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MILITARY INSTALLATIONS DATA	
ODESSA	
MILITARY DISTRICT (C)	
VOLUME 6, NO. 5	50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

KHERSON
46° 38' N 32° 36'E

U.S.S.R.

UNABLE TO DETERMINE REGRADING DATE JANUARY 30, 1958

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## VOLUME 6, No. 5. KHERSON

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No. 4. FEODOSIYA

No. 6. YEVPATORIYA

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#### SPECIFIC GUITANCE

- The various categories of intelligence data set forth in the General Guidance at the beginning of this volume indicate the types of information sought for all studies in this series.
- The following are some specific items of information which are a priority requirement for the KHERSON study.
  - a. Present Order of Battle holdings list no Soviet Ground Force or MVD units as being garrisoned in KHERSON. Military and MVD personnel have been seen in the city, but information including numerical designation, strength and subordination of units is required.
  - b. Confirmation and additional information is needed for City Plan Item 2, Possible Military Area; Items 16, 17, and 21, Barracks Installations; and Item 47, Oblast MVD.

- c. Confirmation of the report of an Oblast Voyenkomat in the vicinity of Item 14 and of an Oblast Militia in the block to the northwest of Item 40.
- d. Precise location of the Voyenkomat referred to in Item 42.
- e. Additional information on Item 49, the Militia, JIB

  No. 143. This installation may be the same as that

  referred to as Serial 43 by OARMA, Moscow (R-60-56),

  an installation with a billeting capacity of two battalions.
- f. Present use  $\phi^{\epsilon}$  the Fortress, Item 22.
- g. Confirmation of the names of the city sections, reportedly Zabalka, Gerod, Sukharnaya, and Voyenna in 1952.
- h. The location of Rosa Luxemburg and Rabochaya Streets, Freedom Square, and the names and locations of any other streets, squares and parks which according to the Soviet press are being laid out.
- Comments on the progress of the building development project in the northeastern outskirts of the urban area.

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#### 1. THE CITY OF KHERSON

#### a. Introduction and Background

KHERSON (46°38'N-32°36'E), the capital of Kherson Oblast, an administrative division of the Ukrainian SSR, is situated on the right bank of the Dnieper River about 16 miles from the river's entrance into the Black Sea. The present population of the city is about 130,000 inhabitants according to an official estimate<sup>1</sup> which represents a healthy increase over the census enumerations of 97,000 in 1939 and 58,000 in 1926. The continued importance of the city as a major river port serving a rich agricultural and mining region seems assured.

The name of the city is based upon the belief that it occupies the site of the ancient Greek city of Chersonesus Heracleotica; it was founded as a naval base on the site of an
earlier fort by Field Marshal Potemkin in 1778, during the
reign of Catherine the Great. Among the first of a series of
defense points established in southern Russia preceding and
following the annexation of the Crimea in 1783, it soon developed

into a commercial port and city. With the establishment of the naval base at SEVASTOPOL' in 1784, KHERSON's military significance diminished and with the rise of ODESSA, which began early in the 19th century, its significance as a Black Sea port was reduced. In spite of such changes, the city continued to grow, was the scene of fighting in the Civil War and was occupied during the Second World War by German forces who were able to carry out considerable destruction of the city during the collapse of the eastern front and before its recapture by the Red Army which advanced across the Dnieper and encircled the city. A considerable amount of KHERSON's history is commemorated in its street names, statues, and monuments,

## b. Urban Characteristics

In spite of its size, KHERSON has been described by an official traveler who visited it in 1953 as not particularly impressive, having the appearance of a country town. The city does have some modern construction, as well as a number of distinctive features, both old and new.

Built along and somewhat to the north of the right bank of the Dnieper River, KHERSON may be regarded as consisting

A Soviet report has indicated that recent estimates of the total population of the USSR are 10 per cent too large, but it is not possible on the basis of available data to refine the estimate for KHERSON.

