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SUBJECT Wustrow Peninsula AAA Firing Range (545N-1133E)

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1
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1. The Soviet Army Wustrow AAA Training firing range is located on Wustrow Peninsula (545N-1133E). Formerly it was used by Germans for naval and air force training. The firing range is under direct administration of the Commander of Artillery, GOFG; its commander is Lt Col Limbovich, who has his headquarters and a firing range service detachment of approximately 20 men.
2. The annual firing schedule for Wustrow is prepared in the GOFG Headquarters (Arty). The AAA units scheduled for firing usually stay at the range for a period of 30 days, during which they perform all firing problems prescribed by the AAA manual. Every summer there are three or four such firing periods of 30 days each.
3. The firing range itself (the zone of guns' emplacements) is about two kilometers square, and is located in the northwest part of the peninsula. The barracks zone is located in the middle part of the peninsula, to the southeast of the firing positions. The AAA firing positions area is divided into

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- three zones: a) the 12.7mm AA MG zone, located directly on the seashore; b) the small caliber (37mm) AAA zone, partly behind the MG zone and partly (in the west) on the seashore; c) the medium caliber (85mm) AAA zone, as the last one, behind the small caliber zone. The front and depth intervals among individual batteries are normally 10 m. The firing range facilities permit simultaneous accommodation of eight medium caliber batteries, 10 small caliber batteries and three platoons of AA MGs.
4. The enlisted personnel of AAA units coming to Wustrow firing range live in barracks in Wustrow. These barracks consist of a large number of two-story gray brick houses, approximately 20 x 10 m. Officers live in officers' billets, located to the southeast of the barracks zone. Adjoining the barracks zone to the southwest, there is a large vehicle parking lot, and to the west an artillery park, where the guns are parked when the actual firing is not going on. Between the artillery park and firing positions there is a former German airfield, now abandoned. There is also a hospital, an EM mess, an officers' club, and a Voyentorg (PX). See Enclosure (A): a sketch of the area. The food served in the EM mess and officers' club is sufficient and of good quality. There is not much entertainment in Wustrow, except movies shown in the barracks area on Saturdays and Sundays. It is strictly forbidden to all personnel to leave the peninsula and to go to the town of Rerick source calls it Rerick, although GSGS map No 4416, Central Europe 1:100,000, Sheet K6, Rostock shows the towns of Alt Gaarz and Ostseebad on this location, which is only several hundred yards away from the firing range check point.
5. The detailed daily firing schedule is prepared as a rule by the firing range commandant. The policy applied at the range does not permit a simultaneous firing of various calibers of AA artillery and AA machine-guns, since simultaneous firing is directly connected with individual firing problems conducted by participating units, and the work of the target-towing aircraft. This detailed schedule gives the days and hours of firing for each type of AA weapon. Although theoretically several batteries of the same type could perform a simultaneous firing, this is not done at the Wustrow firing range, since there are not sufficient computing and other facilities and control equipment (there is for instance only one BI-Binokulyarnyy Iskatel) see para 6 (d), and the firing range service detachment is not sufficiently strong to control such a simultaneous firing. Therefore the actual firing is done individually; single guns, platoons, batteries, as prescribed by the respective AAA firing manuals and range firing schedules.
6. The Wustrow firing range has the following firing facilities and equipment See Enclosure (A):
- SKO - Stantsiya Krugovogo Obzora. This is an automatic locator and computer of elements of a flying aircraft. Computed elements are mechanically transmitted to the SON;
 - SON - Stantsiya Orudiynoy Navodki. This is a gun director which receives the elements computed by the SKO and determines setting of guns (sights) for firing. The SKO and SON are used only for firing of medium caliber AA artillery. The small caliber AA artillery does not use this equipment. The SKO and SON used at the Wustrow firing range are of an old, prewar type;

