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5. Streets of Chortkov were lighted by electric lamps suspended over the center of the streets between two poles. Streets were named after important dates of the Bolshevik Revolution, eg: First-of-May, October Revolution, and Red Army Day. Streets were named also after Soviet leaders or military heroes. Streets were numbered with odd numbers on the left sides of streets as one entered the city from the south.
 6. A village called, Wymnanka was located on the left bank of the river, but this was later incorporated (after World War I) into the city of Chortkov. Part of this former village called Doloshna (lower) had a mixed urban and rural character. A railway station, Greek Catholic Church, ruins of a Seventeenth Century castle, and a public school were located in Doloshna. The so-called Horishna (upper) part of the village had rural characteristics. Horishna was spread on a steep elevated plateau and had no paved streets or electricity.
 7. Most buildings in Chortkov were of massive brick construction and roofs were covered with zinc-galvanized metal sheets and red tile. There were no shingled roofs. Most buildings were private homes. The center of the city had two large apartment houses with stores in their ground floors. Store-owners, doctors, dentists, and lawyers resided in those apartment houses. The city hall was a new three-story building, in very good condition, built of huge bricks and having a sheet-metal roof. A city market was in the center of the city and had a four-faced clock tower. Nearly all government buildings, the post office, county buildings, and police station were of three-story height and were located on the main street. The courthouse was massive and the only four-story building in the city. It was located about 1500 feet from the city hall. A brick-fenced prison was in the courtyard of the courthouse. A Roman Catholic Church and Monastery stood near the center of the city where the highway made a sharp turn. A two-story hospital building was a little farther down the highway. Opposite the city park, on the edge of town, was a building which housed offices and dispensary of the State Insurance and Hospital Service, called by the Soviets "Kasa Chorych" (Building of the Sick).
 8. Most stores and government buildings were located on two streets, the First-of-May Highway (Polish Name--Mickiewycsa Ulica) and Railway Street. The latter connected the center of the city with the railway station on the left bank of the river. A steel bridge spanned the river. This was the only way for vehicular traffic to cross the river. There were narrow pedestrian crossings both above and below the city.
 9. Except for two large hydro-turbine driven flour mills and one alcohol distillery, there was no large industry in the city. The lack of big plants reflected a shortage of electrical power and a lack of level areas to build upon. In 1940-41, the Soviets began clearing a forest area between Chortkov and Kopyosynoi /Kopychintsa--49 06 N 25 56 E/not far from the highway. This was to prepare for building a plant called Shmaurivei.
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10. Damage to the city during World War II was slight. The Roman Catholic Church and Monastery and the railroad administration building were the only two buildings which were burned down completely. Bridges and power station, although partially destroyed, were repaired rapidly. Three new bridges were constructed, two for vehicular traffic and one for the railroad. These were of wooden construction. The power station had one 200 hp Diesel engine damaged, but that, too, was repaired and put back into service. A 70 hp Diesel engine which had a broken main bearing, a damaged crankshaft, and the syncro wheels broken was replaced by a 220 hp Diesel engine. All other partially damaged buildings were repaired.