of two main divisions: the waterfront with its port facilities, and the urban area proper. The former covers a narrow strip which extends approximately six miles from the industrial complex on the east to Quarantine Island on the west, along the banks of the Dnieper and the Koshevaya Rivers. A distributary of the Dnieper, the one-third mile wide Koshevaya (Nomad) extends inland, separating Quarantine Island, a marshy but not unimportant piece of land, from the remainder of the city. Four shipyards and one or more petroleum storage points located on the island can be reached from the mainland either by boat or via one of the two bridges which span the river, one of which carries a highway, the other a railway. KHERSON's Port Facilities (Item 60, City Plan) are rail served, wharfage consists largely of masonry quays with a reported total of 4,120 feet of berthing space. What are probably the most conspicuous installations in the port area, and ones that would serve as effective orientation points, are the Grain Storage Facility (Item 59) with its towering silos and overhead conveyor, and the thermal Power Plant (Item 57), which can be identified by its tall chimneys. Across the Dnieper are three basins which were

constructed by excavation of the bank of the river. The larger two of these, which are rectangular in shape, serve as sheltered anchorages for small craft, while the smaller, irregularly shaped indentation is the location of a floating drydock. Excepting the city bathing beach, which lies just below the basins, no other known points of interest exist on the south bank.

Directly north of the port lies KHERSON's urban area. Roughly triangular in shape, its apex being the confluence of the two rivers, this densely built-up area stretches for a distance of about 2-1/2 miles along the Dnieper and for a like distance along the northern shore of the Koshevaya. It spreads inland in a northwesterly direction from the port for a distance of approximately two miles, where its limits are defined by the railroad line which enters the city from the northeast. Beyond the railroad line and in the vicinity of the recently refurbished station building are two conspicuous installations, a Petroleum Refinery (Item 3) in the northwest and an Airfield (Item 6) directly to the north. Near the refinery there is a Possible Military Area (Item 2).

Unlike the city's well marked port section, the urban area

is more heterogeneous and includes administrative, commercial or business, residential, and some military sites. The most significant portion of the urban area is the central section. Bounded on the north by Third Suburban Street and on the south by International Street and the port, it extends from the long and rather deep ravine on the west to a few blocks east of Admiral Ushakov Boulevard. Many of the most noteworthy buildings of the central section, the governmental offices, hotels, a large library, and the better commercial shops are concentrated in the southwestern part of this section. In appearance, the buildings of the central section generally follow the standard Soviet design, usually multi-storied, built of bricks or stone, and sometimes ornate and pretentious.

Residential buildings are also found in the central section, particularly the apartments which have been built along Admiral Ushakov Boulevard and some of the other notable streets in the city. In addition, a workers' settlement is reportedly under construction in the vicinity of Item 14, the Electro-Mechanical Factory. Extensive residential areas lie in the blocks on the east and west of the central section and at

the new workers' settlement consisting of eight or more multi-story apartment buildings on the northeastern outskirts. The latter location, reported upon recently by qualified observers, not only represents an expansion of an existing residential section of the urban area but it is also the scene of a new, large textile factory and other plant construction which is fenced in and guarded and which will increase the industrial significance of the city.

Streets in the urban area generally run parallel and perpendicular to the Dnieper and Koshevaya rivers; almost all of them follow a grid pattern, many of them are wide, some are tree-lined, and a few are well paved. The most prominent street, around which all others in the network may be oriented, is Admiral Ushakov Boulevard, a broad thoroughfare and a central avenue. It runs through the central section of the city in a north-south direction and connects the railroad station to the port area. Interspersed at various points in the street pattern are a number of squares and parks. The most noteworthy of these is Lenin Park, the large park "Culture and Rest" situated on the east side of Ushakov Boulevard and bounded on the north and south by

Fortification (Perekop) and Kirov Streets. Other points of interest in the city include a theater, a number of scattered monuments, a cathedral and other churches, an oblast library, various clubs and cinemas, and the Fortress, Item 22 on the City Plan, which dates back to the 18th century, around which the city has been built, and whose remains may be seen when traveling eastward from Ushakov Boulevard along Fortification Street.

c. Economic Activity, Transportation and Communication

Besides its role as a transshipment point for the agricultural and industrial region in which it lies, KHERSON has a number of production activities which are of more than local significance. Among these are four shipyards (Items 61, 62, 63, and 65) with facilities for both the construction and repair of ships of various types; at least one of these, Item 65, a new and large yard, is of national importance. Some of the other industries of the city, such as its Petroleum Refinery (Item 3) and its Agricultural Machinery Plant (Item 5), are also of considerable importance. In addition to these heavy industries, KHERSON has some significant light industries: a cotton gin and a glass plant, a cannery, a large textiles (cotton fabric)

combine, a confectionery, and an assortment of smaller enterprises.

