

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OPERATIONAL REPORT

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY (State and State)

DATE 24 December 1955

SUBJECT
1. Airfield at Ropcha
2. Air Activity over Tapiau

NO. OF PAGES 7
25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Attached is forwarded as received. 25X1

Comments: 1. Tapiau (N 54-39, E 21-07) is also called Gvardeysk.
2. The other subject town is correctly spelled Ropcha (N 63-02, E 52-22). 25X1

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STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB															
ARMY	X	AIR	7/34	FBI															

COUNTRY	USSR	-2-	REPORT
TOPIC	1. Ropsha Airfield		
	2. Air Activity Observed Over Tapiau		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	9 December 1954
REFERENCES			25X1
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	2 - two sketches on ditto, with legend
REMARKS	This is UNEVALUATED Information		

a new airfield was located in a woody area near Ropsha, Ural MD. Soviet workers stated that construction work at the field had started during the summer of 1950. During May and June 1951, motor vehicles loaded with cut trees were repeatedly seen coming from the direction of the airfield and proceeding to various sawmills. The drivers confirmed that the trees had been cut in the area of the new airfield. The field was located about 3 km east of the PW camp just south of Ropsha River, east of a main road leading into the woody area. The terrain of the field was level. There were no buildings, overhead lines etc. A newly constructed road leading from Ropsha to the southeast served as approach road to the field. It could not be determined whether a spur track was available.

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- Prior to June 1951, no construction material was seen being hauled to the field where a military construction detail was allegedly employed. Soldiers either individually or in groups were repeatedly seen leaving the village of Ropsha and proceeding toward the field. The soldiers wore earth brown uniforms, black epaulets with an insignia representing two crossed hammers, and garrison caps. During June 1951, no air activity was observed at the field.

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air activity was started in August 1951. the field was still in existence in June 1953.

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- Between June and December 1953, jet aircraft apparently of the same type were observed over Tapiau (Gvardeisk) Baltic MD. During the summer months, the first aircraft were daily observed between 0600 and 0700. The aircraft always approached the town from the east

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at an altitude of 250 to 300 meters and headed in various directions. The aircraft were fitted with two jet engines. [redacted] light smoke developed aft of the wings during left-hand and right-hand banks. [redacted] single-jet aircraft were also seen over Tapiau. Flights were only made when visibility was good and the ceiling not below 400 meters. Up to 6 aircraft were simultaneously aloft. They made individual flights and formation flights. Sometimes, individual aircraft made low level flights and flights at very high altitudes. No air activity was observed during the evening hours or at night.

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- 4. The following details were observed on the twin-jet aircraft: One jet engine was fitted in each wing close to the fuselage. The engines were apparently slim as was inferred from their cowlings. The air intake aperture was in the leading edge of the wing and projected slightly beyond this edge. The rear part of the jet engine protruded considerably beyond the trailing edge of the wing. The aircraft were mid-wing monoplanes with swept-back leading edges of wings and rounded wing tips. The trailing edges of the wings were fitted at a right angle to the fuselage. The landing gear was retracted when the aircraft appeared over Tapiau. The end of the fuselage was considerably more pointed than the nose. The aircraft had a stubby shape and looked like "a thick cigar". It had an estimated speed of about 700 km/h. Individual aircraft were repeatedly seen making aerobatics at high altitudes.

- 1. [redacted] Comment. This is the first information on the construction of a new airfield near Ropsha. For location sketch, see Annex 1.

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- 2. [redacted] Comment. The first indication of twin-jet aircraft not identical with Il-28s [redacted] This present report, however, covers the same area and time period and also a description of twin-jet aircraft of an unidentified type seen. There is no similarity between this unidentified aircraft and the Il-28 or other twin-jet aircraft observed in the USSR and Hungary. For location of Tapiau PW camp, see Annex 2.

