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Physical Characteristics and Layout

2. The city was situated approximately 1/2 mile from the Prut River and the bulk of the city was east of the Metropolitan Seat Buildings which were located on Resedintei Street. The city was located in the part of Bucovina known as Cernowiti Juleti and was considered the capital. As a capital it contained the following agencies: The Prefectura of the Juleti (similar to the county seat); the City Hall; Court of Appeals; the War Council; the 8th Inspectorate Office of the Gendarmerie (police); Ordinea Publica (police); the Treasury; the Chamber of Labor and the Chamber of Commerce.
3. The city was damaged during World War II mostly due to fire set by the withdrawing Soviets and some destruction from the German forces. The main post office was completely destroyed, as well as the entire so-called "Post Office Street", portion of Unirea Place, the water reservoir, and the railroad station. The post office, the water reservoir, and several of the larger houses were repaired by the municipality. [redacted] only a very limited number of new buildings have been erected.
4. The city was not built concentrically, as Paris is. The majority of the streets were narrow and not too straight. Streets were lit by electric lamps which were either on poles or attached to the walls of the buildings. The name of the street appeared on each corner and also on each house. House numbers were in twos with even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the other side of the street. The most important streets of the city were: Inseca Floarea which was located in the center of the city starting at Piata Unirii. Large stores and movie houses were situated on this street. The eight Vasatori barrack buildings, high schools, stores, etc. were located on Stefan Cel Mare. The main railroad station, the water reservoir, and several small factories were situated on Strada Garii. The three Graniceri barrack buildings were located in the southern part of the city on Strada Gucior Mare Street.

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5. Appearances and Types of Buildings

The Metropolitan Seat Buildings, located on Resedintei Street, were large beautiful buildings constructed of a rare brick. The buildings served as the residence of the Metropolitan of Bucovina and the Orthodox Theological School. They were triangular in shape. The post office building, located on Postei Street, was a long building built of red brick and located on the corner of the street. The Cernowiti Railroad Station, "Gara Mare" (the large railroad) was located on Garii Street in the northwestern part of the city. There was a small station called Gara Mica which was located in the eastern part of the city. Both stations were of red brick. Other important buildings were:

- A. Cernowiti City University was located on University Street. It consisted of at least three large buildings, all brick painted white. Two additional large buildings belonging to the University were located on Cuza Voda Street. These were of red brick.
- B. Court of Appeals Building. It was the seat of the Council of War and the building was of brick, painted grey.
- C. Prefect's Building was located between Traian Street and Cucur Mare Street. There was a garden in front of the building which faced the Ghica Voda Square. The building was situated in the center of the city.
- D. Mihael Eminescu High School was located on Stefan Cel Mare Street. It was painted brick.
- E. The National Theater was located in Vasile Alexandri Square in the western part of the city. It was a round building made of stone.
- F. Electric Company Building was located on Cuza Voda Street in the southwestern part of the city. This was a small electrical company and consisted of several small buildings.
- G. The Large Electric Company Building was situated on Calugareni Street in the northern part of the city. It was a large white building three stories high.
- H. The Museum was located on Constantin Brancoveanu Street. It was greyish-white in color and had at least four stories.
- I. The Rubber Factory was located on Prutului Street in the northern part of the city. The building was of brick before being destroyed by an explosion in 1944.
- J. The Textile Factory was located on Prutului Street, in the northern part of the city. The factory consisted of tall buildings made of brick.
- K. The Inceren Textile Factory - described in Paragraph #1.
- L. The Prutul Mail Factory was located on Calugareni Street. The building was made of red brick.
- M. The Postavaria Romana Yardgoods Factory was located on Strada Calugareni Street in the northern part of the city.
- N. The 8 Vanatori barrack buildings were located on Stefan Cel Mare Street.
- O. The 11 Rosiori barrack buildings were located on 11 Rosiori Street. Most of the buildings were made of grey brick, three and six stories in height. The roofs were of slate or tile.
- P. The Mayor's Office Building was located in Piata Unirei.