Contributing to KHERSON's importance as an economic center and a potential military base are the transportation routes to which the city has access. KHERSON is an important rail and road junction and its location on the Dnieper places the city on the most important river and navigable through route of the Ukraine. The river is navigable upstream from KHERSON for small ships at least as far as ZAPOROZH'YE (47°50'N-35°10'E), some 160 miles away, where connection can be made with NIS rail and road route 4, both of which lead to MOSCOW. Downstream the Dnieper provides a convenient access to the ports of the Black Sea.

Broad gauge rail lines serve the city from the northeast and northwest. The first of these leaves the city as a double track line only to bifurcate at a point about four miles out, from which one branch leads to MOSCOW via DNIEPRO-PETROVSK (48°28'N-35°00'E), KHARKOV (49°59'N-36°15'E) and NIS Route 4, while the other leads in a southeasterly direction toward the Crimea via DZHANKOY (45°42'N-36°24'E) where it joins a southern section of NIS 4. The

line leading northwestward from KHERSON via NIKOLAYEV (46°58'N-32°00'E) makes connection at KOLOSOVKA (47°18'N-31°01'E) with a north-south double track railway which connects ODESSA (46°28'N-30°42'E) to the south with NIS Route 15.

Three significant highways emanate from KHERSON. One of these leads to NIKOLAYEV, 40 miles away, passing the Petroleum Refinery (Item 3 on the City Plan) and KHERSON/GUSAKOVKA Airfield (Item 1, Area Map); NIKOLAYEV is situated on NIS Highway 18 which leads to the Rumanian border town of HUSI (46°40'N-28°03'E). A second important road approximately follows the Dnieper to NIKOPOL (47°34'N-34°22'E) 100 miles distant; a qualified observer has recently reported this road as two-lane and macadamized for the first 15 miles after which it is wider and paved with cobblestones. Direct access to the Crimea is afforded via a third highway, one which crosses the road bridge upstream from KHERSON and leads to  ${\tt SIMFEROPOL}_{\:\raisebox{1pt}{\text{\circle*{1.5}}}}$ Another road leading out of KHERSON, although only of local significance, is worthy of mention. A street of unknown name running westward from Admiral Ushakov Boulevard turns

northwestward, crosses several tracks after which it passes the southern boundary of the Petroleum Refinery (Item 3, City Plan) and passes through the Possible Military Area (Item 2).

According to the Soviet press, a trolley or trolleybus system has been planned but at present motor busses are used for intraurban public transportation.

Air passengers traveling to and from KHERSON use the Airfield (Item 6, City Plan), a joint status field shared by Aeroflot and the SAF. In addition, KHERSON is in contact with other places in the USSR by way of standard communications media, telegraphic, telephonic, and postal, the facilities for which are located in the city's center, while a radio station with about seven antennae located to the north of the city on the road leading to GUSAKOVKA is also reported.

## 2. MILITARY APPRAISAL

#### a. Order of Battle

ACSI Order of Battle holdings list no Soviet Ground Forces or MVD units in KHERSON. Military personnel have been observed in significant numbers in the city by qualified observers and it is probable that troop units are stationed

there. Although no specific units have been identified, personnel of the infantry, MVD, SAF, and the Navy as well as members of maritime and militia units have been reported. Most of the barracks and other military installations of the city appear to be in use; many of the factories, the port, and new construction sites are guarded by industrial police or MVD personnel.

### b. Military Installations

A number of points of direct military interest appear among the 66 items located on the accompanying maps.

Barracks facilities are reportedly located at Items 16, 17, 21, 44, 45, and possibly at 2. A qualified observer has estimated that a battalion might be billeted at Item 44, and a company at Item 45. In addition, MVD, Militia, and Voyenkomat buildings as well as two airfields with barracks facilities and several training schools have been shown.

#### c. Logistical Appraisal

KHERSON is a potential supply point for the Ukraine.

In addition to its location on the Dnieper River, which provides the city with direct access by water to the headquarters of the military district in ODESSA, KHERSON is an important junction

of overland transportation routes which provide access to hinterland points.

Although the standard reference work lists no logistical installations in KHERSON, there are POL storage points in the city and its environs and a number of warehouses in the port. In addition, there is also in the port area a large grain elevator or storage facility of oblast or national importance which may be a unit in the strategic grain reserves program of the Ministry of Defence.

## 3. SOURCES

Many different sources were used in the preparation of this study. Among a number of useful reports by air and naval attaches two reports by MA Moscow, one in 1953 and one in 1956, were especially valuable. Similarly, NIS material contained much useful information. Prisoner-of-war interrogation documents, aerial photography, and various maps and charts were especially useful for constructing the City Plan and for plotting some of the installations. In addition to these materials, translations of Soviet press reports, as well as standard reference works and other open sources were consulted.

