

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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[Redacted Box] 489

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. /7 Jun 1954

SUBJECT Description of the City of Gorodenka [Horodenka]  
Local Conditions

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED [Redacted Box] 50X1

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED [Redacted Box] 50X1

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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1. The city of Gorodenka [Horodenka] had a population of 12 thousand in 1939. The city was on a slight hill. There were eight thousand persons of Ukrainian ethnic origin, three thousand Jewish, and one thousand of Polish ethnic origin.
2. There were two large Greek Catholic churches, each with a capacity for one thousand persons. The churches were old and of brick construction. The city also had one Jewish Synagogue and one Roman Catholic Church.
3. The tallest building in Gorodenka was three stories high.
4. Serafintse ulitsa, the main street, ran through the center of the city. It ran southeast to Zaleshchiki and northwest to Nez'viska. It was stone and gravel surfaced and two cars wide.
5. The usual means of transportation was horse and wagon. Bicycles were occasionally used. There were no street cars. Buses ran through the city enroute to other cities and villages. The city also had taxis [fiyarkas] which were horse drawn buggies.
6. About three kilometers northwest from Gorodenka there was a railroad station. A large sugar beet factory was located alongside the station.
7. Farmers and villagers who lived fairly close to the city would bring the sugar beets by horse and wagon to this sugar beet factory. Others, who lived further away brought their beets either alongside a railroad line or a main road to be stacked, picked up and shipped to the factory.
8. Principal crops in this area were wheat and rye which were brought to the cooperative warehouse and association in Gorodenka where the grain was cleaned, processed and exported. However, farmers who had large farms raised sugar beets exclusively.
9. Every villager and city dweller had some sort of garden where he grew vege- tables for home use or to sell on the open market.

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50X1

- 2 -

10. Schools, the postoffice and telephone station and city administration offices were of brick construction. The telephone office, post office and telegraph office were in the same two story building in the center of the city. Very few homes were constructed of brick.
11. In building a home logs were split in two, the flat part would be on the outside and the curved part on the inside. Flat smooth planks were nailed to the timber on the inside and then plastered with gypsum. Houses averaged from three to four rooms depending on the size of the family. The homes were heated by wood as the rural areas were covered with forest.
12. Each home had its own outside water wells and the water was always cold, fresh, tasty and very clear.
13. Homes, main streets and office buildings were electrified. A power plant with a number of generators was located on the southern outskirts of the city.
14. The rainy season did not affect the city streets in Gorodenka too much as they were solidly constructed. However, the village streets would be muddy and travel was difficult.
15. People in the city rarely threw out any garbage. However, the few who lived in brick homes and were better off would collect their garbage and take it out of the city to the dumps or fields.
16. Schools, city offices and buildings, and a few private citizens had phones.
17. Homes in the center of the city had radios run by electricity. Homes in the urban areas had battery type radios. There were quite a few radio repair shops in the city.
18. Near the sugar beet factory was a small pond used for swimming. There was also a public swimming pool combined with a restaurant in the center of the city.
19. In 1939, at the beginning of the Soviet occupation, there were about two thousand Soviet soldiers living in private homes and who also took over the schools for their living quarters.
20. The jail and court house were both three stories high, fairly new and of brick construction. They were located side by side in the center of the city. Cells in the jail normally hold about four-five persons but the Soviets crammed the entire jail with over two hundred persons.
21. The NKVD police wore dark grey jackets, identification on the shoulder boards, a dark grey cap with red trimmings and a red star on the cap. They wore boots and breeches. The NKVD police were very well dressed but the soldier's uniforms were shabby.
22. Scattered about the city were tinmiths, bootmakers, tailors and furriers.
23. There was a hospital, two stories high, just east of the main street.
24. There were two large theatres in the center of the city, each having a seating capacity of six hundred. Before the Soviet occupation many US films 50X1 in these theatres. The dialogue was in English but words were written in Ukrainian underneath. After the Soviets took over they produced their own films in the Russian language.
25. There were from five to six small libraries scattered throughout the city where people could come in and read or take out books.
26. One main road ran southwest from Gorodenka to Kolomyya. It was four cars wide, paved with stones and gravel and solid enough for buses to use. Another road ran from Gorodenka southeast to Zaleshchiki. This was also stone and gravel, surfaced and two cars wide. Another main road ran from Gorodenka south to Snyatyn and was three cars wide.

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- 3 -

27. Secondary roads ran from Gorodenka northwest to Nez'viska. [sic] Another ran from Gorodenka west to Chortovets [sic] and another north northeast from Gorodenka to Semakovtse. [sic] All three roads were surfaced with stone.
28. The city had Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish elementary schools. The national [narodniy] city school was three stories high, had about 16 rooms and was located in the center of the city. The Jewish population did not have a gymnasium in Gorodenka but attended the one in Kolomyya.
29. Students who wanted to attend a gymnasium attended the four elementary classes; but students who did not want to go to the gymnasium would complete six years of elementary school. However, the school's rules were, that if a student completed six classes he still had the opportunity to go to a trade school, go to work or stay home.
30. The forested area near Gorodenka was not very dense but thick spruce forests began at Nez'viska and followed the Dneestr river.
31. The two most prevalent sicknesses in Gorodenka were typhus and TB. The typhus, caused by lice, had been in existence since World War I. The medics didn't know how to cure the people with TB. These patients generally went up into the Carpathian mountains and drank lots of milk.

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