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6. The important points of the city were the Heroes' Monument (Monumentul Eroilor) located in Piata Unirei; the Statuia lui Mihail Eminescu (Statue of Mihail Eminescu) on Stefan Cel Mare Street, the Gradina Publica (the public garden) located on Stefan Cel Mare Street, the Gradina Botanica (the botanical garden), and the Catedrala orasului Cernoviti (the Cernoviti Cathedral) located on Stefan Cel Mare Street.
7. There were over 200,000 residents in Cernoviti (1944). The ethnical minorities were Jews, Ukrainians, Poles, Germans, and Russians. Friction existed between the Jews and Christians. Of unnaturalized foreigners in the city mostly were Jews who were engaged in international commerce. They had special restrictions imposed against them and had no right to own any large buildings. There was no indication of friction between the citizens and the unnaturalized foreigners.
8. The religion of the residents of Cernoviti was Orthodox, Hebrew, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic. Approximately 45% of the inhabitants participated actively in religious affairs. The principal churches were: Cernoviti City Cathedral; Biseria Sf. Paraschiva, on Regele Ferdinand Street; Roman Catholic Church on Regele Ferdinand Street; Sf. Nicolae Church (Rumanian Orthodox) on Romana Street; and the German Lutheran Church located on Resedintei Street.
9. Of the two railroad stations, Gara Mare was the terminal and handled passenger trains. Both stations handled freight trains which carried most of the wood used by the city populous for fuel. The main station, Gara Mare (also known as Gara Cernoviti) was three stories high, greyish-black in color, and had fifteen tracks.
10. The railroad to Poland passed through Cernoviti and the following stations: Iasi, Roman, Bacau, and Bucharest. The railroad eastward towards the USSR passed through Hotin and the newest railroad line crossed the Carpathian Mountains in Ardeal. The tracks were standard gauge and the locomotives were steam and Diesel. At least four passenger trains left Cernoviti daily. The medium speed train, called the "Accelerate", passed through Cernoviti from Bucharest towards Poland and other countries. The smaller and slower trains called "Automotoare" left daily for Storojinet, Ciudei, Siret, etc. The city had no navigation as it was situated approximately 1/2 mile from the Prut River.
11. There were two airports in the city. The large one (known as Cernoviti Airport) was in the eastern part of the city on Aeroportului Street. It had several cement runways, one main building, one large hangar, and was circular in form. Cities that were linked by regular passenger flights were Iasi, Bucharest, Cluj, Oradea Mare, etc. The smaller airport, built by the Soviets in 1941, was in the northwestern part of the city in the area known as Rohana commune. It had one unpaved runway and was circular in form.
12. Local Transportation
Transportation was mainly by means of streetcars and electric trolley buses. The city also had taxis and carriages. A double streetcar line ran from Gradina Publica to the Prut River. Each line had the name of the street on which it travelled as well as a special number. The fare was 15 Lei and soldiers in uniform were not exempt from paying fares. Fares (streetcar tickets) were purchased in the streetcar. The taxis were ordinary automobiles with the word "Taxi" printed on each side. The carriages were distinguished by little oil lamps. Both served the public at large and the fare was determined by the distance travelled. It was customary to tip the drivers.
13. Government and Administrations
The City Hall, located in Piata Unirei, housed the Seat of the City Soviet, the food rationing center, and the vital statistics department (marriage licenses, birth certificates, and death certificates). The NKVD had its headquarters in the Metropolitan Seat Buildings. The Cernoviti City Jail (Puscaria) housed all types of criminals. The courts were the Municipal Court, the Tribunal Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Military Tribunal Court. There were no concentration camps, all political prisoners and prisoners of war were taken to other parts of the country.