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- (c) One radio station type 5-AK (Standard Soviet Army type equipment on Army and Corps T/E);
 - (d) BI - Binokulyarnyy Iskatel', called also Komandirskaya Truba. This is a binocular locator combined with a compass. It is a very common type of AAA transportable equipment for observation and fire control purposes.
7. The target-towing aircraft used at the Wustrow firing range is of the Boston-3 (B-26) make, stationed permanently at one of Berlin's airfields. Flights are performed along the sea coast in both directions, at an approximate speed of 80-90 m/sec and the firing starts as soon as the tow-target appears in the firing zone, regardless of its direction of flight. It is strictly forbidden to fire on the tow-target outside the firing zone See Enclosure (A)7.
8. At the time scheduled for firing, the designated units take firing positions at the seashore, and after completed firing return immediately to the artillery park. Prior to the actual firing, each firing unit (depending on the firing problem, this may be an individual gun, a platoon, or an entire battery) is assigned the following controlling personnel:
- (a) Controller, an officer who actually controls the firing;
 - (b) Commanding, an officer in charge of firing exercise;
 - (c) Strakhuyushchiy, a safety officer assigned to each firing gun. His main task is to see that the firing gun is not directed at the aircraft instead of the tow target;
 - (d) Zapisyvayushchiy, the elements recorder, who puts down in the firing register the firing elements for each fired shell;
 - (e) Strelyayushchiy, the gunner.
9. Every firing is attended by the firing range commandant, whose command post is at the radio station. Through this radio station he communicates with the aircraft pilot, giving him orders on altitude and course of flights for every firing. During the firing, personnel of the firing range detachment carrying "Binokulyarnyy Iskatel'" move from gun to gun and record the firing results. These data are later computed in the firing range headquarters and transmitted to the respective AAA units.
10. The Soviet Army AAA Manual for the small and medium calibers of AAA envisages completion of the following firing problems, which are carried on at the Wustrow firing range (altitudes and firing times below are given for the small caliber AAA):
- (a) Problem No 2: Individual guns firing on the horizontally towed target at an altitude of 2400 m. Firing time 10 seconds.
 - (b) Problem No 4: Battery firing on the horizontally towed target at an altitude of 2600 m. Firing time 20 seconds.

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- (c) Problem No 5: Individual guns firing, in the moving column, on the horizontally-towed target at an altitude of 1600 m. Firing time 10 seconds.
- (d) Problem No 6: Individual guns firing on the ground-attack plane. The towed target representing this plane is at an altitude of 800 m. Firing time 10 seconds.
- (e) Problem No 7: Platoon firing on the horizontally-towed target at an altitude of 2400 m. Firing time 10 seconds.
- (f) Problem No 8: Firing on a dive bomber. The aircraft releases the target representing the dive bomber at an altitude of 2500 m. Firing starts when the target reaches an altitude of 1800 m and lasts for 20 seconds.

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[redacted] Note: Problem No 1 consists of aiming

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training, and problem No 3 of night firing. [redacted]

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[redacted] neither of these problems is conducted at the Wustrow firing range.

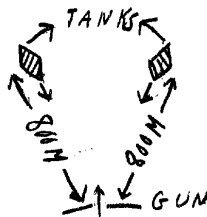
In all above-mentioned firing problems the small caliber AAA units have to meet the following qualifications:

Excellent: impact or an error less than 5 mils;

Very Good: at least 50% of bursts with an error less than 10 mils, or better;

Satisfactory: at least 75% of bursts with an error less than 20 mils, or better.

11. In addition to summer firing exercises, winter firing exercises are also conducted at the Wustrow firing range for small caliber AAA. The winter exercises consists of problem No 9, anti-tank firing. The firing is done with individual guns, simultaneously, on two tanks approaching the gun's position from different directions. See sketch below. The moving speed of the tanks is 30-40 km/hr, and the starting firing distance is 800 m. The allocation of ammunition for this problem is six armor-piercing shells per gun.



Required qualifications for this firing problem are:

Excellent: two impacts per each tank;

Very Good: two impacts in one, and one into the other tank;

Satisfactory: one impact per each tank.

Note: four or even five impacts in one tank and none into the other is considered a poor result not meeting required qualifications.

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12. The Wustrow firing range in summer 1951 was used exclusively for firing exercises of medium caliber AAA. The small caliber AAA belonging to the Eighth Gds Army conducted their firing exercises in 1951 at the Ohrdruf firing range (5049N-1044E).
13. In connection with the Soviet Army AAA doctrines it is of interest to mention that the new top secret Field Manual Soviet Armed Forces 1948 (Polevoy Ustav VS SSSR - PU-48) envisages positions of small caliber AAA in attack and defense 500-1000 m behind the first infantry line, and if possible even closer than that, up to the very first infantry line. The firing positions of medium caliber AAA, according to this manual, are to be 1000-2000 m behind the first infantry lines. This field manual is composed of two volumes: Volume I - Battalion and Regiment; Volume II - Division and Corps.