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## SUMMARY OF SELECTED INSTALLATIONS AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN KHERSON

- 1. KHERSON/GUSAKOVKA AIRFIELD. (See on the Area Map.) USAF BE No. 0250-8661. This sod-covered military airfield, which has been used by Soviet jet light bombers, is operated and used by the SAF. Barracks and some POL, administration and storage buildings and shops have been reported on this installation.
- 2. POSSIBLE MILITARY AREA. JIB No. 101, Former PW Camp, is contained within this installation which may be used by military personnel or by workers of the nearby petroleum refinery.
- 3. PETROLEUM REFINERY. USAF BE No. 0250-0023, Kherson Petroleum Refinery. Reportedly produces motor gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, asphalt, and possibly
- 4. RAILROAD STATION, YARD AND SHOPS. USAF BE No. 0250-0148. A roundhouse and turntable and eight to ten oil storage tanks (about 20 feet in length and 6 feet in diameter) are located at the northeastern end of the area.
- 5. AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY PLANT im. "PETROV-SKIY." USAF BE No. 0250-0177. There is a high fence around this plant; a sign on the north gate reads "Locomobil'niy Zavod" (Locomotive Works).
- 6. KHERSON AIRFIELD. USAF BE No. 0250-8600. This airfield is used by the SAF and by AEROFLOT. Several buildings, including barracks, a terminal and control tower, a hangar, maintenance shops and other unidentified buildings, radar and revetments, as well as a large POL area containing at least 24 above-ground tanks located in the southwest, are contained within the area. Runway alignment and approximate northern boundaries are shown on the Area Map.
- 7. PETROLEUM STORAGE. USAF BE No. 0250-0445, Kherson Petroleum Storage No. 2. Gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil and lube oils are reportedly stored here.

- 8. COTTON GIN. JIB No. 151.
- 9. CANNERY im. "STALIN."
- 10. GLASS PLANT.
- 11. AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE. JIB No. 104.
- 12. TRACTOR REPAIR PLANT. JIB No. 105. Directly to the north of this installation and just across the street is located JIB No. 106, Medical and Other Schools.
- 13. OBLAST HOSPITAL. JIB No. 107.
- 14. ELECTRO-MECHANICAL FACTORY. JIB No. 108. An Oblast Voyenkomat has also been reported in the vicinity of this installation. JIB No. 109, Fire Station, is located on the south side of 1st Suburban Street.
- 15. HOSPITAL. JIB No. 110. The area may actually be larger than shown on the Plan.  $\,$
- 16. BARRACKS AREA. No other information available. A power plant is also located in this vicinity.
- 17. BARRACKS AREA. "Former Fire Station, Now Barracks," JIB No. 112.
- MONUMENT.
- 19. WATER TANK. JIB No. 113.
- 20. TECHNICAL SCHOOL. A Sudomekhanicheskoye Uchilishche, a training school for ship mechanics, JIB No. 118.
- 21. POSSIBLE BARRACKS AREA. A two-story barracks has been reported here.
- 22. FORTRESS. This installation may still have some military application.

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- 23. CATHEDRAL. A useful orientation point.
- 24. MVD BUILDING. JIB No. 114. An L-shaped two- or three-story building, reportedly gray in color, and of stuccoed brick construction.
- 25. POST OFFICE. JIB No. 123. Another installation, JIB No. 122, Former Baths, is located a few blocks away at the west end of Maxim Gorkiy Street.
- 26. HOSPITAL. A one-building polyclinic has been reported in this area.
- 27. CINEMA. JIB No. 125.
- 28. CENTRAL LIBRARY. JIB No. 126, Oblast Library. Probably named for Maxim Gorkiy.
- 29. VOYENKOMAT. JIB No. 130. Reportedly a two-story, red brick building.
- 30. TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE. JIB No. 124. Reported to be a one-story, white, stuccoed brick building
- 31. OBLAST PARTY COMMITTEE. JIB No. 131. A multistory building. In addition to this installation, a qualified observer reports that according to a sign on the front of the building the City Committee of the Party is located on the northwest corner of this block.
- 32. MEDICAL BUILDING. A two-story, gray building.
- 33. CINEMA. JIB No. 133.
- 34. CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. JIB No. 132. This installation has been described as a three-story, gray, stuccoed brick building with a clock tower. It has also been referred to as the Oblast Committee of the Party, which may have offices in this building. Another JIB installation, No. 134, a Newspaper (Oblast Gazette) Office, is located in the next block to the east on the same side of Lenin St.

