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SUBJECT City Description of Kolomyya [Kolomyja]/Local Conditions

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1. The city of Kolomyya [Kolomyja] until 1939 had a population of 50 thousand. There were 20 thousand persons of Ukrainian ethnic origin, 20 thousand of Jewish and 10 thousand of Polish ethnic origin.
2. However, during the Soviet occupation, 1939-40, the Soviets deported, shot or jailed many Polish nationals. During the German occupation of the city, from 1940-44, the Jewish population was reduced from 20 thousand to a few hundred. 50X1
3. In 1944 [] the city had a population of 30 - 33 thousand.
4. The usual means of transportation were bicycles, horse and wagon, taxis [Fiyarkas], horse drawn buggies, and busses which ran through the city enroute to other cities and villages. The busses carried about 30 - 35 passengers. These busses were built during the Polish regime and were still being used in 1944. There were no street cars.
5. A railroad station was situated west northwest of the center of the city. Traffic was both passenger and freight. One double track line went to Lvov, another double track line went direct to Chernovtsy, and another double track line went via Przemysl to Krakow. There was also a main double track line from Kolomyya heading west to Delyatin, there south through to Kereshmeze [sic] via Rakhov toward the Transylvanian area of Rumania. It was a single track from Kolomyya to Gorodenka.
6. In the area south of Kolomyya fruits are grown and a vast area of corn is raised and brought into the city for export. Cattle, horses, and a large number of hogs were raised in this area, and the area was also a producer of dairy products which were brought into the city for export or bartering.
7. In the region north of the city wheat, rye, barley, buckwheat and other crops were grown.

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8. There were two large Greek Catholic churches in the city. Both churches were about 40 - 50 years old and were of brick construction. One church was located near the railroad station and the other was in the northern part of the city.
9. In the center of the city there was a very large public square [renok] which was both a market place and a park. South of this park there was a large four story brick building with a tower. This building contained various offices of the city and government administration. There was a clock atop this tower which would chime.
10. All the city and government buildings and schools were of brick construction. Homes and apartments in the center of the city were of brick construction and each average home had about four to five rooms. Homes in the urban areas were built of wood and clay.
11. The administration and apartment buildings had gas furnaces which supplied the heat. A large gas tank was near the railroad station. Private homes were heated by wood which was brought in from the Carpathian mountains.
12. The center of the city was electrified. This included homes, business buildings, institutions, the railroad station, the jail and courthouse, the streets and the factories. The suburban areas were not electrified. The electrical plant was located near public square.
13. Business buildings, city and governmental administration buildings had water faucets. In the basement of each building there was a small water pressure pump which forced the water to the floors above. Scattered about the city were also many spring-fed public wells.
14. A telephone station and post office was located north of the square. It was a three story brick building.
15. There was one huge four story brick building north of public square which was used for a gymnasium. It was a Ukrainian-Polish combination gymnasium. One half of the building was used by the Ukrainian students and the other half by Polish students. Each half would accommodate approximately one thousand students.
16. South of the railroad station, near the road that went to Pechnezhin there was located a Ukrainian National Home which also served as a training school for teachers. About three hundred girls attended this school to study literature, songs and drawing to prepare them to teach in the elementary schools.
17. West of the city flows the Prut River. It flows down from the mountains and is very clear, clean, and cold. The river varies in width and depth in places. It also has an abundant supply of trout. Fishing is done by pole, fishing nets, or by hand. Trout would hide under the rocks in the river and the people would catch them with their hands. To cross the river in some places, rafts were used, and pulled from one side to the other by ropes.
18. There were many fishermen's homes on the river. Whenever it rained the river would overflow its banks and come almost into the city. The river is five kilometers west of the center of the city.
19. A woolen mill was located on the main street near the post office. It was a four story brick building. A large brewery and yeast factory was west north-west of the city. A few flour mills were scattered south of the city near the Prut River. There were a few small furniture factories in the city.

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20. There was a small railroad shop near the railroad station. Here minor repairs were made on locomotives, ~~and cars.~~ The shops also housed rail repair crews. There was also a small factory near the railroad station that made agricultural implements.
 21. A cement factory was located near the railroad station; also a small factory that made roofing material. All these factories were concentrated near the railroad station as it was much easier to get transportation.
 22. A large hospital was located on the northern outskirts of the city. It consisted of a few scattered buildings and an administration building, three stories high.
 23. There were two movie theaters in the city. One was the Marx theater located north of public square. It had a seating capacity for one thousand.
 24. There was a large military [kaserne] camp west northwest of the city. This camp was built during the Austrian regime. The camp was square, about six hundred meters on a side, surrounded by a stone wall three - four meters high. Inside the walls were brick buildings which were used for living quarters, stabling the horses, administration, warehouses, and kitchens.
 25. A jail and courthouse were located west of public square and near the railroad station. The courthouse was two stories high and the jail was three stories high. Misdemeanor cases were tried in this courthouse and prisoners who received short sentences were inmates of this jail. The serious cases were sent to Stanislawow where they had a large penal institution.
 26. One main highway ran east southeast from Kolomyya to Chernovtsy via Snyatin. It was four cars wide, paved with stones and gravel, and solid enough for busses to use. Another road ran from Kolomyya northwest via Ivanovtsy [sig] through Delyatin going northwest to Nadvornaya. It was also stone and gravel surfaced and four cars wide.
 27. From Kolomyya to Gorodenka going northeast it was three cars wide and stone and gravel surfaced. From Kolomyya to Pechenezhin it was four cars wide; also stone and gravel surfaced.
 28. All the roads were constantly maintained by road crews. Stone and gravel for the roads were obtained from the Prut River.

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