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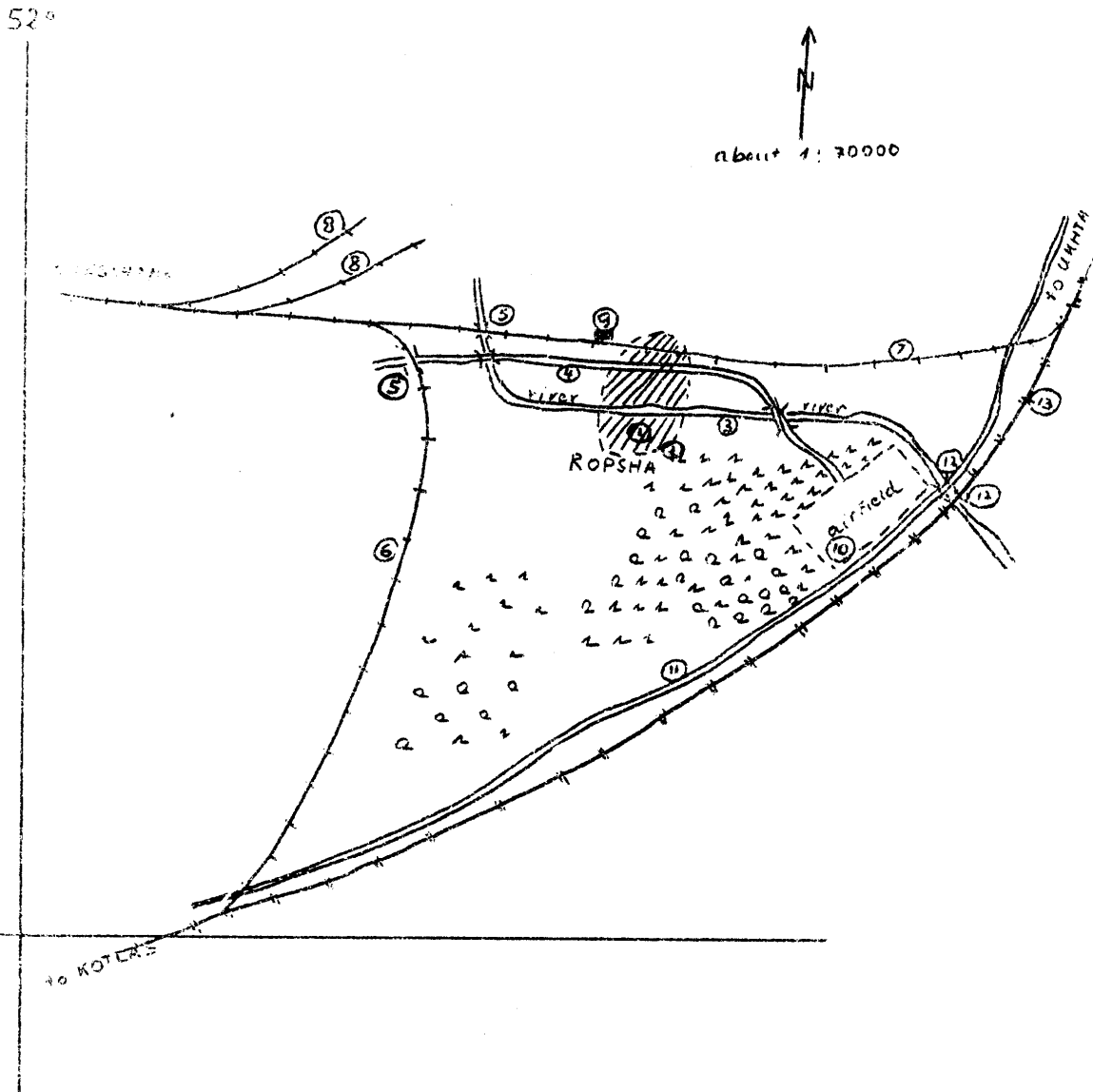
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Annex 1



Location Sketch of Ropsha Airfield



For legend, see next page.

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Annex 1

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Location Sketch of Ropsha AirfieldLegend.

- 1 Village of Ropsha with 400 to 500 residents; no industry, but farms, woods, sawmills
- 2 PC Camp No 12, assigned to main camp in Veslyana; another auxiliary camp is located in Yose, about 14 km west of Ropsha
- 3 Ropsha River, about 20 meters wide
- 4 Corduroy road, about 4 meters wide, sandy subsoil, constructed in 1949/51
- 5 Crossing over railroad line, road and river
- 6 Single-track railroad line, broad gauge, constructed after 1945, according to Soviet civilians
- 7 Single-track railroad line, broad gauge, built after 1945
- 8 New spur tracks, broad gauge, leading into different sections of the wood; spur tracks will be removed after clearing work; similar spur tracks were observed in Yose and in Veslyana
- 9 Ropsha railroad stopping place, wooden shed
- 10 Newly constructed airfield
- 11 Macadamized road, about 7 meters wide
- 12 Old bridges over road and railroad line
- 13 Double-track railroad line leading from Kotlas to Ukhta