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11. Of historical significance, the most important shrine was the Seventeenth Century castle. There were no large parks in the city with the exception of a park on the outskirts of the city. The city was kept clean and sanitary.
12. Population
In 1939, the city of Chortkov, including the village across the river and the small villages of Berdo /sic/ and Kadoch /sic/, had approximately 12 thousand inhabitants. [redacted] the Soviets deported approximately one thousand Ukrainians and Poles to Siberia in 1940 and 1941. By 1944, the German Gestapo had killed 75 per cent of the approximately three thousand Jews of the city.
13. Groupings of population according to ethnic adherences were: (1) 80 per cent of the population in the center of the city was Jewish; (2) upper and lower portions of Wynnanka Village were inhabited by about equal numbers of Poles and Ukrainians; (3) the area known as Starishna Wynnanka was 80 per cent Ukrainian and 20 per cent Polish. In numbers, population was composed of five thousand Ukrainians, four thousand Poles, and three thousand Jews. The Jews, who were strict Orthodox, had one large synagogue and three or four small houses of prayer. [redacted]
14. [redacted] in Chortkov (1934 to 1944) there were no unnaturalized foreigners living in the city and [redacted] no special tensions among ethnic groups.
Government and Administration
15. Leading organizations in Chortkov (1934 to 1944) were:
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|--|--|
| HORNOM - Horodskyj Komitet <u>/City committee/</u>
located in the City Hall | Leader, fnu <u>Karpanko</u> |
| RAYPARTKOM - Raynovyj Partenyj Komitet <u>/Rayon Party Committee/</u> located in County Building | Leader, fnu <u>Palkowsky</u> and fnu <u>Novosiolow</u> |
| RAYWNO <u>/Board of Education/</u> located in its own building opposite the County Building | Director, <u>Luchkow</u> |
| OBISPOKYNPILKA located in Courthouse | Director, <u>Anisimow</u> |
16. Individuals dealt directly with HORNOM, RAYPARTKOM, RAYWNO, and USHOSTOR /Highway Department - located in a building in Wynnanka section/. They also dealt with RAYTOROVWIDDIL, which was the General Insurance Office Building of "Kasa Chorych".
17. The MVD and MGB, known then as the NKVD, had a two-story building located behind the County Building. This building was occupied also by the militia. A three-story prison building, built for housing 250 inmates normally, was used by the NKVD and approximately 1000 inmates. Prison buildings were supplied with running water and were heated by central heating. This prison area was fenced by a 15 feet-high brick fence. There were no prisoner-of-war or forced labor camps in this area [redacted] in Chortkov (1934 to 1944).
18. Sections most strictly policed and guarded were railroad bridges, railroad coal storage dumps, military barracks and areas, and ammunition storage areas. Very strict curfew restrictions were placed on inhabitants and the patrolling militia (usually two or three) arrested, without question, all unauthorized persons on the streets after nine p.m.

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19. One division of military troops was stationed in and near the city. This did not include NKVD border guards or special railroad militia. All of the larger city lots, pastures, and market places were used as parking areas for military trucks and mechanized or motorized artillery.
20. [redacted] in Chortkov, the civilian population received special training in anti-aircraft defense. This training was conducted by an organization called OSOWIACHIM. [redacted] such training is still being practiced.
21. On the railroad station property there were two two-story buildings. One housed the main railroad administrative offices; the other was used in part for apartments for railroad personnel and in part for storage of railroad property. This area also contained a railroad supply storage building, a depot for locomotive and motor cars, a repair shop, and coal storage area. The railroad station was fenced but only the coal piles were guarded by railroad militia.
22. The city was connected by railroad with other cities in the USSR. Distances measured: Chortkov to Stanislaw, 120 km; Chortkov to Ternopol', 80 km; Chortkov to Zaleshchiki, 40 km; and Chortkov to Ivana-Puste, 45 km (the latter tracks went near the old Russian-Polish border). All lines were single-tracked. In 1941, under Soviet occupation, work was started on a new double-track line, through the village of Bila /Sheet NM 35-7 of AMS Series N501 shows a village "Byala" two km out of Chortkov to the northwest/. [redacted] this track is now finished. The Chortkov station handled about 15 passengers and six to ten freight trains during a 24-hour period.
23. Concerning water transportation, the Seret is a shallow river not suited to any type of water transportation.
24. By the end of 1941, the Soviets had almost completed a large military airrome three miles east from the Chortkov-Jegelnica /probably Yagel'nitsa, 48 57 N 25 44 E/ highway. Work on this airport was hastened along. Three shifts worked around the clock and three of the four runways had the concrete poured. [redacted]
25. Chortkov had no modern transportation facilities. Private automobiles were used only for government purposes by the Soviets. The Soviets brought to the city over 50 standard trucks which were used for transporting goods and agricultural products throughout the city. There were no streetcars, buses, private trucks, or automobiles.
26. A majority of the population, especially those from the rural part of the city, worked as agricultural hands on "kolhozes". Intelligentsia worked in Soviet Administrative Work. Soviet administration developed to enormous measures and was very inflexible. Each small business establishment had a complicated system of bookkeeping and had to employ a director, cashier, bookkeeper, supply clerk, and other clerks. Thirty per cent of these employees were women. Wages were low and not sufficient to cover everyday living expenses. All wages were regulated by the State Financial Department "Finvidl". A serious lack of skilled workers caused the Soviets to establish two trade schools, agricultural and mechanical.
27. Up to 1934, the city was supplied with direct current (2 x 220 volt lines) from a local power station which produced current by Diesel power of approximately 450 horsepower. This power supply was insufficient for the needs of the city. Just prior to World War II, the Polish government planned to construct a new hydraulic electric station and a new municipal water purifying plant. These plans never materialized. Electric lights in homes burned dimly. Electric pumps and other equipment were of poor quality because copper was not allowed for the manufacture of electrical equipment, except that which was for army use.

