

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

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6 MAY 1949

25X1A2a

COUNTRY: Latvia/Lithuania

SUBJECT 1. Military, Naval, Political, and Economic Information on the Riga Area
 2. Deportations in Lithuania

NO. OF PAGES 3

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1
 (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

Naval Information

1. Vessels: Riga harbor is reportedly being used as a base for three mine-sweeper or corvette-type vessels about 80 meters in length. A special vessel about 70 meters long, with high command bridge at one side of the deck, has been observed in the harbor. From the description, it would appear to be a miniature aircraft carrier. The only armament is one anti-aircraft cannon located at the bridge. Twenty MTBs are permanently based in the harbor. Movement of naval craft within the bay and harbor area in mid-1948 was insignificant. During the Navy Day parade, 10 Soviet submarines arrived to participate in the event and departed the same day.
2. Harbor installation: The harbor of Riga was severely damaged by the retreating Germans in 1944. In October 1948, about 500 German POWs were employed daily in rebuilding. About 40 percent of the quays have been restored to serviceable condition. Three serviceable floating docks are located in the harbor. One shipbuilding wharf had just begun operation at Milgravis and two others were nearing completion by October 1948. Twenty canoes of 5 to 10-ton capacity were in operation in the merchant shipping section of the harbor.
3. Military or naval personnel: About 2,000 Soviet marines are stationed at Riga. A school for 10-year-old naval cadets which has been established in the former Latvian War Museum is called the Admiral Makhimov Academy.
4. Seaplane base: A seaplane base has been established at Lake Zis (Kisezers). It is believed to be principally for patrol purposes, but special training in the form of dropping special buoys into the lake by parachutes has been observed.
5. Radio: A naval radio station has been erected near Mangalsela (Magnusholm). (See Attachment, Sketch No. 1, for approximate location.)
6. Coastal defenses: The Riga harbor area is defended principally by a battery of 210 mm artillery, mounted on concrete foundations with underground facilities. At present, the guns are covered with camouflage nets. No other defenses are known to be in Riga bay. No security patrols are active in the area and all fishing activities and boat movements within the bay are free of control.

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ANNEX

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7. The headquarters of the Baltic Military District is located in Riga at the corner of Brivibas and Rainis boulevards. This district is commanded by General Bagamyan. Another headquarters building is located at the corner of Elizabetes iela and Antonijas iela. This building is notable for the intensive activity and the high degree of security maintained by all personnel, including senior officers.
8. A Soviet military academy for officers is also located in Riga. At the 1948 May Day parade, about 500 officers from the academy, of the rank of major or above, attended.
9. The few infantry troops observed in Riga were principally marines or security troops of the MGB and MVD.
10. Soviet Army field units are located at Ventspils, Valdemarpils, Vainode, Kuldiga, Daugavpils, and Jekabpils. A tank concentration point is reported at Saldus.
11. Airfields in the vicinity of Riga (See Attachment, Sketch No. II):
 - a. Epilve Airfield: Includes an area about 3,000 x 3,000 meters. The field is well-equipped and has concrete runways. Many planes of the following types were observed there: TP-7, PE-3, LA-5. About two air divisions are reportedly assigned here. The commanding officer is a Russian general.
 - b. Babite airfield: About 6 km west of Riga.
 - c. Skrotava airfield: About 6 km southeast of Riga.
 - d. The airfields of Ziepniekalns and Kalnciems are used as air depots and supply bases.
 - e. Other airfields are known to be located at Daugavpils, Lepaya, Ventspils, Kuldiga, Tukums, Yelgava, Smiltene, Krustpils, Jekabpils, and Gulbene.

Political and Economic Information12. MGB and MVD

- a. The Minister of State Security (MGB) of Latvia is a professional Communist named Noviks. The headquarters is located at the corner of Brivibas and Stabu streets.
- b. The Minister of Interior (MVD) and chief of the MVD forces in Latvia is Eglitis. The headquarters is located on Reiner street. Each town of any importance has an MVD unit of about 100 - 200 soldiers.

13. Deportations: Since 1944, there have been no mass deportations from Latvia. Deportations are now made systematically from the central prison camp at Riga, which serves as the collecting point for inmates from all Latvian prisons. A deportation of about 2,000 persons takes place every other month. The Latvians are principally sent to the Tomsk, Krasnoyarsk, and Komi regions, where they become slave workers in the mines or the forests. A considerable number of deportees return illegally.

