

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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SUBJECT	Military Units in the Baranovichi Area	DATE DISTR.	29 July 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

- In fall 1953, a Soviet Army infantry unit, the size of a battalion, occupied a barracks area located in the northern outskirts of Baranovichi (N 53-08, E 26-02). Besides this infantry unit, which moved in at some time after World War II, there also were several air force maintenance and repair shops of the Baranovichi military airfield. On several occasions [redacted] planes parked near these shops. Once [redacted] propeller-driven plane being transported by truck to one of these shops. Among the buildings in this barracks area were wooden barracks put up during the tsarist regime; brick barracks built during the Polish rule; prefabricated wooden structures erected by the Germans; and stone buildings, mostly two-story ones, constructed by the Soviets after World War II. During the Polish rule, the garrison was referred to as Traugut Barracks, and it housed the Polish 20th Field Artillery Battalion. 25X1 25X1
- In fall 1953, an army garrison, which covered an area of about one square kilometer, was located in the central part of Baranovichi (N 53-08, E 26-02). During the Polish administration from 1920 to 1939 this garrison was called Kostyushko Barracks, and it billeted the 78th Polish Infantry Regiment. This garrison had a large number of buildings, some constructed of wood and others of brick. Some of the wooden buildings had been put up during the tsarist regime and others during the Polish rule. The brick buildings, most of which were two-story, had been constructed by the Soviet Army after World War II. At some time after World War II a large-size tank unit, commonly referred to by the local inhabitants as a division, moved into this garrison area. This tank unit was equipped with T-34 tanks and heavy tanks [redacted] 25X1 25X1
[redacted] local inhabitants refer to some of them as Klim Voroshilov and to others as Iosif Stalin.
- According to rumors current in Baranovichi at the time, this tank unit in Baranovichi had two smaller tank units subordinate to it. One indication which seemed to lend credence to this rumor was the fairly heavy military traffic on the roads connecting Baranovichi and the two villages where these two smaller tank units were located.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

- a. The first of these two units was located in Nesvish, a village about 45 kilometers east-northeast of Baranovichi. After World War II, this unit occupied two barracks areas which had been constructed before the war and which at one time had been occupied by the 27th Cavalry Regiment of the Polish Army. On several occasions [redacted] officers and enlisted men wearing black shoulder boards with [redacted] tank insignia. [redacted] some medium-size tanks [redacted] were T-34s. Based on the number of officers and enlisted men from this unit seen in Nesvish and based on information commonly known to the local inhabitants, [redacted] this unit was of regimental size.
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- b. The second of these two units was estimated [redacted] as battalion size. It was located on the northeastern edge of Snuv, a village about 25 kilometers northeast of Baranovichi. The officers and enlisted men from this unit wore black shoulder boards with tank insignia. [redacted] only medium tanks. Military supplies were frequently transported from Nesvish to Snuv. Constructed by the Poles before World War II, the three barracks which housed this unit were two-story stone buildings approximately 20 x 50 meters in size. They were located northeast of the former castle of a Polish count. The castle had been converted into an army hospital by the Soviets and serviced many military personnel, including air force officers, from Snuv, Nesvish, and other areas.
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- 1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] probably [redacted] the Baranovichi East airfield.
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