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COUNTRY ! Albania

Albanian Military, Shipping and Port Information

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llilitary:

- About 1200 armored force troops are located in a barracks situated some 600 to 700 meters from the edge of the city of Durres, across a main highway from the airport. The barracks consist of 10 to 12 masonry buildings, surrounded by a wall about 3 meters high. The barracks area is guarded by fixed posts located atop concrete guard towers, and by roving patrols armed with automatic carbines and hand grenades.
- Training is carried out on a field adjoining the airport.
- 3. Ho tanks have been noted at this camp. The only vehicles appear to be bulldozers of U. S. origin. Three-ton Soviet-made AIS trucks and a few Molotov automobiles have also been noted,
- μ_{σ} About 700 to 800 men of the motor corps are also billeted in the abovecited barracks.
- 5. Along the entire Albanian coastal zone there are emplacements of coast artillery, one of which is located at Cape Pali, north of Durres; there is also an infantry garrison there. In April 1950, large cases of varying dimensions were transported to this area; they are believed to have contained disassembled weapons and ammunition.
- On Saseno Island, there are various fortifications. There are also naval units, which are believed to man the coastal guns on the island. The waters around the island are mined.
- An ammunition depot is located 500 meters outside of Durres, 300 meters off the Porta Romana road, in excavations under a hill. Concrete sentinel boxes are located atop the hill. The depot is guarded by members of the DLP (sic)*, armed with automatic weapons. The depot consists of three rooms, with walls and ceilings of reinforced concrete, measuring about 40 x 40 meters and 10 meters high. The walls are lined with corrugated iron in order to reduce the humidity (sic). The ceiling of each room is reinforced by steel and concrete columns. Rooms are connected by corridors, which are also constructed of reinforced concrete. The main

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CHATRAL INTELLIGRANCE AGENCY

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corridor is 4 to 5 meters in width, and 3.5 meters in height. Cases of amunition, covered with corrugated iron, are located on either side. Down the center run the tracks of an electrically-operated Decauville railway. A sign "chemical material" is posted in one room which contains numerous wood and steel containers for liquids. Another room extends beyond the side of the hill. It is entered by a steel door protected by a concrete guard tower.

- 8. Various depots are located at Shkamb i Kavajes, 6 kilometers from Burres, and about 300 meters off the main road to Kavaje. Those are the most important ammunition depots in Albania. All are located in subterranean excavations and constructed of reinforced concrete.
- 9. Four kilometers from Durres and about 500 meters off the Tirana road, at the point known as Trashbull-Shenevlash, there is another munitions depot, also located in excavations in a hill, and constructed of reinforced concrete, with rooms about 12 x 12 meters. The entrance to this depot is located almost at the summit of the hill, while the storage rooms are located much deeper in the hill. The hill is guarded by members of the MLP (sic), armed with automatic weapons; these are billeted in a small concrete block-house built on the top of the hill.

B. Shipping and Ports:

- 10. In June 1948, six or seven Liberty-type ships, flying the Soviet flag, arrived at Durres, where they unloaded munitions which appear to have been intended for the Greek Communist guerrillas. Although the ships carried tractors and agricultural machines in full view, they unloaded munitions at night, using sailors and members of the DTP for this purpose. The following items were noted:
 - a. An armored car, probably of German manufacture; 4-whools and rubber tires; rotating armored gun-burret, mounting a 20 mm. gun.
 - b. Tracked vehicles, with unspecified armament.
 - c. One small German anti-tank common, mounted on rubber times and equipped with muzzle brake.
 - d. 12 German cannons of large caliber, probably about 300 mm. (sic), which were dismounted when disembarked.
 - 6. German 30 mm. mortars, dismounted, each contained in three cases.
 - f. German four-barrelled machine guns (sic), mounted on a four-wiseled carriage.
 - g. Cases of ammunition of various calibers.
- 11. During the first months of 1943, reconstruction was begun on nurres docks destroyed by the Germans. The work has been under the direction of a Soviet engineer. The new docks are being constructed on the site of the former ones, but have been moved further out to sea in order to avoid the necessity of dredging. The space between the new and old docks will be filled in with earth. By Lay 1950, three docks of reinforced concrete had been completed. One of these, 60 meters long, has been reserved for military use, while the other two, 200 and 60 meters in length respectively, are for the use of commercial and passenger traffic to Jurres.

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- 12. In February 1950, work was begun on the erection of two mobile derricks of Soviet manufacture, each with a capacity of 60 tons.

 These are for use along the 200-meter dock. In May 1950, one derrick had been completely installed, while work was proceeding on the metal framework of the other.
- 13. The following naval vessels were noted in port in May 1950:
 - a. Three mine-sweepers of 500 to 600 tons, armed with two 20 mm. machine guns, one at the prov and one at the stern.
 - b. Four motor boats, about 20 meters long, each armed with two machine guns.
- 14. In May 1950, Soviet, Bulgarian, and Czech ships arrived at Durres, where they unloaded drills, lathes, and milling-machines of Corman manufacture. They took on cargoes consisting of welf pelts, sheepskins and pigskins, wool, chrome, olive oil, and crude oil from the Mucove wells.
- 15. In June 1949, a concrete pier, 70 x 20 meters, was completed in the port of Viene under the direction of a Soviet engineer.
- 16. In February 1950, 3 wooden docks were being constructed in Shengjin harbor under the supervision of a Soviet engineer. At this date, the work was fairly well advanced, and the docks were to have been completed by July 1950. Each is believed to be 50 to 60 meters in length.
- 17. The following is a breakdown of vessels sunk in Albanian waters:
 - a. About three miles southwest of Durres harbor, an 8,000-top Italian ship rests on the bottom, with its superstructure remaining above water.
 - b. Off Ports Romana (Durres), there is a 4,000-ton Italian tanker which rests on the bottom with only its mainmast protruding above water.
 - c. About 20 meters off the new pier in Vlone harbor, a 4-5,000 ton Italian cargo and passenger motorship was sunk during the war and still remains. It is planned to blow the ship up in order to allow extension of the new pier.
 - d. Off Wrierero, about & mile from the coast, two vessels are sunk.
 One is the 4,000-ton hospital ship, HDDA, of thich part of the bow protrudes. The other is a cargo ship of about 7,000 tons.

25X1A * Comment: Previously reported disbonded and reorganized.

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