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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USJR (White Russian SSR)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 31 Jan. 1950

SUBJECT Airfield and Bombing Range near Lesnaya

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PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

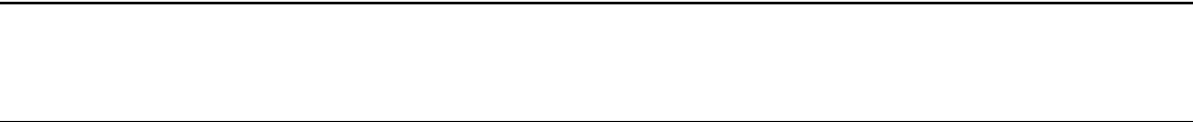
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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Early 1946 to July 1947

1. According to road signs, LESNAYA (25°46'E/52°59'N), White Russian SSR, was 15 miles from BARANOVICHI (26°31'E/53°08'N). It was located on the BREST (23°42'E/52°05'N)-BARANOVICHI railroad line, some miles south of TARTAK (25°44'E/53°01'N). A 5,000 x 3,200-foot airfield, bordered by woods except on the northeast, was located about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of LESNAYA. It was connected with the main railroad line. Two concrete 160 x 3,000-foot runways, painted green, were in the center of the field.
2. The following installations were located on the edge of the field:
 - a. Four about 80 x 250-foot hangars.
 - b. Two 66 x 330-foot four-story barracks buildings occupied by Soviet Air Force troops.
 - c. Two warehouses for engines and boxes.
 - d. Six cylindrical steel containers (presumably fuel containers), each about 12 feet in diameter, extending by 3 feet above the surface.
3. Thirty-eight aircraft were counted at the field. According to fellow-PWs, former air force soldiers, the planes were IL-2s and LAGGs.
4. There was intensive practice flying in good weather. Fighters practiced firing at sleeve targets towed by twin-engine aircraft which did not take off from the LESNAYA airfield.
5. Twin-engine bombers approaching from the east in formation of 3 or 9 planes released bombs over a bombing practice ground south of the airfield, then headed south.

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6. Bombs of various calibers (German make) have been stored in about 165 x 200-foot piles at the LESNAYA railroad station since mid-1946.
7. A flashing light was observed every night in the swamps about five miles south of LESNAYA.

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August - September 1948

8. A bombing practice ground was located northwest of LESNAYA. A formation of from three to six IL-2s coming from the northwest approached the LESNAYA area two or three times a week at an altitude of about 2,500 feet. After circling over the vicinity of LESNAYA, the formation broke up, individual planes performing low-level attacks at the bombing practice ground, releasing their bombs, and climbing again. The detonation of bombs was shortly heard. The aircraft returned in formation from the same direction. It was observed that the aircraft had a two-man crew, several machine gun barrels projecting from the wings, and bulges under the wings. A bomb-shaped metal body was suspended from the fuselage. This type was not observed at the BARANOVICHI airfield.

25X1 Comment:

Since this is the first information on the LESNAYA airfield and bombing practice ground, it requires confirmation.

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