

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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COUNTRY **Poland**

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SUBJECT **Miscellaneous Information on Elk**

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DATE OF INFORMATION [ ]

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REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED [ ]

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**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

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Location and General Description

1. The town of Elk <sup>N 53-50, E 22-21</sup> was located about 90 km. northwest of Bialystok <sup>N 53-08, E 23-09</sup> and about 150 km. northeast of Warsaw. It was situated on a lake [ ] not know; the Elk River flowed through the town. The city was on a multi-track, standard gauge RR line that made connections with all points in Poland. [See memory sketch.] 50X1
2. Elk had about 24,000 inhabitants. [ ] 70% of these inhabitants were women and children up to the age of 15. The men in the town were mostly young men in their early twenties who [ ] came mostly from farms. Most of the residents were former displaced persons who had come to Elk in about 1945 from such places as Lvov, the region of Vilnius, the territory of Bialystok, the regions of Tarnopol, and Central Poland; the speech characteristics of the inhabitants of Elk included colloquial expressions and accents peculiar to these areas. There did not seem to be any great difference in customs between the various groups of the Elk population; but as to clothing, the migrants from the hinterland were easily recognizable by their large heavy boots and bulky clothing. They preferred to wear wool caps instead of hats, the normal headgear in the city; and in winter they wore the heavy sheep-lined Mackinaw coats. 50X1
3. There was no law which restricted the movements of the local population. Within the town people were free to go wherever they chose. If a person wanted to leave the town of Elk for about a week to visit a city (for example, Poznan), it was necessary for him to report to the Municipal People's Council (Miejjska Rada Narodowa) which issued to him a statement that he was making a visit to Poznan. This statement was to be presented to the clerk at the hotel in Poznan where the person intended to stay. However, if one planned to stay with friends, this statement was not necessary.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

It was merely an aid in helping one to identify oneself, because hotels were almost always checked by Citizen's Police (Milicja Obywatelska - MO) who searched for people without proper identification. In order to move permanently from the town of Elk to a city such as Poznan it was necessary for one first to present to the Municipal People's Council sufficient reason for moving. The most common and acceptable reason was proof of having been accepted for work in Poznan. In making a permanent move, one would have his name deleted from the record of residence in the office of the Municipal People's Council and upon arrival in Poznan he would have his name added to the records of the Poznan Municipal People's Council.

4. There was no regular check of the personal documents of individuals. The checking of documents, which occurred least frequently of all in the streets, was done at random. However, hotel residents could expect to be checked regularly, perhaps because the Citizen's Police felt that the probability was greater of finding outsiders at a hotel. (If one disturbed the peace, his documents would certainly be checked.)

a. [redacted] Among his documents, [redacted] would have to be one's Military Booklet which contained his service record; and the Work Booklet, which showed the type and place of occupation.

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b. Relations between the civilian population and the members of the military were friendly. Civilians mixed easily with soldiers.

5. There was a critical shortage of housing space. Every available place to live, including badly floored basements, was being used in Elk. People seemed always to be looking for a place to live. The sporadic building of new residences was negligible, hardly enough to take care of the demand.

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#### Collectivization

6. There appeared [redacted] to be very little collectivization. [redacted] there was no collectivization in the following villages: Monki, which was about 60 km. northeast of Elk; Morzy, about three kilometers northeast of Elk; Siedlisko, about three kilometers southeast of Elk; Ruda, 25 km. northeast of Elk; and Nowa Wies, about six kilometers east of Elk. [redacted] the most collectivization was taking place somewhere to the north of Elk.

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[redacted] Storage, however, was probably in the railroad warehouses [redacted] point 36 on the sketch/. As to traffic between rural areas and Elk, [redacted] there was very little.

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#### Railroads

7. The Elk RR line had no special name. This RR line, as well as others in Poland, was referred to as the State Railroad (Panstwowa Kolej ). Its tracks were standard gauge. There was a narrow gauge, double track that crossed the bridge /Point 20 on the attached sketch/. This narrow gauge track extended as far as the town of Wisniewa, which was about 30 km. southeast of Elk; [redacted] it went beyond Wisniewa. Small passenger trains and sometimes small freight trains travelled this route.
8. The Elk RR station /Point 21 on the Sketch/, had only one building. This building was about 70 m. long, 25 m. wide, and two stories

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high. It was of brick construction. The building housed the business office of the railroad, ticket sales windows, rest rooms, a waiting room, a small recreation room, a restaurant, and a telegraph station.

