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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Krumovo Airfield and Nearby Fuel Depots

DATE DISTR. 29 August 1958

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. 50X1-HUM

Location and Size

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1. Krumovo airfield, which is eight to ten kilometers southeast of Plovdiv and six to seven kilometers north-northwest of Asenovgrad, is one of the best natural airfields in Bulgaria. There are no fences around the field which is bounded by the Chaya river on the east, an irrigation canal on the south, arable land on the north, and the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad railroad on the west, although some of the buildings of the field are on the opposite side or west side of the railroad tracks. The field covers an area of 1,500 to 2,000 square meters.

Runway

2. The surface of the runway is sand covered with a special kind of grass which keeps the runway firm. The drainage of the runway is good and after the heaviest rains the runway can still be used. The usual direction of the runway is north-northwest to south-southeast. There are no electric lights on the runway and it is illuminated during night flights by special oil lamps. Source claims that any kind of jet, even the FARMER, can land at Krumovo airfield, although he never saw a jet at the field.

Planes

3. In June 1958 there were 60 to 70 planes of the Attack Bomber Regiments stationed at the airfield. These were BEAST's, COACH's, and FLORA's. The BEAST planes were received from the Soviet Air Force after World War II, the COACH planes arrived from the USSR in 1951 and the early model FLORA

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were transferred from Graf Ignatiev airfield in 1951 when the Fighter Division at Graf Ignatiev received F4U's. there are no more than ten F4U's at Krumovo airfield. All the planes are parked in the open in two triangular areas southwest of the runway.

Attack Bomber Regiments

4. Two Attack Bomber Regiments<sup>1</sup> and their Supply Battalion, all subordinate to the Attack Bomber Division at Plovdiv Airfield, are stationed at Krumovo. The combined strength of the two regiments is approximately 300 officers, 60 to 80 non-commissioned officers and about 200 enlisted men. Only 80 of the officers are pilots. The buildings occupied by the regiments at the field are located on both sides of the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad railroad which crosses the western end of the field.

Installations

5. The buildings on the western side of the tracks are:
- Guardhouse on the gravel road entering the airfield from the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad highway; four by four meters in size.
  - Three wooden buildings containing the offices of the Supply Battalion; each eight by four meters in size.
  - Building containing mess hall, club and quarters for pilots; two-story, brick building, ten by six meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof.
  - Warehouse for spare parts a one-story brick building, six by ten meters in size, with red tile roof.
  - Wooden building used as a photography laboratory.
  - Wooden building containing a repair shop for switchboard instruments.
  - Building containing office of mess officer.
  - Hospital; one-story, brick building.
  - Wooden building containing food supplies.
  - Roofed storage area for wood and coal.
6. The buildings on the eastern side of the railroad tracks are:
- Guardhouse containing the office of the officer on duty; one-story, brick building, four by six meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof.
  - Building containing classrooms for pilots; two-story, brick building, five by ten meters in size, with yellow walls and red tile roof.
  - Headquarters building; two-story, brick building, twelve by six meters in size, with white walls.
  - Building containing soldiers' mess hall and kitchen; one-story, temporary building, twelve by six meters in size.
  - Warehouse for clothing and shoes; one-story, brick building, eight by five meters in size, with yellow walls and red tile roof.
  - Two soldiers' barracks; temporary construction, twelve by six meters in size.
  - Wooden building for parachute storage; temporary building, twelve by six meters in size.
  - Wooden building with unknown contents; building, four by eight meters in size.
  - Ammunition and weapons depot; one-story, brick building, twenty by eight meters in size, with white walls and red tile roof.
  - Wooden building containing battery shop, four by eight meters in size.

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Fuel Supply

- 7. The fuel depot on the field is located on the west side of the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad railroad tracks in an area surrounded by a wall, 60 centimeters thick. The fuel is stored in barrels in the open.
- 8. There are two other large fuel depots near Krumovo airfield which are described as follows:
  - a. Between the Plovdiv-Asenovgrad railroad and highway, approximately 1,500 meters northwest of the Asenovgrad railroad station, there is a fuel depot which contains seven to eight reservoirs, each having a capacity of 100 to 150 tons and installed in concrete casings which are painted yellow, and 300 to 400 barrels, each having a capacity of 150 to 200 liters. Although this depot does not belong to the Air Force, it is often visited by trucks from Krumovo and Graf Ignatiev airfields which load gasoline and oil from the depot.
  - b. Between the Plovdiv-Levstigrad railroad and highway, 1,000 to 1,500 meters north of the Filipovo railroad station, there is a fuel depot which contains six to seven reservoirs each having a capacity of 100 to 150 tons. Each reservoir is surrounded by an earthen embankment and a special railroad branch connects the Plovdiv-Levstigrad railroad with the depot. Besides the reservoirs there are numbers of barrels stored in the open. This depot does not belong to the Air Force.
- 9. Another fuel depot, which is subordinate to the Air Force, is believed to be two kilometers southeast of Krumovo airfield on the banks of the Chaya river but Source can provide no further information about it.

