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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY

USSR (Latvia)

SUBJECT

The Town of Aluksne; Principal Streets,  
Buildings/Climate, Health, Agriculture,  
and Other Miscellaneous Information

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFORMATION:

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The following is keyed to the attached sketch [See Enclosure (A)] of Aluksne,  
a Latvian town of approximately five thousand in July 1944.

1. Narrow-gauge, single-tracked railroad to Valga, [Estonia] a county seat 45 miles northwest of Aluksne.
2. Railroad station, a red brick building.
3. Small grain mill.
4. Slaughter-house, a wood building.
5. Small linseed oil plant which produced oil cakes for feed and oil for paints. Stone building.
6. Two-story wood and brick building housing the post office and the telephone exchange.
7. Military reservation consisting of two large fireproof brick barracks and several smaller buildings. Several battalions of Soviet infantry were stationed here prior to the German occupation at the beginning of World War II. The Germans used the barracks while they were in occupation of the area.
8. Electric power plant, using wood for fuel, which supplied current for Aluksne and for nearby farms. Stone building.
9. Cluster of small enterprises comprising a sawmill, grain mill, wool and linen weaving shops, and a brewery.
10. Fifty-bed county hospital, one and one-half-story stone building.
11. Police station, two-story red brick building.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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12. High school, two or three-story brick building completed in 1938 or 1939.
13. Jail, small red brick building.
14. City hall, one and one-half-story stone building.
15. Fire station, small wood and brick building.
16. State-owned bank, two-story brick building.
17. Cooperative bank, wood building.
18. Large brewery near the lake, stone building, about four kilometers from the center of Alukane.
19. Lutheran Church, stone building more than one hundred years old in 1944.
20. Greek Orthodox Church, relatively new brick building.

Miscellaneous Information on Alukane and the Surrounding Area.

Climate and Rainfall: There is year-round precipitation but April and October are the rainiest months. Fall rains turn to snow in late November and the snow does not melt until mid-April. Land cultivation begins from early to mid-May. July is the warmest month with temperatures up to 80° in the shade. Mid-winter temperatures range from 15° to 22° below zero.

Water Supply and Sanitation: Most private residences had their own wells. Boiling the water was a matter of individual judgment - some usually did and some usually did not. In 1944 the hospital and a few of the newer residences were the only buildings in Alukane with running water and modern toilet facilities. Disposal of waste and other sanitary problems were under strict control of the city officials.

Residential Housing: Most of the dwellings were single-family of diversified design and built usually of wood and masonry. There were some all-brick houses. There were a few apartment houses near the center of town. Most owners of single dwellings rented at least one of the rooms to tenants.

Agriculture in the Hinterland: The principal products of farms in the Alukane area were, in the order of volume of production, as follows:

oats  
barley  
wheat  
flax  
potatoes

There were no commercial orchards but many people had apple trees for personal consumption. Wild berries, especially cranberries, were a fairly important source of food. Plant diseases were present but never serious. Rust and a disease which causes the tops of potatoes to rot were the most prevalent.

Human Diseases: Influenza was common and the incidence of tuberculosis was fairly high among the people of the area. The usual children's diseases were present, as were pneumonia, diphtheria, and scarlet fever in occasional light epidemics. There was very little cancer.

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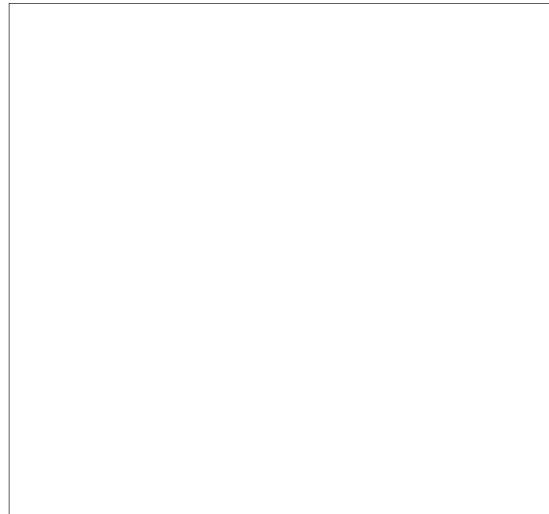
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Livestock and Livestock Healths Hogs, milk cows, horses and sheep were raised in the area and were relatively free from infectious disease. There was an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease among the cattle during World War I but there had been no recurrence up until July 1944. The hog population was occasionally afflicted with an infectious disease [redacted] which caused red spots. The disease was fatal without an injection of the proper serum, and this was usually forthcoming. A liver ailment [redacted] occasionally bothered the sheep. The horses (including race horses which some people owned) rarely suffered from anything more serious than spavins.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of the Town of Aluksne, Latvia



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ENCLOSURE (A)

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ALUKESE, LATVIA

(July 1944)

