

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR. 14 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Baranovichi Airfields

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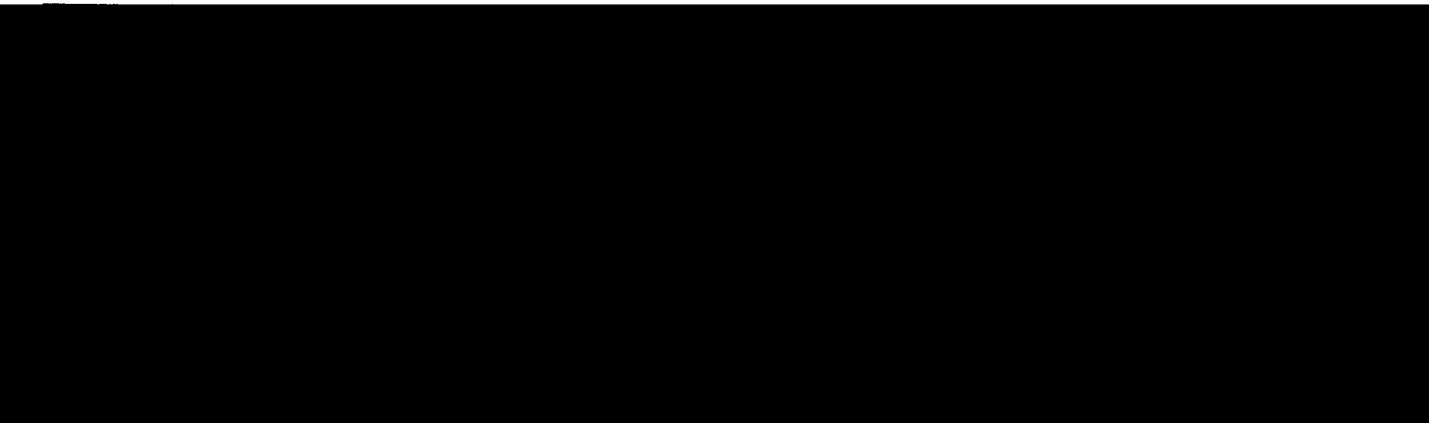
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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]



1. The military airfield, about 3 km square, was east of Baranovichi (26°03'E/53°08'N), White Russian SSR. It had a railroad spur track, a rolled runway, and boundary and obstacle lights (see Annex).

2. The following buildings were available:

- a. Three hangars with vaulted corrugated sheet metal roofs.
- b. A three-story flight control station with antenna masts.
- c. Sixteen two-story cantonment buildings, each 20 x 10 meters, frame structures, billets.

A fuel dump of about 20 underground tanks and a bomb dump, about 200 x 150 meters, extended along the railroad spur track. In January 1949, eight bomb piles, each 4x2x2 meters, were there. The bombs, painted blue, were packed in crates individually. Each bomb, about 2 meters long, had a red ring, 10 cm wide, at the front fifth, and four stabilizing fins.

4. The field was occupied by:

- a. About 45 single-engine low-wing monoplanes.
- b. About five biplanes.
- c. Two four-engine aircraft (seen since May 1948): Radial engine, about 40 meters long, span 30 meters, single rudder assembly, double-tired landing gear, nose wheel, stern tip projecting, straight leading and trailing edges of wings which then became ellipsoidal.

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5. Flying activity: Local flights with the single-engine aircraft, parachute jumps from the biplanes. One of the two four-engine planes took off in October 1948 and returned the following day.

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6. CO of the field was Col Zashko, Hero of the Soviet Union, of Polish Extraction. [REDACTED]

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7. A civilian airfield, about 1,500 meters square, was immediately south of the military airfield and separated from it only by a road. (For details see Annex.)

8. There were no buildings at the field in June 1945. The landing field was graded in 1946 and a flight control station, from which two rubber cables led to the billets of the military airfield, was built.

9. Since the Spring of 1947 individual and stunt flying has been done with two biplanes and two low-wing monoplanes with in-line engine.

10. The field was occupied by a woman pilot and five to six civilians wearing blue suits and service caps, "similar to the German Lufthansa pilots".

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[REDACTED] Comment:

a. The report virtually confirms previous information, according to which the field is occupied by mostly single-engine low-wing monoplanes. According to previous reports, the low-wing monoplane type was believed to be a fighter of the Yak-9 model. The observed bomb piles indicate that the fighter units are also trained for commitment as fighter bombers. Thus this new type is assigned missions formerly retained for the Il-10 type, which is apparently no longer manufactured.

b. The two- four-engine aircraft may be Il-18 commercial planes, according to the sketch which is considered unsuitable for transmission. They are reported for the first time.

c. This is the first information on the civilian airfield.

1 Annex: Baranovichi Airfields (sketch on ditto).

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