1. Comment: Deactivation of the two regiments were begun in May 1958 and scheduled to be completed by 15 September 1958.

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Comment: the planned reduction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces would not take place because of the Middle East situation.

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attachment to this report is a sketch of Krumovo Airfield with an attached legend.

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Distribution of Attachment:

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- Air - Loan
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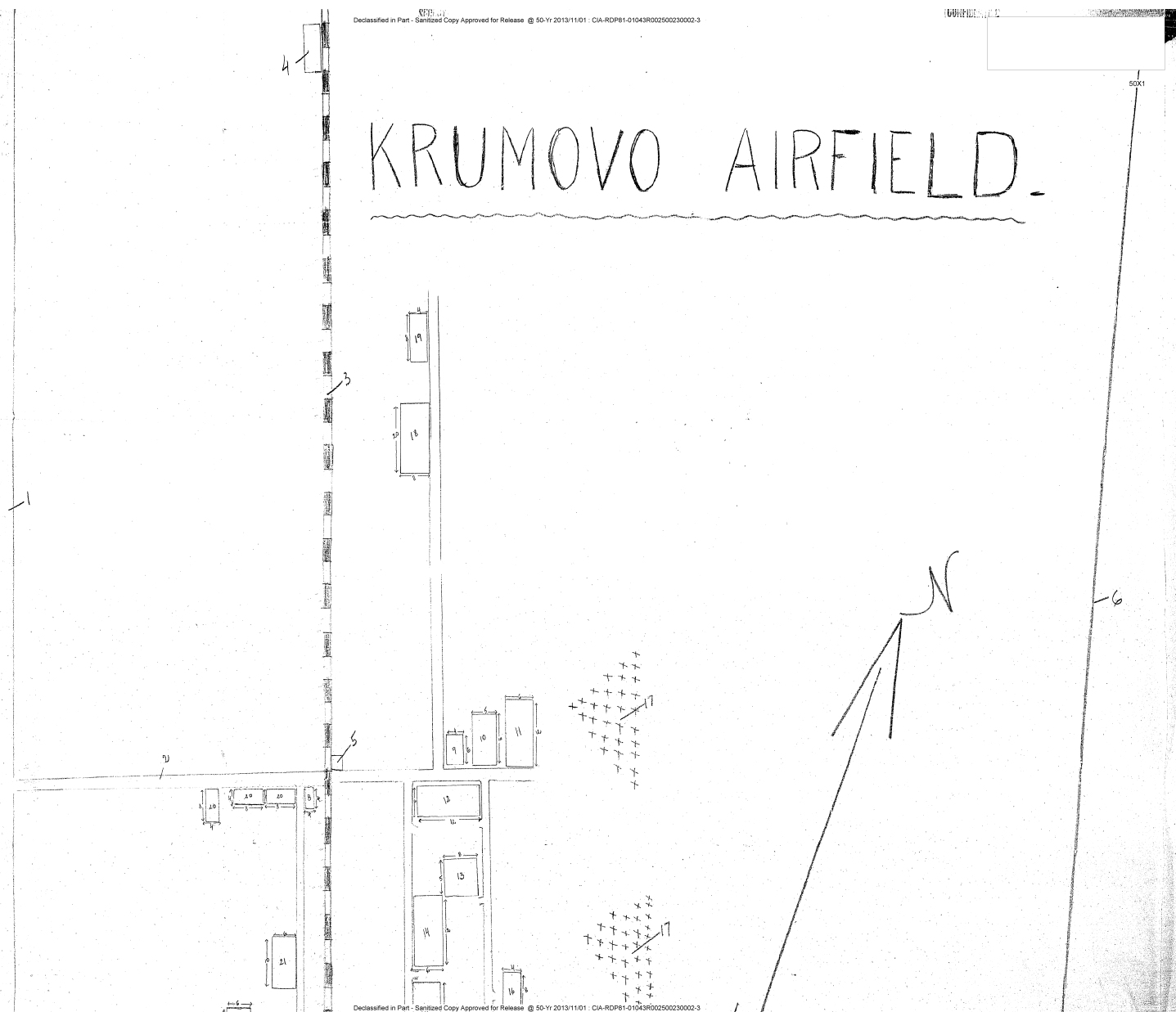
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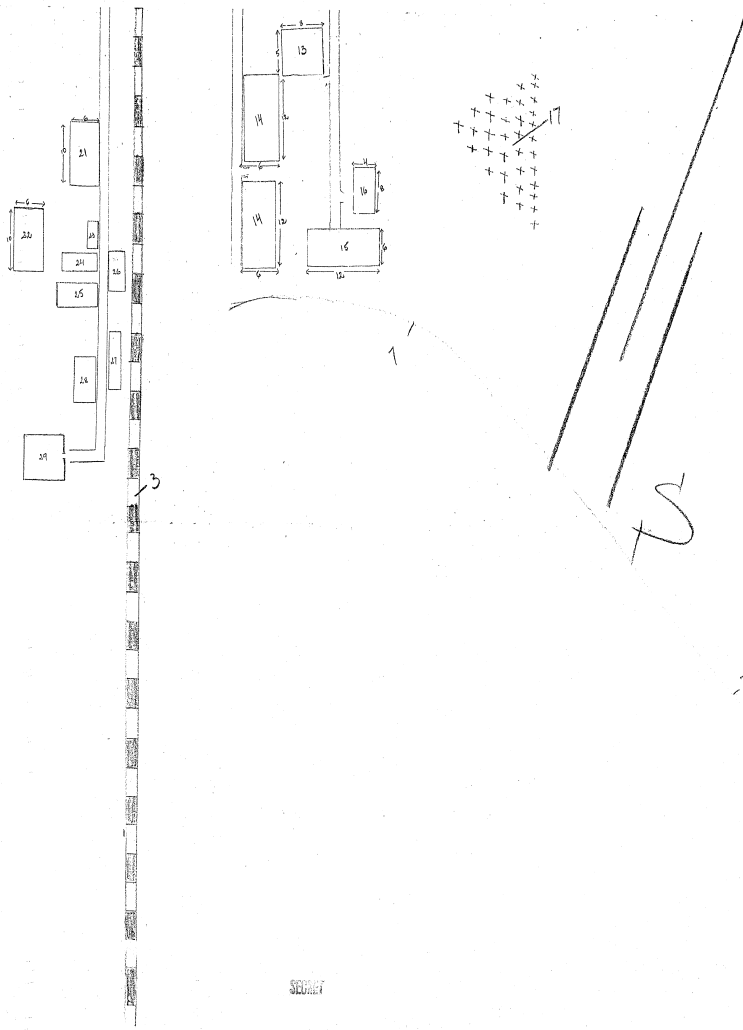


