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May 21  
VII - 1618 c

BULGARIA

INDUSTRY (1700)  
Mining (1706)

CONSTRUCTION OF UNDERGROUND DEPOTS AT THE BUHOVO URANIUM  
PROCESSING PLANT.

SOURCE TRIESTE: A 26-year-old Bulgarian refugee who was in a Work Army Unit operating at the above mine.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Up to 1953.

EVALUATION COMMENT: This report is a valuable contribution on the exploitation of uranium layers at KREMIKOVTSI. For more details please see TRIESTE WFE Item Nos. 10204 and 10602/54. The dimensions and character of the constructions described in this report are proof of the importance attributed to the continuous exploitation of the layers under any circumstances.

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In April 1953, the No.6705 Work Army Unit was sent to work at the uranium mines near the village BUHOVO in the SOFIA province. The men were housed in wooden huts standing well apart and separated by barbed wire. These huts were located near the SVETI GEORGI monastery about one kilometer east of KREMIKOVTSI.

Great care was taken to avoid the various companies of the unit mixing together and discussing their work, and although the men shared the same mess, meal-times were staggered to avoid contact. Notwithstanding these measures, the men knew that an underground uranium processing plant was being constructed in the vicinity, as well as an underground road and railroads, and dwellings for future workers.

According to conversations which source overheard between technicians engaged on construction, the depots which the Work Army Unit was working on were destined for storing the precious production of the plant. Work on the said depots began in 1952 and was almost finished in 1953.

They are located 500 meters northwest of the SVETI GEORGI monastery of KREMIKOVTSI and are cut in hard greyish rock  
(over)

about 50 meters below the ground. The entrance, exits, rooms and ventilation galleries are all reinforced with beams and panels of fir-timber covered with a veneer of beech. The depots are lit by electricity, the bulbs being arranged in groups set well into the walls behind heavy glass. There is also drainage, drinking water, and a hot water system to operate from a boiler, which, at the time of observation had not been installed. Each of the three ventilating galleries is fitted with 4 h.p. electric ventilators. The entrance and the two exits have massive doors constructed of heavy timber and 5 mm steel plates, further reinforced at the sides with rubber hermetic closing. Each room has a fire-extinguisher.

In all there are 27 rooms each of 40 cubic meters capacity and divided from each other by heavy doors. Two bathrooms with four showers and two W.C.s have been built into the exit corridors. At the time of construction, none of the Work Army Unit personnel were allowed to use these.

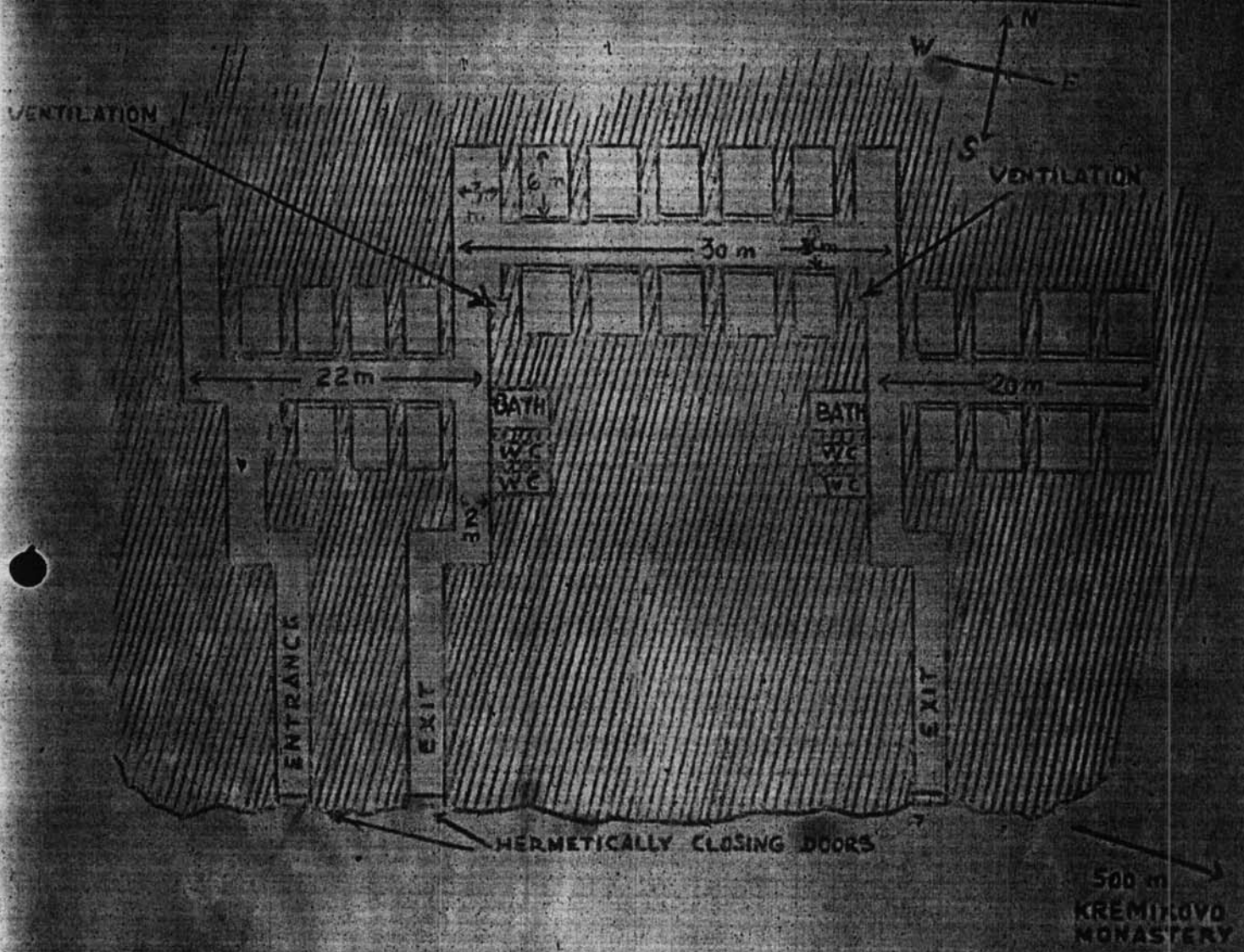
A gallery running in a northwesterly direction was being pierced at the time of observation and was presumed by source to be destined to link up the depot with further underground construction.

The personnel on construction duty were daily warned to avoid speaking about their work as they were building on object of "key" importance to the State. Any infringement of this rule would be regarded as "revealing State secrets" and be followed by serious consequences.

A sketch is attached.

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# SCHEME OF THE URANIUM DEPOSITS AT BURHOVO



## VISUAL SCHEME OF A SECTION CHAMBRE OF SAME DEPOSITS