- a. There were four passenger platforms See Sketch.
- b. A tunnel led from the RR station to the platforms. There was also a tunnel designated as Point 22 on Sketch that led under the RR tracks from Ogrodowa Street to the RR station. The tunnel was about 50 m. long, 3 m. wide, and about 2½ m. high. It was lined with tile.

9. There were about six standard gauge RR tracks between the passenger station and the freight station. Here also was the marshalling area. The freight station was a single, low barracks-type building (50 to 80 m. long); it had one loading ramp. There was no roundhouse or repair shed. Repairs were probably done in Bialystok.

10. Most of the outgoing freight, [redacted] was agricultural,

a. [redacted] the RR equipment included about three locomotives, sixteen passenger cars, and about thirty freight cars; all of those [redacted] appeared to be in good condition.

b. The RR tracks were under constant guard by railroad guards referred to as SOK's [redacted]. They wore dark blue uniforms and carried carbines.

Bridges Numbers refer to legend designations

11. a. Railroad Bridge No. 19 had a standard gauge double track. The bridge was of concrete, reinforced by steel, with vertical concrete supports. It was about 80 m. long and about 7 m. high.
- b. Railroad Bridge No. 20 had a narrow gauge double track. It was about 50 m. long and 7 m. high. The bridge was of concrete, reinforced by steel, with concrete, vertical supports.
- c. Bridge No. 32 was a vehicle and pedestrian bridge of concrete, reinforced by steel. It was about 130 m. in length, 10 m. wide, and 7 m. high.
- d. Bridge No. 33 was a vehicle and pedestrian bridge of concrete, reinforced by steel, with vertical concrete supports. It was about 70 m. in length, 10 m. wide, and about 4-5 m. high.
- e. Bridge No. 34 was a wooden, pedestrian footbridge; it could support no vehicle traffic. It was about 25-30 m. in length, 3-4 m. wide, and about 3 m. high.
- f. Bridge No. 35 was a wooden, pedestrian foot bridge. It was about 35 m. in length, about three meters wide, and three meters high.

Streets

12. a. Street (Ulica) Wojska Polskiego was paved with hard brick in the town, but beyond the town the paving was asphalt. This asphalt highway led 80 km. north to Suwalki.
- b. Street [redacted] was paved with hard brick. [redacted]

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c. Street Suwalska was paved with hard brick, but was asphalt beyond the town. All roads in the town were brick paved. There were no bottlenecks, and there were no particular difficulties on these roads during the various seasons. The traffic was very light, consisting mostly of military and government official vehicles such as ZIS-5, ZIS-150, GAZ-151 and Russian jeeps.

Inland Waterways

13. The Elk River flows from east to west. [redacted] it emptied into the lake located on the west side of town. At its widest part the river was about 25 m., and at its narrowest part it might have been four meters. The velocity of the current was about 10 km. per hour. In the spring the river had a tendency to overflow its banks but with no serious effects to the surrounding area.

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14. The lake, [redacted] was located on the west side of the town. It was about 5 km. long and 1,200 m. wide. In some places it reached a depth of eight meters. The lake connected with other lakes in the area, and [redacted] it was used as the source of drinking water.

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[redacted] there are no airfields in the vicinity.

Communications

15. The only telephone exchange was located in the post office building. Other than in the RR station and in the post office building, there were no public telephones in Elk. Retail stores had private business telephones. The telephones were not dial telephones. All telephone lines were strung from poles. There were no underground cables.

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16. A telegraph station was also located in the post office and in the RR station.

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Radio and Television

17. There was no television in the city of Elk; there was no radio station. The nearest radio station [redacted] was in the town of Bialystok. Some of the home radio receivers used were : Mazura, a 5-tube Polish make which retailed for about 1,380 zloty; Pioner, a 4-tube Polish make which retailed for about 950 zloty; Super, a 6-tube Czech make which retailed at 1,800-2,500 zloty. Many old German receivers were in use. Jamming was not successful, and broadcasts could be heard with a reasonable amount of clarity. A radio office was located in the post office building where people could register their sets and pay the taxes thereon.

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18. The post office building [Point 11] measured about 40 x 40 m. and was three stories high of brick construction. The Post Office Department was located on the first floor of this building.

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19. [redacted] The current was 220 v., and there seemed to be restrictions on the use of power, because some evenings all lights would be turned out for one or two hours. [redacted] an electric light bulb would last for about 250 hours before it burned out.