14. Industry

- a. All factories in Riga have been rebuilt and are in operation. Many of the facilities have been improved and expanded. An example is the VEF electro-technical factory, which employs about 5,000 workers, producing radio equipment, telephones, and various kinds of war equipment. Effort is being made to produce a small camera to replace the Minox previously produced at the VEF factory. Radio compasses also are reportedly being produced in large quantities. This factory is under army supervision. It is managed and supervised by a former Russian colonel, a member of Smersh.

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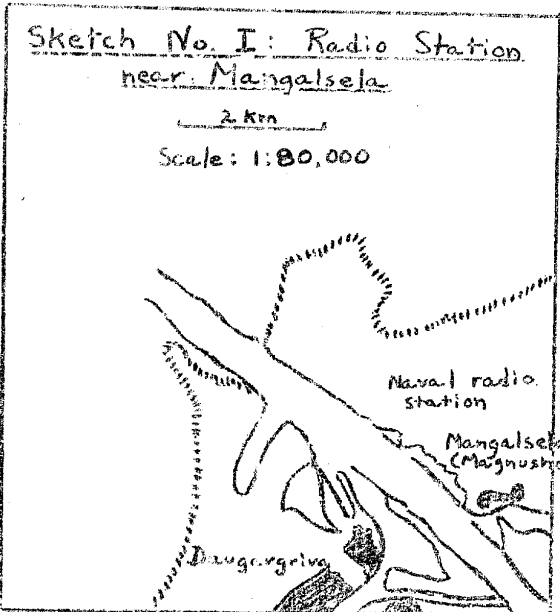
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- b. The Vairogs factory employs about 3,000 workers, producing electric locomotives and motors.
 - c. The Arsenal factory employs about 4,000 workers and serves as a repair shop for tanks and artillery.
 - d. The Kvadrat and Varons rubber factories have been expanded considerably.
 - e. The motor experimental factory Latvijas Berzs employs only Russian personnel and is strongly guarded.
 - f. The Riga penicillin factory is very carefully guarded. It is rumored that the workers are of the opinion that penicillin is not being produced there but that, instead, the factory is involved in production to be used in biological warfare.
 - g. A chemical plant located near the Arsenal is very strongly guarded by MVD troops wearing ordinary MVD uniforms and blue caps. The engineer and manager is a Latvian Jew by the name of Jakobson, also an agent of Smerak. No Latvians are employed here. Germans, who provide the labor, are forced to live inside the factory compound and have no outside contact except with officials. Nothing is known concerning its production.
 - h. The former Pravodnik rubber factory, recently rebuilt by PW labor, is rumored to be producing electrical supplies.
 - i. The production capacity of the phosphate factory, which reportedly is producing fertilizers, has been quadrupled by the Soviets.
15. Russification: In Riga, as in the other large cities in Latvia, there has been a great Russian infiltration. In Riga, Dauvavpils, Lepaya, and Jelgava, about 40 percent of the present population is Russian, consisting principally of military personnel with families, state officials, and police officials.
 16. Farm Collectivization: At present, there are about 2,000 collective farms in Latvia. Every effort is being made toward further collectivization and it is intended that the plan for full collectivization be completed in one year.
 17. Some indications of the mass deportations which occurred in Lithuania were first evident in Latvia at the beginning of May 1943. The railway cars used for this purpose were collected at the Jelgava station. In Riga, Ventspils, and Lepaya all taxi and truck drivers were mobilized. On 15 May, about 8,000 MGB and MVD troops were moved to the Lithuanian border. The deportees were moved via Auca (Antse), Jelgava, Krustpils, and Daugavpils toward Moscow and Leningrad. For this operation, the Soviets used Latvian railroads as a special precaution against disturbances by the Lithuanian partisans.
 18. During the deportation, many Lithuanian farmers living near the border abandoned their farms and escaped to Latvia. Many were seen in Riga. Most of those seeking to escape in this way were captured by local police units and deported, but some are still hiding in Riga. The Lithuanian partisans attempted to help the civilian population, and heavy fighting took place at many points between the Soviets and the partisan units.
 19. The principal reason for this deportation was the desire on the part of the Soviets to break Lithuanian morale, to demonstrate against partisan activity, and to destroy the organized resistance against agricultural collectivization which had been exhibited by the farmers and a number of intellectuals.