- 35. FORMER HOTEL. JIB No. 140. Although the present use of this building is not known, another hotel, the Hotel Dnieper, JIB No. 144a, is two blocks to the east or southeast facing on 1st of May Street.
- 36. OBLAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. JIB No. 141. Reportedly a two-story, white, stuccoed brick building.
- 37. OBLAST DRAMA THEATER. JIB No. 142.
- 38. HOTEL FIRST OF MAY. Probably the best hotel in the city, and one where all recent official visitors have stayed.
- 39. DOSAAF. JIB No. 128. Probably the Oblast Committee of DOSAAF. Opposite this installation, across Suvorov Street and one block to the west, is where JIB No. 135, a Bakery, is located.
- 40. MARINE SCHOOL. JIB No. 129. A multi-story brick building. Another installation, JIB No. 117, MVD Offices, Medical Department, which has been referred to in a recent report as an Oblast Militia, is located in the block just northwest of this installation.
- 41. TECHNICAL SCHOOL. JIB No. 119, Navigation Academy of Ministry of Maritime and River Fleets. This installation is a three-story building. The two-story, red brick building located to the east of this installation is a Teachers' College, JIB No. 120.
- 42. TECHNICAL SCHOOL. A qualified observer reported the existence on the north side of Decembrists Street of a three-story building about 150 feet in length and bearing the sign "Morekhodniy Mekhanicheskiy Teknikum" (Navigation Mechanical Institute). He also reported that on the corner of the block just south of Decembrists Street there is a three-or four-story building on which is inscribed in large letters "Navigation Academy (Morekhodnoye Uchilishche) of the Ministry of the Merchant and River Fleets," which apparently is Item 41 above. In all, therefore, there are at least three of these technical schools on this side of Ushakov Boulevard, Items 20, 41 and 42. Item 40, located on the west side of the

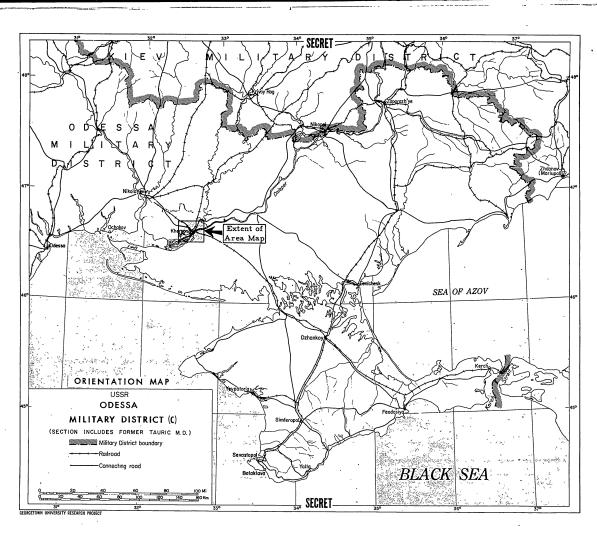
boulevard, has also been referred to as a "Morekhodnoye Uchilishche." Also on Decembrists Street and on the west side of Admiral Ushakov Boulevard a Voyenkomat is reported. It is situated on the south side of Decembrists Street and in the center of one of the two blocks bounded by Karl Marx and Admiral Ushakov Boulevard. It is described as a two-story building with a 75-foot frontage and marked "Voyenniy Kommissariat." It has not been possible to pinpoint this building.