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Water Supply

20. There was a water tower which supplied the town's drinking water. This was the only water tower in Elk and was about 70 m. high. [redacted] 50X1  
 [redacted] the supply of drinking water came from [redacted] 50X1  
 [redacted] the adjoining lake. Water was piped into [redacted] 50X1  
 all homes. [redacted]  
 [redacted] Sometimes in the spring people were told to boil their water before drinking.

50X1 21. [redacted] The entire town was not supplied with gas for cooking. The homes located on the streets Armja Czerwona, Kosciuszki, Slowackiego, and Daszynskiego used gas for cooking. Other areas in the town used coal or wood stoves.

Agriculture

22. In order of importance the crops sown in 1952 were potatoes, sugar beets, rye, and cabbage. [redacted] because of the unwillingness of people to work on collective farms, there was a shortage of farm help. Mostly old people accepted jobs on the collective farms. [redacted] there were about 15 people to work an area of between 100-150 hectares, and that there was usually only one tractor to work this area, so that much food was wasted. In the winters of 1949, 1950, and 1951, [redacted] unharvested crops lying in the fields. [redacted] 50X1  
 [redacted] 50X1

50X1 23. [redacted] a Czech (Szkoda tractor was used and a Bulldog tractor /sic/. [redacted] 50X1  
 [redacted] There was one tractor mechanic assigned to a collective farm.

50X1 24. [redacted] the number of privately owned livestock, such as poultry, hogs, cows and sheep had increased. At various times it would be mentioned by farmers that instead of one cow or hog they now had three [redacted] 50X1  
 [redacted]

Enclosure: Memory Sketch and Legend of Elk

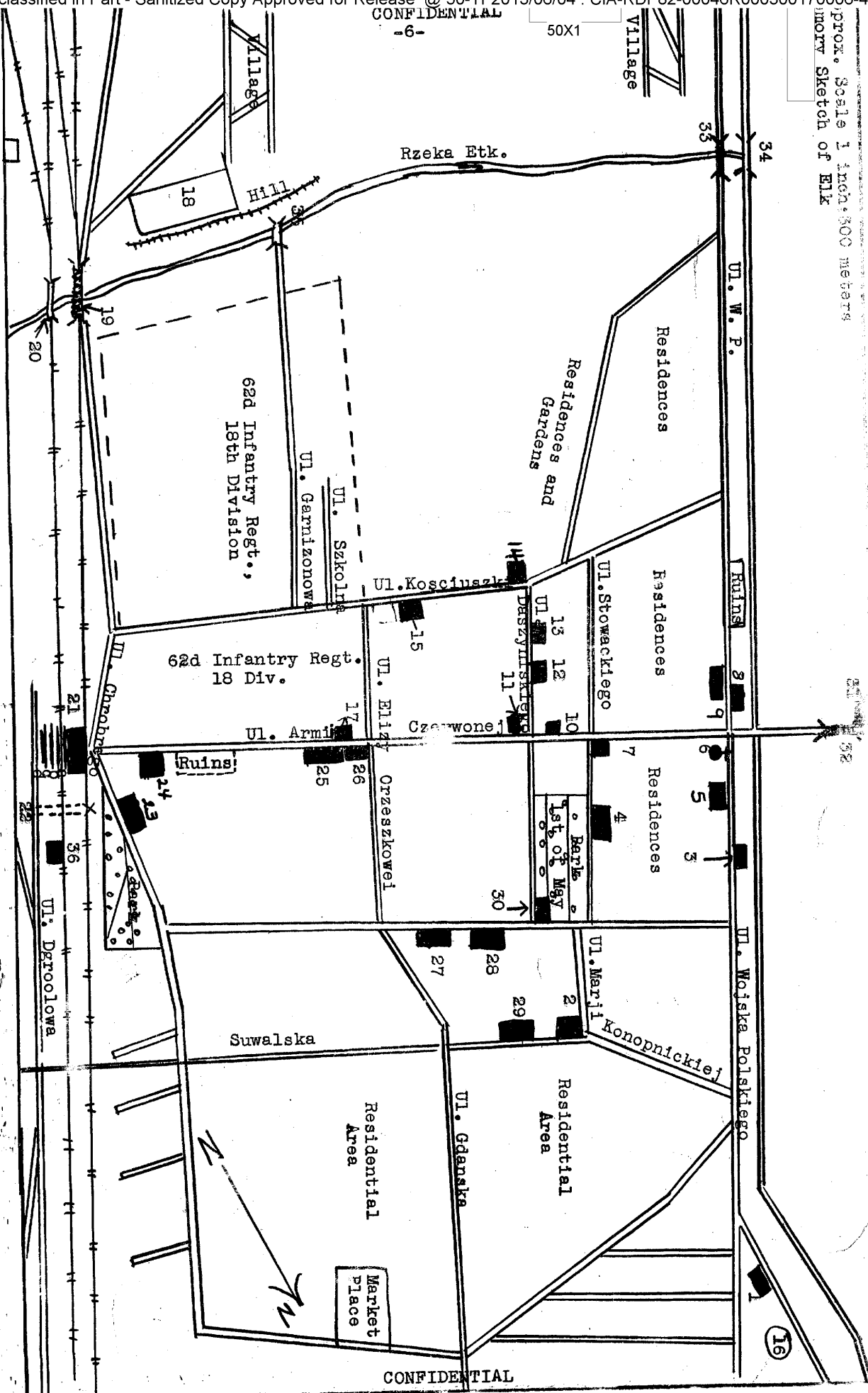
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Approx. Scale 1 Inch = 400 meters  
Summary Sketch of Elk