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28. The following articles were in short supply and were under strict ration:
(1) all ready-made garments; (2) shoes and other leather goods; (3) linen;
and (4) sugar. Tea and coffee could be bought only on the black market.
Vodka and smoked and pickled fish were in good supply.
29. Operators of black markets, when caught, received severe sentences. These sentences ranged from one-half year at forced labor to six to ten years deportation to Siberia. Black markets existed, nevertheless, conducted by supply clerks who had access to goods and transported from supply storage areas to the cities. Sometimes high Party personalities were involved in black marketing. Such persons, when caught, received the most severe punishment. The Soviet Administration had a special division of trained personnel which dealt solely with black market activities.
30. Farmers never had surplus agricultural products to sell in city markets; directors of the kolkhozes made sure of that. Farmers' earnings in grain and other agricultural products amounted to about one kg of grain for one day of work. This was in only the best cases. Cities in this area were normally supplied with food from city stores. These stores procured their produce from non-collectivized united farmers. Taxes on this food were so high that it was impossible for a single farmer to make a decent living. Thefts from kolkhozes were in much evidence. When one was caught, punishment was very severe with long periods at forced labor. Farmers did conduct business in so-called bazaars comparable to a US second-hand store, but not with the varieties and quantity of articles of a US second-hand store. These bazaars were usual gathering places for farmers; here they could eat and drink if they had the money and the time.
31. Political Life
[redacted] leaders of the local Party Committee. They were: fnu Novosiolow, 1st Secretary; fnu Karpenkow, 2nd Secretary; and Palkowsky, 3rd Secretary. All three were typical Communist political chiefs, without intelligence or education, in their late thirties, and very rough and unmannerly in habit. The chief of the local NKVD was M Miroshnychenko (not a Ukrainian). All political, educational, economical, sanitary, agricultural, and public utility installations in the country were controlled by this Party Committee. The NKVD, in turn, had control over the Party Committee and other Soviet institutions. Branches of the NKVD were: militia, railroad, police, highway (USHOSTOR), and fire stations. Independent of the Party Committee and NKVD control were the armed forces and railroad engineers and firemen.
32. The principal newspaper published in the city was a daily called "Cherwony Prapor" (Red Flag).
33. [redacted] in this city (1934 to 1944), listening to foreign broadcasts was not forbidden but was not advisable. All listeners to secret radio broadcasts were noted in NKVD records as "enemies of the people". Radio sets were owned only by people of so-called "bad social origin"—former lawyers, store-owners, and rich farmers. Their sets were confiscated and they were instructed to procure no replacements. Soviet produced radios were unsuitable for listening to foreign broadcasts because of certain defects on the condenser plates. These radios were primitive and good only for short distance reception. So-called kolkhoz clubs were installed with a common radio by which one could listen to propaganda or an occasional song but mostly to the rantings of kolkhoz officials. Certain collective farm members or officials were permitted to install loud speakers in their quarters which were connected to the main receiver in the club. Some people owned small crystal sets which were used late at night and kept secret.

