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tall trees scattered throughout. Hazel nut bushes, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and thorn apples grew in abundance.

- Latvia/UNSR
3. There was no industry in the pagasta; all of the land was taken up in small farms. The ground has very few rocks and is easily cultivated. Each farm had fruit trees of apple, pears, cherries, plums and some other small fruits. Wheat, rye, potatoes, beets, turnips, and most types of small garden vegetables were the common crops. The growing season is from about the end of April to the middle of September. Each farm was fairly self-supporting, having cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys and horses. Most of the farmers made their own cloth from wool from sheep grown on their farm. There being no railroad at Nitaure, farm produce for market was taken by wagon to Ligatne for rail shipment to the larger cities.
 4. The main roads from Nitaure are, (a) to north-west to Ligatne where it connects with the Riga highway, the principal highway in all Latvia; (b) south and west to Malpils; (c) south to Zaube and Madliena and east to Skujene. The road to Ligatne was paved with asphalt, the only hard-top road out of Nitaure. The other main roads were of sand and gravel with all secondary roads of dirt. All were about 18 feet in width, rounded in the middle to provide drainage and with shoulders of about two feet sloping off into ditches on either side. The danger spots were marked with metal signs about two feet square indicating the type of danger with a curve, cross road, etc.; they had no printing on them. The roads were not identified by route numbers, however, at cross roads there were wooden signs showing the direction to the various towns. Then, too, when leaving the pagasta there would be a wooden sign indicating the pagasta into which one was entering. During the heavy winter snows, travel was difficult and horses and sleighs were used almost exclusively, except for a motor bus which traveled to Riga and in between points. In the summertime there was a lot of yellow dust which rose from the yellow sand used on the roads. In the spring and wet weather the secondary dirt roads were very muddy except where they had been graveled. There was not too much traffic on the roads in the Nitaure area. There were no more than ten motor vehicles, including passenger cars and trucks. All other travel was by horse and wagon. The Nitaure-Ligatne road was the most traveled route because of the railroad depot at Ligatne. During harvest time there was a great deal of local wagon traffic on all roads.
 5. I have outlined on a map the pagasta of Nitaure [Available on loan from CIA Map Library]. As can be seen there was no special pattern. The administrative centers of each pagasta were about seven to ten km apart. The boundaries of the pagastas were not officially marked with markers except by the farmers living on such boundaries; they would then place stone markers on their farms showing the pagasta in which they were located. Then, too, as I have mentioned there were road signs showing the boundaries. The administrative center of Nitaure was quite small. Here were located the Russian Orthodox Church, the Lutheran Church, the Post Office (and telephone and telegraph center) the school house, barber shops, apothecary, dairy, flour mill, lumber mill, coop store and the secretary of the district. Other than the people connected with these offices and organizations there were very few other residents. I have drawn the attached sketch [See Enclosure (A)] from memory to show the layout of a typical administrative center.
 6. About five km to the west, north west of the Nitaure pagasta there begins a swampy area which is considered the best hiding place in all Latvia. It was formerly an old lake and stretches to the west for about 60 km. There are numerous small, pine covered islets in the swampy area as well as high bushes which offer excellent concealment both on the ground and from the air. Various types of edible berries can be found in the area, mostly cranberries. Then, too, there are fish and small game such as

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rabbits and some wild birds. During both the Soviet and later the German occupations, many people hid successfully in this swampy area.

7. Located in the Post Office at Nitaure were the telephone and telegraph centrals. The wires were strung mainly along the roads leading to Ligatne and to Malpils and Zaube. The first electricity was brought to Nitaure about 1942 from Madliena which in turn got it from the main Latvian power station at Kegums. Previously, a farmer named Ziemels had a small wind-mill driven power plant on his farm which provided electricity for himself and two or three neighbors. This was the only electricity in the area prior to 1942. There were no air fields in the pagasta. The only airplane that ever landed in the area was a small German observation plane that made a forced landing near Ligatne. I recall that it had a great deal of difficulty in taking off because of insufficient space. However, there were some cleared fields that were fairly level where I believe small airplanes could land and take off; these areas would be in the southern portion of the pagasta and with earth moving machines, suitable landing strips for larger planes could be made.

Sociological Factors

8. As I have mentioned, the total population of the Nitaure pagasta in 1939 was about 1500 people; the total number of families was about 400. At that time there were about fifteen women to each man. There were one or two Baltic German families but these left when repatriation began in 1939. The balance of the people were Letts. During the German occupation Soviet prisoners of war were brought in and used to assist the various farmers.
9. The clothes worn by the majority of the people were of homemade wool. The winter dress was usually a knee-length leather coat (sometimes lined with sheepskin); sheepskin hats (with the smooth leather side out) and high leather boots. Trousers were grey wool and shirts of either wool or cotton. Summer dress was usually a pair of lightweight wool or cotton trousers and a white shirt. Instead of the usual necktie, everyone wore a thin embroidered, string-type tie. The native, Latvian dress was worn only on national festive occasions. Men who were in official positions wore suits of the western style, the material being purchased at the local cooperative store and tailored by one of the three tailors who did work in their home. Most of the women wore woollen clothes in winter and cotton or linen in summer, depending on their positions. All made their own clothes at home with the exception of a few who had certain type suits and heavy coats tailored. Many different types of cloth could be purchased at the cooperative store. There was no distinctive clothing for the pagasta. As was common throughout Latvia, most men's suits were of grey wool.
10. The living conditions of the people were excellent. There was plenty of good food and clothing, even though much of the latter was homemade. Living in rural areas they suffered from very few diseases. Some of the common types of disease were measles, pneumonia, and isolated cases of jaundice and diphtheria. School children were examined every four months by a doctor and treated for any afflictions they had. There were few cripples and most of these were made so by accidents in the forests or on the farm.
11. The pagasta had two churches, a Russian Orthodox with about five hundred members and a Lutheran with about one thousand members. Everyone got along well together and there were few disagreements. All were deeply religious.