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Legend to Memory Sketch of Elk

1. Teacher's Academy: (Lyceum Pedagogiczny); a four-story, brick building, 30 x 80 m.
2. Civilian apartment house: two-story, of brick construction, 15 x 30 m.
3. Department store: (Powszechny Dom Towarowy - PDT): a three-story brick building, about 20 x 50 m.
4. Civilian apartment house: 15 x 30 m., three stories high, of brick construction.
5. Civilian apartment house and restaurant: 15 x 35 m., three stories high, of brick construction.
6. Church: of brick construction, about 25 x 50 m.
7. Music school: two-story brick building, about 15 x 30 m.
8. Civilian apartment house: bakery on the ground floor: three stories high, 15 x 30 m., of brick construction.
9. State-owned retail store: (Miejski Handel Detaliczny - MHD): three-story brick building, about 15 x 30 m.
10. Civilian apartment house: photographer's shop on the ground floor; 15 x 30 m., three stories high, of brick construction.
11. Post office
12. Office for the District Citizens Police: (Militaria Obywatelska): about 15 x 40 m., two stories high, and of brick construction.
13. Apartment building: occupied by higher ranking officers of the 62d Infantry Regiment; two-story brick building, about 15 x 20 m.
14. Civilian apartment house: about 30 x 30 m. and about three stories high.
15. Commercial Academy: (Lyceum Handlowy); a three-story, brick building, about 40 x 40 m.
16. Water tower: about 70 m. high.
17. Hotel: the first floor is a restaurant, and on the second story were rooms; 25 x 40 m., of brick construction.
18. Cemetery: about 300 x 800 m., it was on a hill.
19. Railroad bridge: standard gauge tracks.
20. Railroad bridge: with narrow gauge tracks.
21. Railroad station: A, B, C, and D are passenger platforms.
22. Tunnel: leading from Ulica Ogrodowa to opposite side of tracks; a branch of this tunnel led to the RR station.
23. Building: contained offices of the railroad; 30 x 40 m., two stories in height, of brick construction.
24. Kindergarten: 10 x 20 m., two stories in height, of brick construction.

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- 25. 18th Division Army Headquarters: three story building, 15 x 30 m., of brick construction.
- 26. Apartment house: for army officers; 20 x 60 m., four stories high, of brick construction.
- 27. Regional Induction Commission: (Wejskowa Komenda Rejonowa - WKR); 15 x 25 m., two stories high, of brick construction.
- 50X1 28. District hospital: 30 x 80 m., three stories high, of brick construction.  
[redacted] there were about four or five doctors.
- 29. Home of the Commanding Officer of the 18th Division: 15 x 25 m., two stories high, of brick construction. The Commanding Officer's name was Colonel LUBANSKI, a Russian.
- 30. Office of foresters: 15 x 30 m., three stories high, of brick construction.
- 50X1 31. Prison: located on a small island. [redacted] this was a political prison. [redacted]  
[redacted] groups of five or six taken beyond the town to work.  
It was a four-story building, of brick construction [redacted]
- 50X1
- 32. Bridge
- 33. Bridge
- 34. Bridge
- 35. Bridge
- 36. RR freight station

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