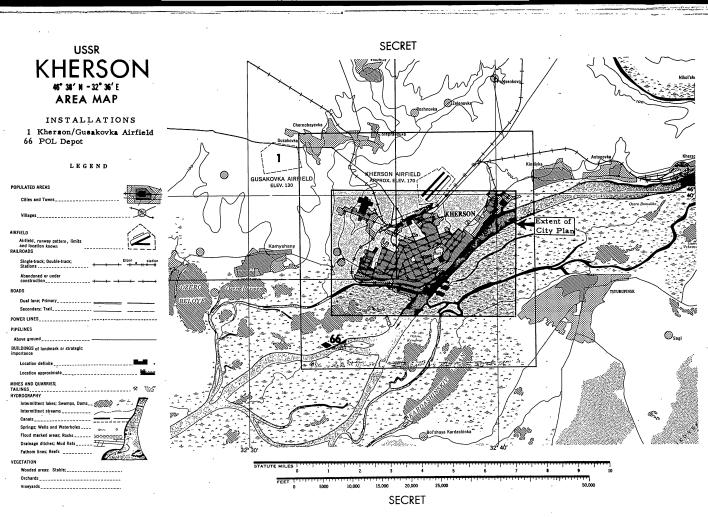
- $43.\,$  MILITARY HOSPITAL. JIB No. 121. Two or more two-story brick buildings make up this installation.
- 44. BARRACKS AREA. This installation is surrounded by a high wooden fence; the gate leading into the installation is guarded by an infantry sentry and infantry troops have been seen in the area. The stadium in the north of the area is possibly used as a training ground and a drill field. Barracks here are estimated capable of housing a battalion.
- 45. BARRACKS AREA. Described as a moderately sized 3-story building, this facility is probably an infantry barracks estimated-capable-of-housing a company; approximately that many infantrymen were seen in the yard.
- 46. PRISON. JIB No. 139 terms this installation as a Prison in only remaining buildings of fortress. The area is enclosed by a high stone fence; guard towers are located at the corners. The main building is a large, two-story, old one. A number of Army infantry troops were noticed in the west half of this area; a sign on this side of the building reads "Voyenniy Chast" (Military Unit). Several MVD troops were also seen entering and leaving the eastern half of the area.
- 47. OBLAST MVD. JIB No. 138. A two- or three-story building, its entrance is probably guarded. According to a report of 1955 this may be a City Militia building. Immediately to the west of this installation is the City Transport Directorate.
- 48. MVD GARAGE.

- 49. MILITIA. JIB No. 143. Reportedly a one-story, white, stuccoed building. Also located near this installation are JIB Nos. 136 and 137, a Printing Press and Pheater, in the block to the northwest across Lenin Street and just north of the small unnamed park.
- 50. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH. Reportedly a white, stone building with a yellow cupoia, a useful orientation point.
- 51. RIVER FLEET HOSPITAL. JIB No. 145.
- 52. RIVER PASSENGER STATION. JIB No. 154. A large, wooden building.
- 53. DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF MARITIME FRONTIER FORCE (COAST GUARD). JIB No. 153. It is possible that the offices of the Harbor Master, the Pilot, and INFLOT are housed here.
- 54. SEA STATION. A large, woo en building, described as having an observation tower and restaurant, JIB No. 155.
- 55. DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF M/D MARITIME SECTION. JIB No. 152.
- 56. MVD BUILDING. JIB No. 144, Former MGB Security Office, now MVD.
- 57. POWER PLANT. USAF BE No. 0250-0079, Kherson Thermal Power Plant, "Municipal." This installation is probably the principal power plant of the city; it is easily recognized by its four chimneys and the enclosed overhead carrier which feeds coal to the plant.
- 58. WATER WORKS.
- 59. GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY. JIB No. 148. The grain elevator is made up of 11 rows of silos, 5 deep, 80 to 100 feet high, and is connected to a large overhead conveyor. This is a storage facility of oblast or national importance and may be a unit in the strategic grain reserves program of the Ministry of Defence. Its location on both rail and harbor facilities suggests its function as an export point for grain.

- 60. PORT FACILITIES. USAF BE No. 0250-0007. Much of this port area is enclosed by a high worden fence and is probably guarded. The estimated military port capacity is 2,900 to 3,000 long tons of general cargo per 20-hour day.
- 61. SHIPYARD im. "KOMINTERN." USAF BE No. 0250-0139. According to NIS, motor torps do boats and river gunboats are constructed here.
- 62. SHIPYARD. Under the control of the Dnieper River State Steamship  $\mathsf{Co}_{\:\raisebox{1pt}{\text{\circle*{1.5}}}}$
- 63. SHIPYARD.

- 64. MARINA or "YACHT CLUB," LT. SCHMIDT.
  Described as an old wooden building with a green-painted tower, it is probably used by a naval auxiliary unit.
- 65. NEW SHIPYARD. USAF BE No. 0250-0355. Tankers named for Soviet cities and possibly dry cargo ships are built here.
- 66. PETROLEUM STORAGE. (See on Area Map.) USAF BE No. 0250-0245. There are from approximately 19 to 25 (mostly large size) tanks, docking facilities and some buildings in this area.





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COMMENTS AND AMENDMENTS

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