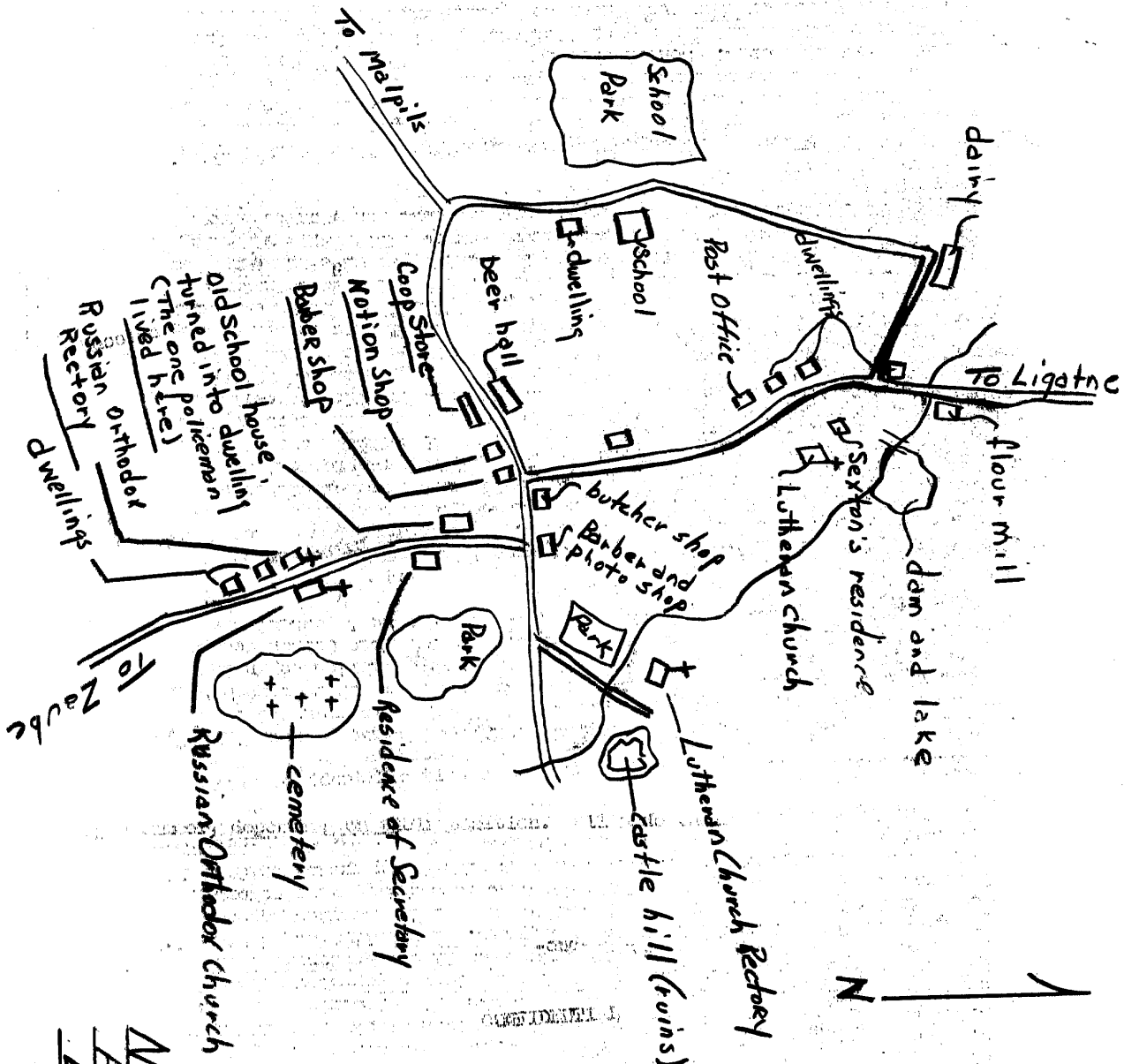
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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch Showing Layout of Pagasta of Nitaure, Latvia

621.42	35M	850.01	35M
754.22	35M		
753.41	35M		
753.42	35M		
811.62	35M		

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SKETCH SHOWING LAYOUT OF PAGASTA OF NITAURE, LATVIA



Nitaure
Pagasta -
Latvia

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