

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR)
SUBJECT Tube Rolling Mill in Nikopol

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- The Tube Rolling Mill was located 1 to 2 km northwest of Nikopol (47°32'N/34°24'E) Ukrainian S.S.R., south of the main railroad line. There were spur tracks to the main railroad line. The plant was allegedly called "Bolshoy Shtifel" and was said to have been founded in 1936. The plant was damaged during the war. The destroyed workshop buildings were rebuilt and enlarged after the war. The plant consisted of 2 rolling mills, a gas producer installation, a large transformer station, a foundry, a heating plant and various other installations. Power was supplied by the Zaporozhye (47°49'N/35°11'E) power plant. *
- In the summer of 1948, the plant produced seamless tubes, 200 to 400 mm in diameter, and 20 meters long. [redacted] 3 to 4 railroad cars were loaded with tubes and dispatched every three days in June 1948. [redacted] in June 1947 the rolling mill produced one tube, 20 meters long and 200 mm in diameter, every 17 seconds. In June 1948, only the southern rolling mill was in full operation. The second rolling mill had just started test production. Steel and iron ingots, some of them about 2 meter long and 350 mm in diameter, were supplied from outside plants.
- In 1947 the plant employed 9,000 workers in three shifts. No fence was reported. The plant was guarded by civilian plant militia. **

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* [redacted] Comment. For location sketch of the plant, see Annex 1, based on a map of 1943, scale 1 : 300,000, and on information [redacted] The location as entered in the sketch is unconfirmed. For layout sketch of the plant, see Annex.2. This sketch is based on information [redacted]

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[redacted] According to Soviet press reports the forge is a boiler forge.

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** [redacted] Comment. This plant is the Yuzhnotrubby Zavod (Southern Tube Rolling Mill) built from 1931 to 1938. At first only the construction of a large Mannesmann tube rolling mill, called "Bolshoy Shtifel", to be equipped with seven rolling trains and an annual capacity of 350,000 tons of tubes, was scheduled. Later on, but still prior to the war, the construction of another rolling installation called "Taly Shtifel" was included in the project. The

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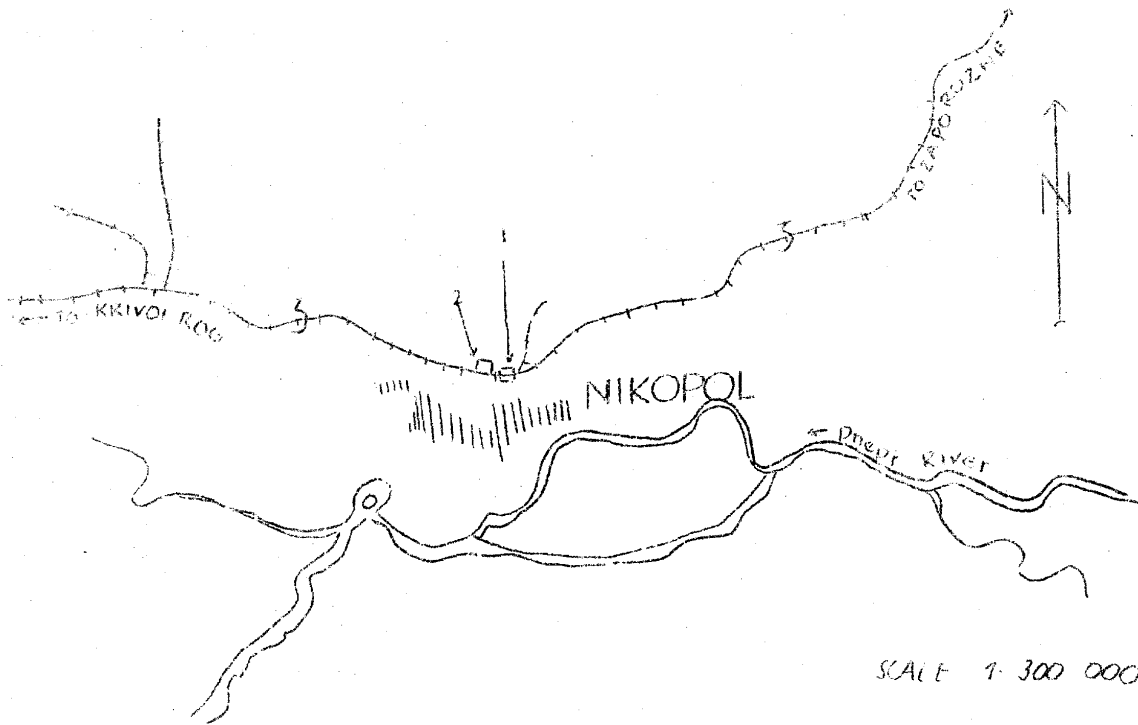
construction of the Izly Shtifel Plant probably was not completed before the war. One section of the Kolshey Shtifel Plant, comprising three rolling trains, was rebuilt by October 1947 and the remainder by the end of 1948. The Izly Shtifel Plant was also scheduled to be in full production by 1948. In 1949 the seamless tube production was to be increased 2.2 times and the entire production 2.5 times the prewar production. This increase was to be achieved by the new Izly Shtifel rolling mill installation and by increasing the efficiency of the Kolshey Shtifel Plant. The production of the plant included iron and steel tubes for the crude oil industry, and ball bearing tubes (Kugellagerrohre). The present annual production of all kinds of tubes is estimated at about 100,000 tons. Tikhonov (fnu) was manager of the plant in 1948.