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# KRUMOVO AIRFIELD.





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LEGEND TO SKETCH

1. Plovdiv-Asenovgrad Highway
2. Gravel road leading to the airfield
3. Plovdiv-Asenovgrad Railroad
4. Railroad Guard House
5. Krumovo Airfield Railroad stop
6. The Chaya River
7. The irrigation canal
8. Guardhouse
9. Guardhouse and office of the "officer on duty"; one-story brick building with white-washed walls and red tiled roof
10. Classrooms for pilots; two-story brick building with yellow walls and red tile roof
11. HQ - Main building of the airfield; two-story brick building with white-washed walls
12. Soldier's dining room and kitchen; one-story temporary building
13. Clothing and shoe storage; one-story brick building with yellow walls and red tile roof
14. Two soldier's dormitories, temporary wooden buildings
15. Parachute storage, temporary wooden building
16. Wooden building (contents not known)
17. Parking lots for planes
18. Ammo and arms storage; one-story brick building with white-washed walls and red tile roof
19. Wooden building - battery charging shop
20. Wooden buildings; offices of the Supply Battalion
21. Pilot's dining room club and hotel - two story brick building with white-washed walls and red tile roof
22. Spare parts storage; one-story brick building with red tile roof
23. Photo laboratory
24. Repair shop for switchboard instruments
25. Office of Food Supply officer
26. Hospital; one-story brick building
27. Food storage in wooden building
28. Roofed storage for firewood and coal
29. Open air storage for gas and oil; surrounded by an 80 cm thick wall. Gas and oil kept in barrels.

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