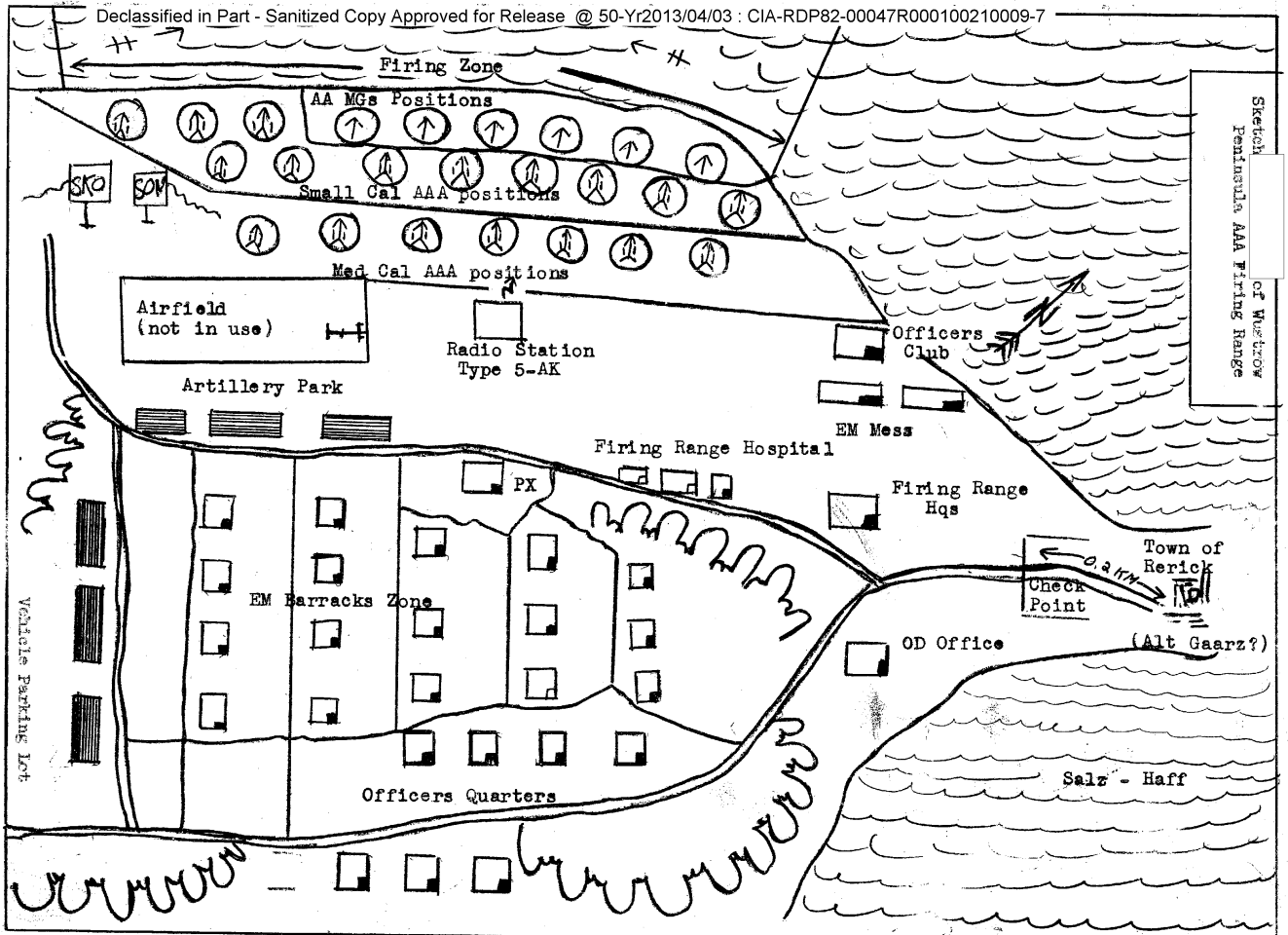
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Enclosure A: Sketch, of Wustrow Peninsula AAA Firing Range.

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Enclosure (A)

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