2 Annexes: sketches on ditto.

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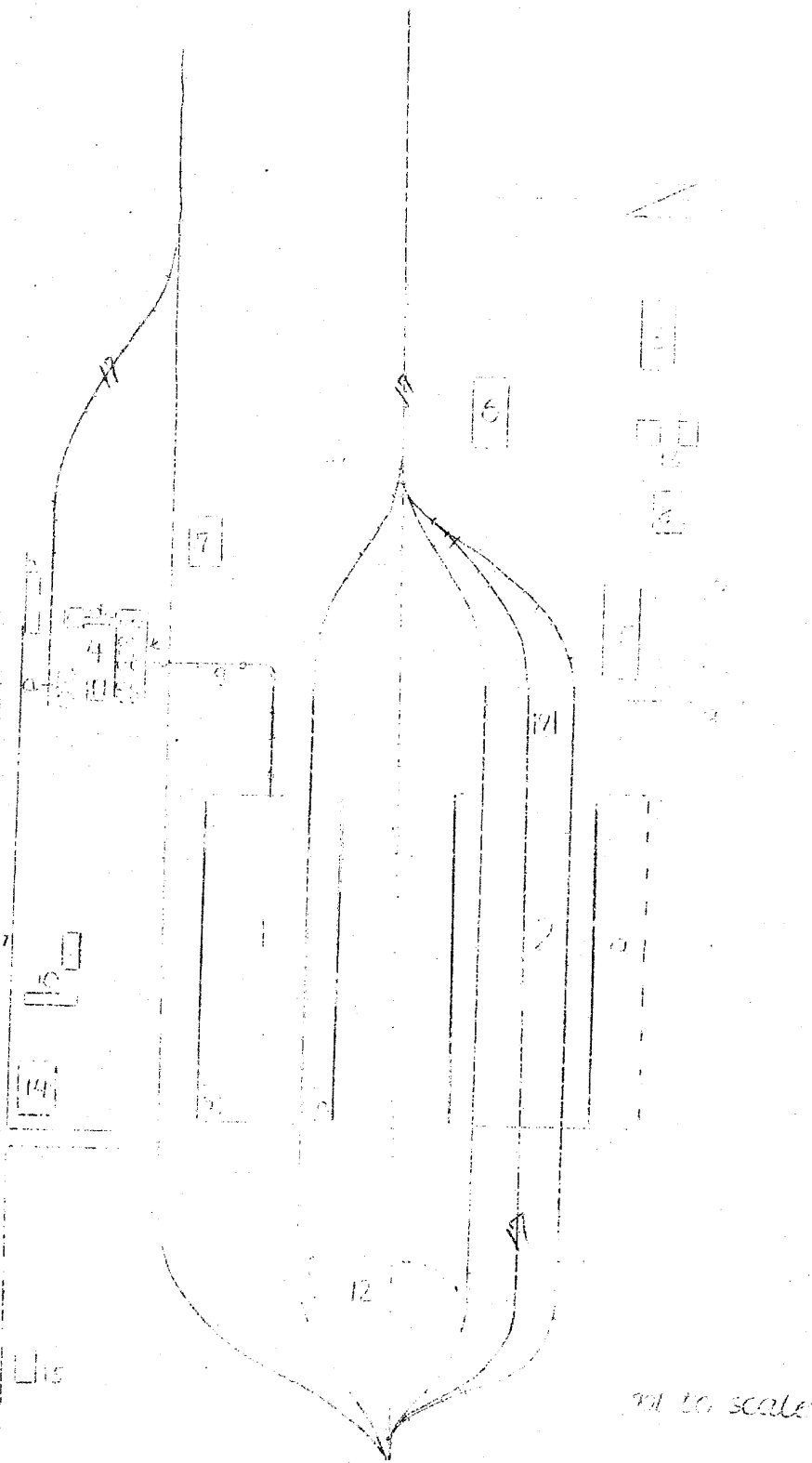
Location Sketch of the Tube Rolling Mill in Nikopol



Legend:

- 1. Nikopol railroad station.
- 2. Tube rolling mill.
- 3. Railroad tracks.

Layout Sketch of the Tube Rolling Mill in Nikopol



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Annex 2

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Legend:

1. Rolling mill department, equipped with a large tube rolling installation. A transformer station (a) and an administrative department (b) were also housed in this building. A single track passed through the workshop along the northern wall.
2. Rolling mill department, equipped with a tube rolling installation and 6 rolling trains, several annealing furnaces, and metal saws. Three tracks passed through this workshop. An extension building (a) was being added to this rolling mill department.
3. Foundry. No details were known.
4. Gas producer installation, not yet in operation in the summer of 1950.
 - a. Two coal storage bins, each 25 meters in diameter and 12 meters deep.
 - b. Concreted coal dump.
 - c. Conveyor tower.
 - d. Conveyor belt.
 - e. Twelve gas producers, each 3 meters in diameter and 15 meters high are scheduled. Four of these producers were set up in 1949. The foundations had been laid for the other 8.
 - f. Coke quenching basin.
 - g. Gas pipe line to the rolling mill department.
5. Transformer installation.
 - a. High-tension line coming from Kaporozhovo.
 - b. Open switch installation (reischaltanlage).
6. Boilerhouse, equipped with 2 stoves and allegedly 6 boilers, used to heat the entire plant. The heating pipe lines were laid underground.
7. Oil dump, comprising 4 underground tanks, 12 to 15 meters in diameter. Two were completed in summer 1949, and the remaining 2 were still under construction.
8. Forge. No details were known.
9. Latheshop. No details known.
10. Garages.
11. Railroad station.
12. Storage dump for logs.
13. Warehouses.
14. Administration building. The 1st camp was in the same building.
15. Bathhouse.
16. Sawmill.
17. Railroad tracks.

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