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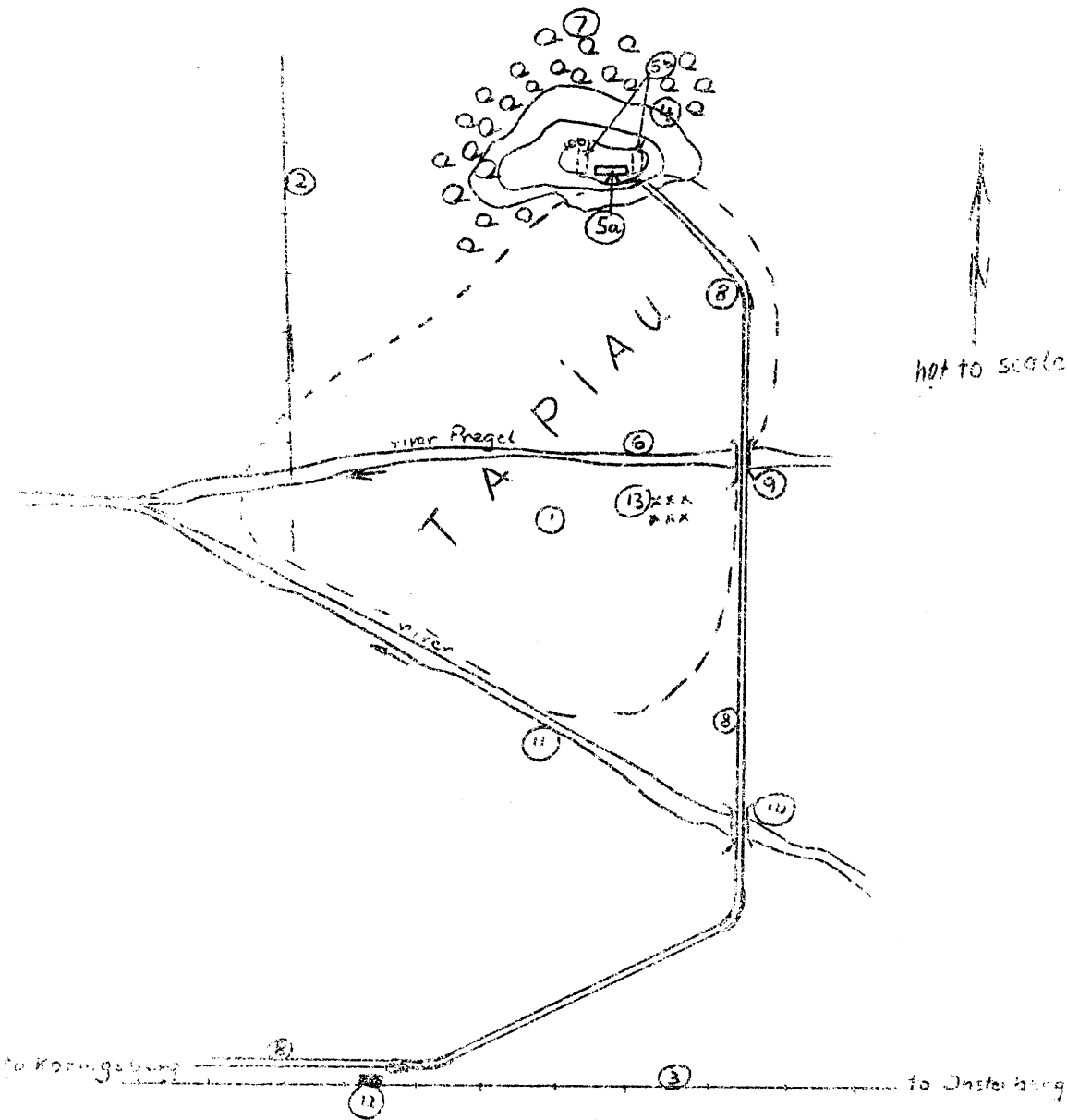
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A map of



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Location sketch of Tapiau N. Camp



See loc. on map next page.

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Annex 2

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Location Sketch of Tapiau PW Camp

Legend.

- 1 Town of Tapiau
- 2 Railroad line to Labiau
- 3 Railroad line, broad gauge
- 4 Hill, about 100 meters high
- 5 Barracks installation consisting of 1 red four-story brick building about 80 meters long and additional brick buildings
- 6 Fregel River
- 7 Dense wood
- 8 asphalt road, about 8 meters wide
- 9 Old concrete bridge
- 10 Wooden bridge
- 11 River, about 50 meters wide
- 12 Tapiau railroad station
- 13 PW camp

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