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34. There was no free recruiting of workers by local enterprises. Everybody was obliged to work upon the direction of the chief of an enterprise. This chief had authority to hire and fire, with no questions asked.
35. Until [] (1944), every worker, laborer, and clerk was obliged to obtain a release from a job. Violators were punished severely (Malenkov was the first to introduce this law in our city after the Part Conference of 1940).
36. Wages were regulated strictly by the Promfinplan (Industrial Financial Plan) in industries and by the Agrfinplan (Agricultural Financial Plan) on farms. Directors of enterprises were not allowed to regulate or change wages once approved by a main office (HLAWK) located in Moscow or Kiev. Strict controls were also put upon clerical and official staffs. During a new planning period, no changes were allowed except in special cases where permission was obtained from highest authorities.
37. All cities in the republics of the USSR had the same labor regulations in force. Proposals for production and labor staff were instituted every year during July.
38. Typical wage conditions in cities were low and insufficient considering the cost of living. There were two categories of people: one which risked speculation on black markets and similar black dealings and obtained a better existence; the other which was always on the border of starvation and cared for nothing but food. The second group consisted mainly of kolkhoz workers. They lived like animals. Better paid workers were technical specialists, theater artists, professors of universities, and scientists. Party members and the so-called "political elite" also received good wages. Best paid were NKVD officials, court judges, and prosecutors. A few of these owned their own small homes as allowed by the Soviet constitution.
- Social Life
39. A new arrival in the city had to comply with special procedure. He had to report to the special UPRAW-DOMU, which was the accommodations sections of the NKVD. This office controlled living quarters and other accommodations and informed a house manager whenever a stranger was going to begin living in the house. The new arrival was instructed to report on informal life in the place where he had lived previously. [] this was done so that difficult new arrivals would be placed in living quarters where they could disrupt normal conditions least.
40. All business travelers, such as supply men, had travel orders in their possession. Such documents were seldom checked on railroads, busses, or at stations but they were checked by the UPRAW-DOMU.
41. The city had only one large hotel which was open 24 hours per day. Rates were low and on a daily basis. All the best rooms, however, were generally reserved for Party men who might arrive in the city.
42. Public entertainment houses, such as tea rooms and cafes, were under constant control of the NKVD. All waiters and bartenders were agents of the NKVD and reported all observations. Customers who acted or looked suspicious were observed and checked carefully.
43. Large apartment houses in Chortkov were nationalized and apartments were rented to new arrivals from other parts of the USSR. The so-called socialistic housing system existed only in large cities and capitols of the Republic [] Apartments in such buildings were rented only to people who were employed in an administrative capacity in industry and government. Only Party men had priority for newer and better apartments. Living conditions for factory workers were terrible. They lived in small overcrowded

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rooms without separate sleeping quarters or bathing facilities. Such accommodations were usually in basements of apartment houses. Furnishings were simple and in poor condition. They were produced by furniture factories and made of cheap soft wood which often fell apart. Living conditions for theater and movie artists fell in the same category as those of factory workers.

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The only private telephones were in the homes of leading Communist Party officials.

44. Telephone conversations were monitored and post offices were under diligent control of the NKVD. Prior to sending registered or special-delivery letters or telegrams, individuals were obligated to show documents to post office officials. An exact, although unofficial, censorship covered all mails.

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45. The city had one hospital and one dispensary. There were no restrictions on the use of medical or surgical facilities in these institutions.

46. Institutions of higher learning included: (1) public high schools, ten-year schools; (2) an agricultural high school, a ten-year school (this school had a good chemistry laboratory); and (3) a gymnasium, six-year school.

47. Chortkov had one cinema and one legitimate theater where travelling theatrical groups performed. Theatrical performances were more frequent during winters than during summers. Admission to the cinema and the theater was reasonable.

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48. Religion was supervised by a so-called contra-religious activity group, a creation of the Communist Party fully supported by Party doctrines. All churches were taxed heavily. Taxes could not be paid and, after a lapse or delinquency in paying taxes, the churches were closed. The Greek Catholic religion was liquidated officially by the Soviets and replaced by Orthodox clergy under strict control of the Communist Party. No sermons were allowed in any of the churches. the Orthodox church was part of the Soviet administration and priests were often agents of the NKVD.

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- Documentation and Control
49. Inhabitants were obligated to carry personal identity cards at all times. When travelling, people carried official travel orders. Personal identity cards were small 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" booklets containing the owner's picture and several pages for administrative changes and changes of address. This form of pass was not often changed because the paper contained secret water marks known only to agents of the NKVD.

50. Living in secret without being perceived by neighbors or without having to enter one's name officially in a house, block, or street residence book was most difficult in a city the size of Chortkov. people, however, lived and still live with confidence without ever having registered in the city.

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51. Mass checking of civilian documents was seldom performed on the street. There were no special passes required for being on the streets after dark. The only restrictions were normal wartime restrictions.

52. Acquiring false documents was extremely difficult because government printing offices and other printing shops were under constant control of the NKVD and there were many secret agents among the printers. Military personnel moved about the city with much less danger than did civilians because few groups had the right to wear a uniform (the Army, NKVD, Militia, Railroad Guards, and certain school teachers).

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53. No documents were necessary when purchasing railroad or bus tickets. Official travellers presented travel orders for special markings but this was only done so that such travellers would be reimbursed for travel expenses. [REDACTED] in Chertkov (1934 to 1944), identification documents were not checked on trains or upon arrival in stations. Travel control and restrictions were put into effect only in special cases. [REDACTED]

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