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14. The 3rd Regiment Graniceri was the security unit located in the city and served as the city militia. The militia patrolled in pairs and groups of four's and sometimes more. They patrolled mostly the public buildings such as the City Hall, Prefectura, etc. and also had the duty of extinguishing the gas lamps, preventing thefts, and maintaining quiet. They forced the populace to constantly carry identification cards, prohibited walking on streets after twelve midnight, and didn't allow meetings of any sort. They also intensified their patrols during the night.
15. Special permits and identification cards were issued at the Police Department. All civilians had their identification papers inspected regularly at least once a year, when the visa was extended. The inhabitants made their living mostly from industry, commerce, or public offices.
16. Industrial Installations
The large factories were privately owned and were; the Incerea Textile Factory which had approximately 3,000 workers, the Prutul Nail Factory (Industrial Sarmei) which had more than 1,000 workers, and the Trenaco Textile Factory which had approximately 2,000 workers. The Jucica Sugar Factory, located 1½ kilometers from Cernoviti, had approximately 2,000 workers, the Tiva Agricultural Factory had more than 1,000 workers, and the Oil Factory, located 1½ kilometers from Cernoviti, had approximately 1,000 workers. All the factories were damaged from the retreats of the Soviets and the Germans.
17. The following articles were in short supply and were under strict ration; fat, oil, sugar, bread, flour, and coffee. Ration cards (Cartele), issued monthly, were used to obtain the restricted articles. Oil could be bought only on the black market and when the operators of the black market were caught, they had their goods confiscated and were exposed to fines.
18. Local enterprise had the right to recruit labor. The requirements were identification papers and nationality papers. Workers were free to look for employment but were obliged to notify the factory 14 days prior to their departure. The Chamber of Labor was a state institution which looked after the welfare of the workers, even though in effect it did not do too much for them. The workers had social security (asiguranta sociala) which took care of them in the event of sickness, accidents, etc. Wages were not regulated or stabilized.
19. [redacted] approximately five per cent of the populace were Communists (members and sympathizers).
20. After the Soviet occupation certain Communist newspapers appeared such as "Adevarul Bolsevic" which was in the Rumanian language. There were also newspapers printed in Russian.
21. The local radio stations were located in Horecea commune approximately 1½ kilometers northeast of Cernoviti. While under Rumanian leadership, the radio stations broadcasted programs consisting mostly of music, news, and a few commercial announcements. Under the German and Soviet occupations, only propaganda was broadcasted. Radio programs were heard mostly through loudspeakers and only about 20% of the population had radios in their homes. However, they could be easily purchased. Tuning in to foreign broadcasts was completely forbidden during war time. Anyone caught listening to foreign broadcasts was punished by imprisonment.
22. It was never too difficult for one to find dwelling places in the city. Usually "for rent" notices appeared in the windows of homes that had vacancies. Dwellings, either in the center of the city or on the outskirts, were easily obtainable. In the event that the government was the party renting something to a person, then one had to go to the City Hall. The only explanation necessary for a stranger coming into the city was the excuse of finding work for maintenance of his family.

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Living Conditions

23. The city had three large hotels; the Pejura Neagra in Piata Unirei in the center of the city, the Hotel Paris located on Regela Ferdinand Street at the corner of Strada Romana, and the Hotel Europa which was used only by people of means or officers of the army. These hotels were four or five stories high. There were also several smaller hotels in the city.
24. In private residences up to three persons lived in one room. The rooms had water, toilets, and some with showers were available. All the rooms had electricity and the cooking ranges either used wood or were electric. The private homes were furnished well enough and contained sofas, tables, chairs, and dressers as well as other articles. Walls of the homes were usually painted. Despite the seemingly well provided facilities, bed bugs, fleas, mice and rats were prevalent.
25. Cernowiti University was the largest educational institution. It had colleges of law, theology, engineering, medicine, liberal arts, and music. There were also many trade schools as well as high schools and grade schools.
26. There were six movie houses that showed American, Rumanian, German, French, and other films.
27. Cernowiti had the following hospitals; the Central Hospital which consisted of six or seven large buildings, the Women's Hospital which consisted of one large building, three stories high, the Eye Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital, and the Military Hospital. All the hospitals were accessible to every individual and both insured and non-insured persons were received. The City Cemetery was located beyond the Horecea commune. All the suburbs had their own cemeteries.
28. The Military Units stationed in the city were; the 8th Regiment of Vanatori (Rumanian Army); the 11th Regiment Rosiori located at 11 Rosiori Street, the 4th Pionieri Regiment which was located on Petru Rarea Street, the 3rd Regiment Graniceri which was located on Ciciur Mare Street, and the 4th Regiment of Jandarai which was located on Schiller Street.
29. Measures were taken by civil defense training in case of war known as "Apararea Pasiva" (Passive defense). Every person was obliged to learn certain things in case of war.

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