

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Kummersdorf Bombing and Shooting Range

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 27 February to 22 April 1953

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 19 June 1953

ILLEGIB

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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- Between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on 27 February 1953, nine jet bombers were seen over the Kummersdorf bombing range. The aircraft approached in V formation at an altitude of about 1,500 meters and made three attacks in horizontal flight, each time dropping one bomb. Between 12:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 28 February, 36 jet bombers practiced bombing in formation flight and then, flying wider apart, fired their guns. At 9 a.m. on 8 March, nine jet bombers flying in V formation approached the target area at Kummersdorf at an altitude of between 1,500 and 2,000 meters. Circling once over the bombing range, the formation descended to an altitude of about 1,000 meters, and flying in horizontal flight in V formation, made three attacks on the western practice range each time dropping one bomb. About 10:30 a.m., 29 aircraft flying in formation flew over the bombing range at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. Another 29 aircraft arrived at 1 p.m., flew over the practice ground, broke formation and descended to an altitude of about 500 meters for individual attacks and attacks by twos, each time dropping one bomb from an altitude of about 200 meters. They then fired their guns. Between 9 and 17 March, jet bombers practiced bombing, attacking the target individually, ~~and also dropping one bomb from various altitudes. Once during this same period night bombing was conducted. A flare, behind each bomb dropped, was seen, illuminating the first half of the flight path of the bomb. The flare was extinguished during the second half of the bomb path. On 16 March, heavier bombs were dropped than on the previous days. In the mornings between 20 and 27 March, individual jet bombers flying at an altitude of about 5,000 meters practiced bombing. No bombing was observed between 28 and 30 March. On 31 March, bombing was practiced at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. At about 9:30 a.m. on 1 April, a formation of aircraft, ~~which were identified as jet bombers, approached the target area. The aircraft dropped bombs at a rate of 2 or 3 minutes. In addition to the bombers two swept-back jet fighters were seen over the target range as the second six bombs were dropped. On 3 April at about 10:30 a.m., three jet bombers flying in V formation approached the bombing range from the south at an altitude of about 1,500 meters, circled once over the range and, on the second approach, dropped two bombs each on the dummy village at the range. The weather was clear. At about 1:30 p.m. on 5 April, one jet bomber flew over the bombing range.~~~~

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2. Targets observed at the eastern practice range at Kummersdorf included a dummy railroad station with wooden standard size freight cars, a village composed of several houses and a vehicle column and a large area fenced in by barbed wire and guarded by soldiers with dogs. It is possible that this large fenced in area was a testing field as firing with aircraft guns was repeatedly heard from it. 1 On 29 March, photographs were taken at the Kummersdorf-Gottow road and in the target village. One photograph showed a sheet-metal structure. In the [redacted] of another photograph two similar objects made of mesh wire [redacted] newly erected and, in connection with the mast standing in the [redacted] probably were to represent a radar station. 2
3. On 28 February, flights of jet bombers were repeatedly observed over the Kummersdorf bombing range. On 14 March, at about 9 a.m., aircraft approached at an altitude of about 3,000 meters, and, at 10 minutes intervals, made two other approaches. Individual jet bombers approached the bombing range in the afternoon. On 15 March, the same air activity was observed as on 14 March. In the afternoon, individual jet bombers dropped bombs on the practice range from an altitude of 2,500 to 3,000 meters. At about 9 a.m. on 8 April, 27 jet bombers were observed flying at an altitude of about 1,500 meters in three V formations. They were escorted by six jet fighters. Other jet bombers which frequently approached the target ground during the day were repeatedly escorted and were also attacked by fighters. The weather was clear. On 9 April, single-engine [redacted] [redacted] ground. No bomb dropping was observed. On 10 April, [redacted] over the field. On 17 April, individual jet bombers dropped bombs. The [redacted] [redacted] overcast.
4. During March 1953 a siren was sounded at Kummersdorf shortly before bombing practice started at the target range. The Soviet work detail which was reconstructing the target village, day and night except for bombing hours, then took cover around the practice area. The guard posts were interconnected by telephones. Mounted guards also patrolled the area. Other details with horse carts, loaded with cables and telephones, stood by to be employed in case of need. All guards wore blue epaulets and were stationed at the Gut Kummersdorf estate.
5. Between 14 and 24 March 1953, jet bombers almost daily practiced bombing at the Kummersdorf target range. The weather was generally good. At 7:30 a.m. on 12 April, jet bombers approached the target range from the east, dropping one bomb on the first attack and three bombs on the second. They then flew off toward the southwest. This maneuver was repeated about every hour. After 1 p.m., only individual flights were made. The weather was clear. On 14 April, bombs were dropped from very high altitudes and, even though the weather was clear, it was possible to see the aircraft. Bombing was practiced until 2 p.m. and was repeated throughout the following days.
6. Between 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on 15 March, individual jet bombers approached the target range at an altitude of 1,500 to 2,000 meters and dropped bombs, flying horizontally. Having dropped the bombs, some of the planes left the practice area, while others circled once over the field and came down to an altitude of 300 meters and fired their guns at ground targets, gliding at an altitude of between 100 and 150 meters. No firing of tail guns was observed. On 24 March, bombing practice started before 1 p.m. Individual jet bombers flying at altitudes of 1,500 to 2,000 meters dropped one bomb on each approach over the target village. During one hour, seven jet bombers attacked the target, but only one hit was determined. 1
7. The target village is situated between the two practice ranges and the Kummersdorf-Gottow and Kummersdorf-Woltersdorf roads. In the southern section of the target village is a church and, in its eastern section a railroad line. Two rows of eight dummy motor vehicles were located east of the eastern practice [redacted] and extended from the south [redacted] to the railroad line. They [redacted] many hits by aircraft guns. [redacted] [redacted] with white scale type markings were located on the eastern [redacted]. 3

