water was supplied to population out of water tank trucks, which were two (2) and three (3) axled ZIS and/or Studebaker types with tanks of 800 to 1,200 liter cap. If people wanted more water than was issued them, they had to go and get it from VORKUTA river, pt 21.

14. CLASSIFICATION CAMP. Commonly called BERESILKA. Used for all new prisoners arriving in town. Here all prisoners, political and criminal were classified by authorities and sent to various camps throughout town area and near it. When S first arrived here, he met a person who gave him following info about himself: He stated to have been a former US-Army Colonel, on a secret mission in SZG, was caught and sentenced to ten (10) or fifteen (15) years of hard labor on charge of espionage. He was approximately 172 to 175 cm, forty (40) to forty-five (45), dark hair, slim figure no other identifying marks. This man also told S, whom he seemed to like, that he had been a spy in Germany during WW II. He spoke fluent German without accent, but was never heard to speak English, probably because he had no one to speak to. Further fate unknown.

15. CITY STREETS. Partly macadam, partly unimproved, in fair to poor condition, without sidewalks, curbstones, sewers or water hydrants. Electric streetlights here and there on four (4) to five (4) m high wooden masts. Most of city area, however, unilluminated during night.

16. IRON FOUNDRY. Seen from afar only therefore constructional or production details not available. He heard from fellow PWs who had visited plt several times, that sheet metal stoves, iron stove grates, fire doors, etc. were made. S of raw material unknown, finished stoves mainly used in various political prison camps and dwellings of city.

17. SRR. RSG, wooden ties on crushed rock ballast, two (2) m high earth embankment with sloping grass covered sides. Terminated N of town, had several side branches. Came from MOSKVA. Heavy traffic of freight trains with food and material shipments to VORKUTA, and coal trains leaving for unknown destinations. Usually four (4) axled sixty (60) ton cars, engines steam powered, of unknown type or wheel arrangement.

18. RR STATION. Red brick, exact size unrecalled, single storied, slightly gabled shingle roof. Contents unknown, seen from afar only.

19. RR STATION COMPLEX. One (1) to one and one-half (1½) km long, six (6) to seven (7) tracks wide. Switches hand operated, switching done with several small steam engines. Signals along tracks near both ends of station of semaphore type, unknown how operated. Watering facilities: wooden tower, approximately ten (10) m high, five (5) m in diameter, on a four (4) to five (5) m high wood trestle staging. Piles of coal for RR engines kept at N end of yard, no mechanical loading facilities for coal.

20. MVD HEADQUARTERS. Wood, single storied, exact size unrecalled, slightly gabled shingle roof. S never entered. This structure was outstanding, as it had a fresh coat of light gray paint on the outside, while most of other bldgs had unfinished exterior.

21. VORKUTA RIVER. Twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) m wide, depth unknown, banks steep and mostly rocky, sometimes up to fifteen (15) m high, not navigable. River was usually frozen between Oct and May each year, could then easily be crossed by heavy trucks.

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22. SOCCER FIELD. Parades of native workers held on 1 May or the day of October revolution. No structures on field.

23. COAL MINE # 48. 150 to 200 tons per day, equipment electrified, quite modern. Three (3) shifts, twenty-four (24) hours per day, six (6) to seven (7) days per week.

24. ROAD BRIDGE. Wood trestle deck type, approximately twenty-five (25) m long, three (3) m wide, without sidewalks, 120 cm high wooden guard rails. Bridgebed heavy wooden planking. Trucks crossed at five (5) to ten (10) km per hour, cap unknown.

25. SRR LINE. Narrow gauge, approximately ninety (90) cm wide, ran as indicated on the inclosure, level with surrounding terrain. Small lorry trains pulled by outmoded steam engines of unknown make. Coal transports only. Several sidings to various coal mines in area, alignment unrecalled.

26. TWO (2) POLITICAL PRISONER CAMPS. Seen from afar only, one (1) for male, the other for female internees.

27. COAL MINE # unknown. Under constr, no details.

28. POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP # 61. 1,000 internees, some of them Japanese PWs, 300 to 400 former German PWs and various other nationalities. S never entered camp, had info from internees.

29. CEMENT FCTY. Under constr, only seen from afar. Several red brick structures under constr. Unknown whether production had already started.

30. POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP # 33. Approximately 200 former German PWs were interned, all working in Cement fcty, pt 29. S spoke to some of them on and off.

31. POLITICAL PRISONER CAMP # 35. 650 internees, most of them former German PWs, all others Russians who had been PWs in Germany during WW II. S was interned here during most of his stay in VORKUTA. Camp was removed to unknown location a few days before he left, according to fellow PWs who had helped tear down camp bldgs.