Attachments: Two sketches on one page
 Sketch I: Radio Station near Mangalsela
 Sketch II: Military and Naval Installations in the Riga Area.

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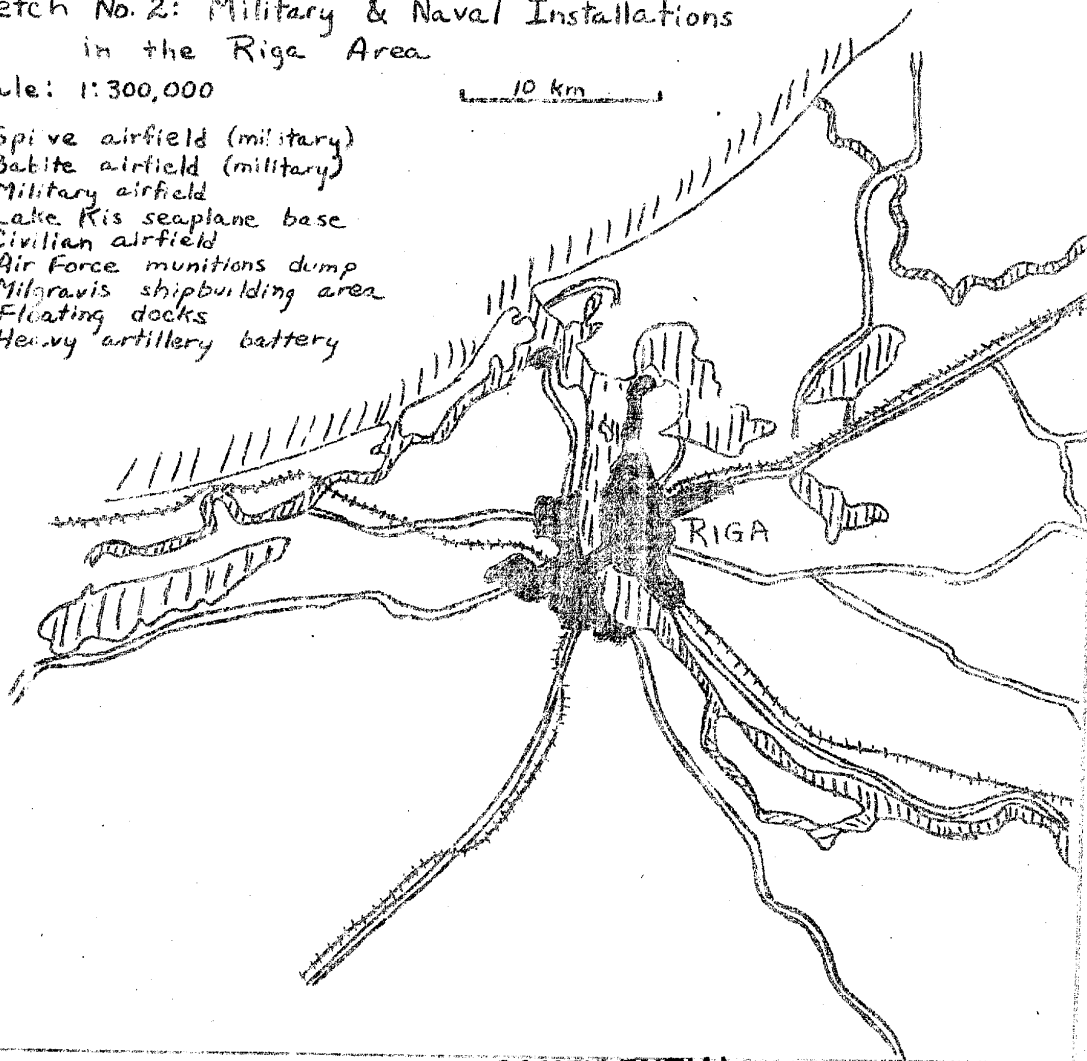


Sketch No. 2: Military & Naval Installations
in the Riga Area

Scale: 1:300,000

10 km

1. Spive airfield (military)
2. Babite airfield (military)
3. Military airfield
4. Lake Kis seaplane base
5. Civilian airfield
6. Air Force munitions dump
7. Milgravis shipbuilding area
8. Floating docks
9. Heavy artillery battery



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