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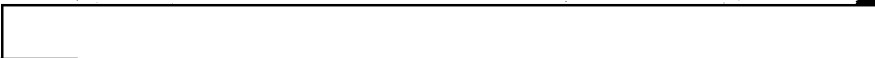
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1.  Comment. It is believed that the Kummersdorf bombing practice ground is used by the regiments of the southern bomber division and the GA regiment stationed at Jueterbog. Fighters received training in escorting and attacking bombers in addition to regular bombing practice.

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3.  Comment. See Annex  for sketch of the dummy village and Annex  for sketch of the armor plates.

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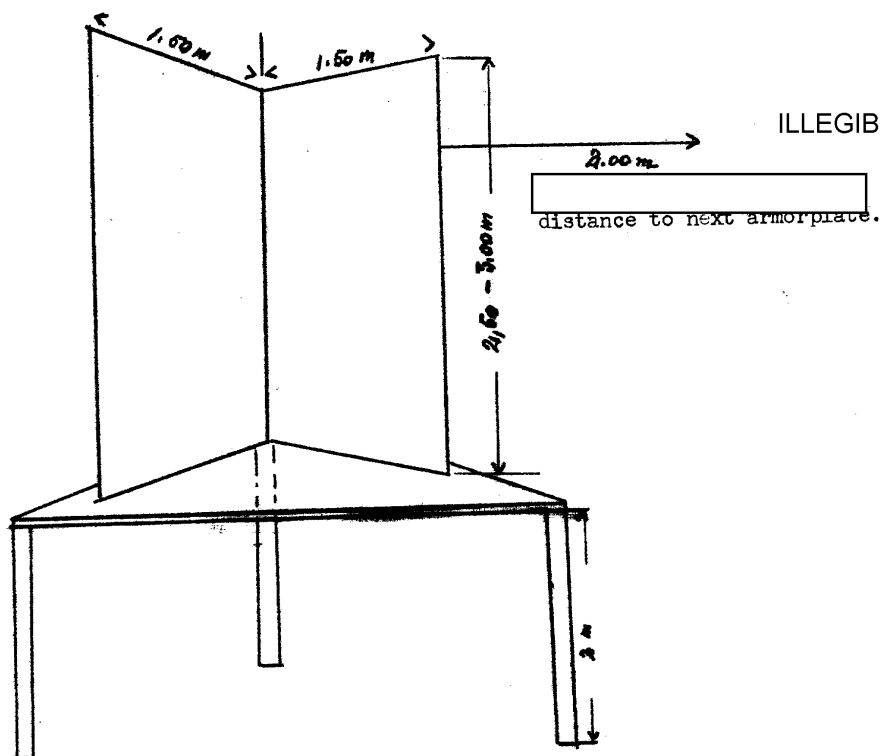
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Armor Plates Observed At Kummersdorf