32. COAL MINE # 29. 120 to 150 tons per twenty-four (24) hour period. About 150 PWs and 200 to 250 Russians worked in three (3), eight (8) hour shifts on a twenty-four (24) basis six (6) days per week.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION: Travel restricted to twenty-five (25) km radius for civilians. Only for official reason travel was permitted. Travelers had to be in possession of official MVD travel permit. No military barracks areas or troop concentrations were heard of by S.

for *Willis P. Mark, Capt*
JOHN S. ALLISON
Major, USAF
Commander
7056 AISS

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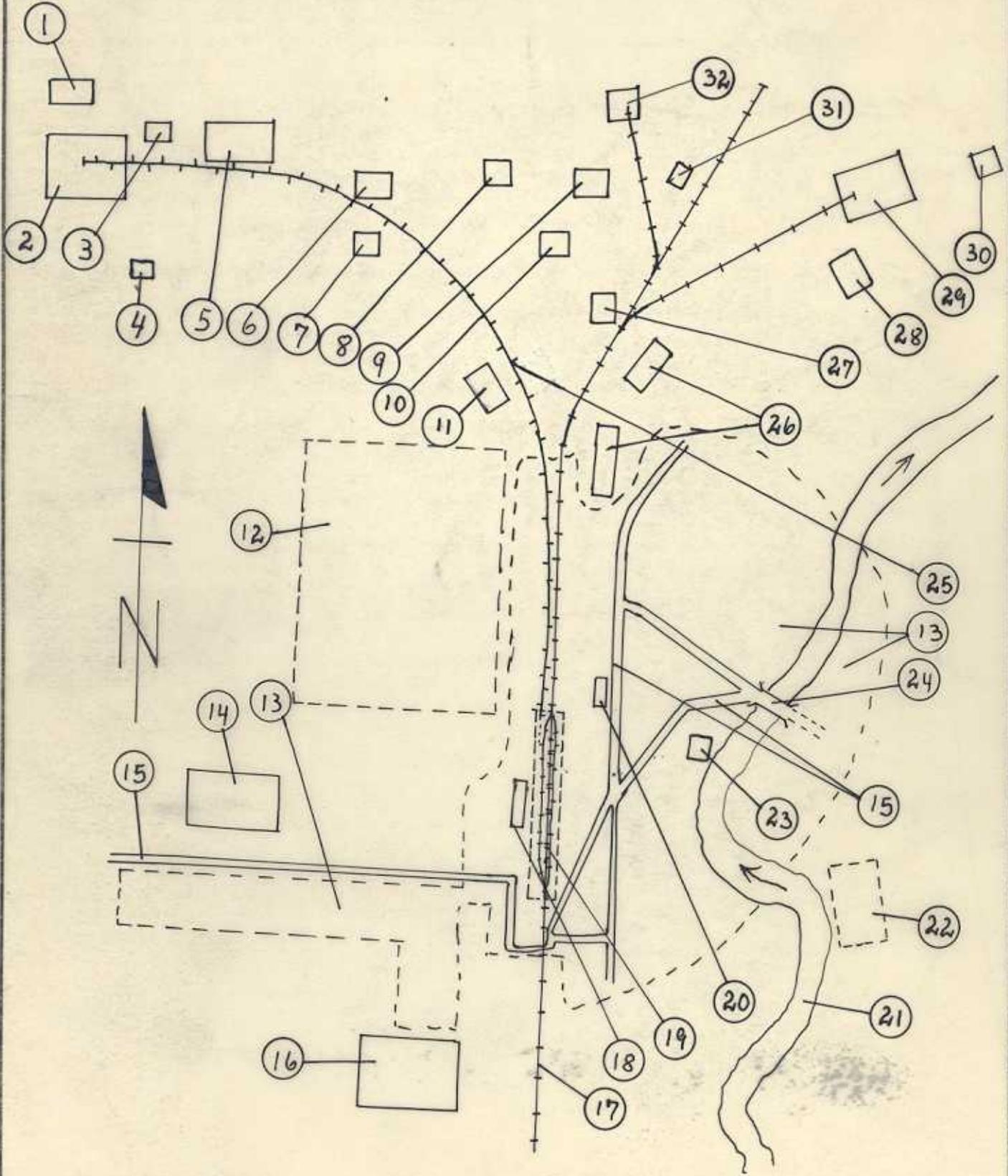
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MEMORY SKETCH OF THE AREA OF
VORKUTA (6622N-7008E);
INCL. 1, REPORT 56A-5120-A.



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