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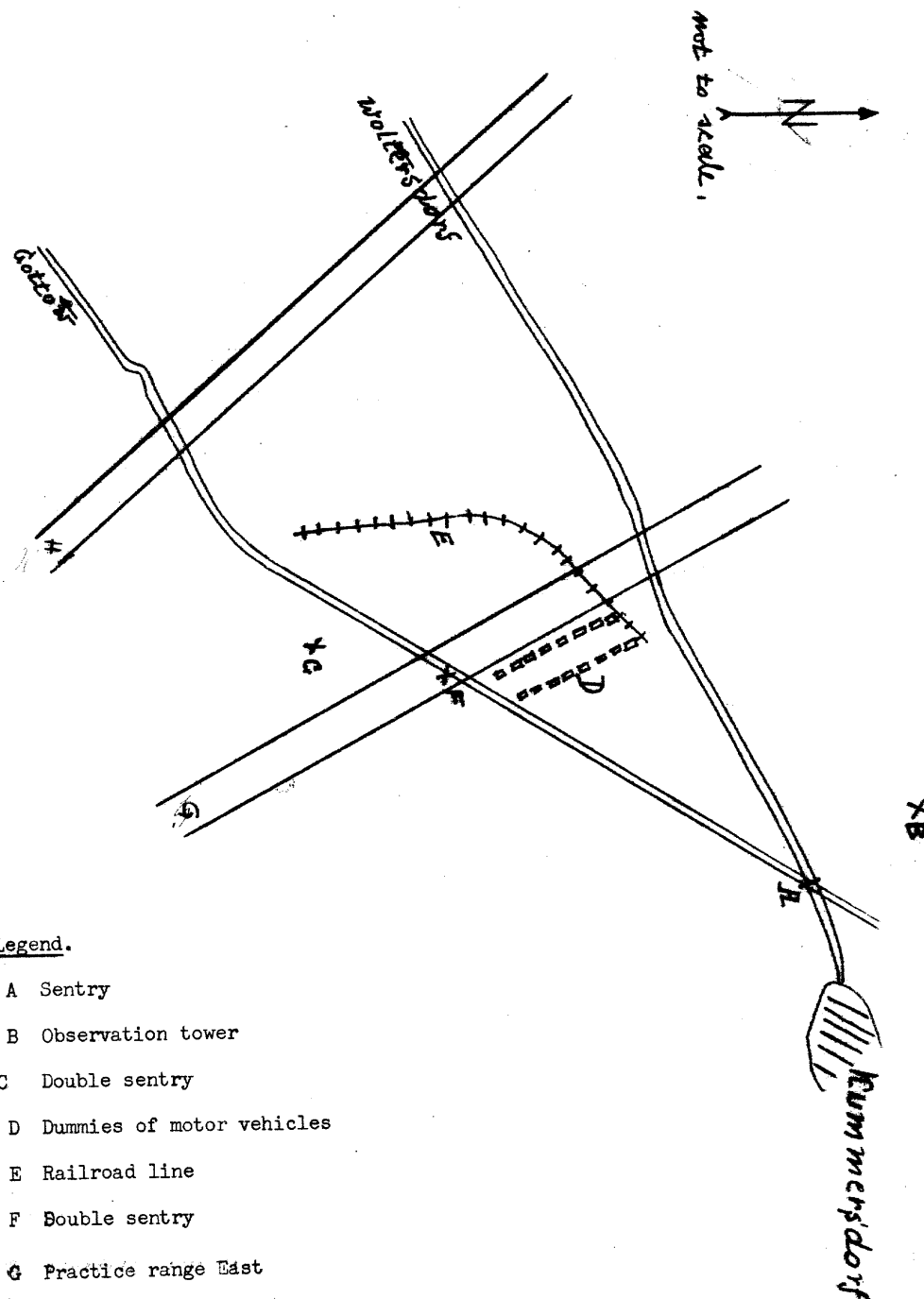
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Layout Sketch of the Kummersdorf Bombing Practice Ground



Legend.

- A Sentry
- B Observation tower
- C Double sentry
- D Dummies of motor vehicles
- E Railroad line
- F Double sentry
- G Practice range East
- H Practice range West

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