

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Gadow-Rosow Bomb Range

25X1

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 5 July 1955

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED
Information

The following observations were made at Gadow-Rosow bomb range between 8 May and 12 June 1955:

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8 to 10 May. No air activity was observed nor were any bomb detonations heard from a distance.

11 May. Between 1500 and 1600, individual approach flights at ground targets were made by aircraft which came from the direction of Rosow at an altitude of about 5,000 meters and at intervals of 8 to 10 minutes. Each aircraft dropped one bomb and then headed toward Zechlin. Individual IL-28s with set position lights again approached the same targets between 2000 and 2400. They came from the direction of Rosow at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. At first, a parachute flare was seen dropping rapidly over the target and 2 to 3 minutes later, before the flare touched ground, a bomb detonation was heard. It appeared as if 2 aircraft flew in rapid succession. The first plane apparently dropped the parachute flare and the second aircraft dropped the bomb. After an interval of about 15 minutes, the exercise was continued. The bombs had no fire trail. A total of 11 approach flights were made until about midnight. Searchlights were seen from the direction of Neuruppin, Glashuette and Wittstock.

12 May. Between 0700 and 1800, a sentry wearing black-bordered blue epaulets was posted at the eastern exit of Gadow. Between about 0900 and 1700, there was air activity by individual aircraft flying at a high altitude over the Gadow area.

13 and 14 May. No air activity was observed nor were any bomb detonations heard.

16 and 18 May. After 0700, a sentry wearing black-bordered blue epaulets was posted at the eastern exit of Gadow. Between about 0900 and 1700, individual IL-28s approached from the direction of Rosow, dropped one bomb each over the ground targets from an altitude of 2,000 to 2,500 meters, and then headed toward Zechlin. The interval between the individual aircraft was about 10 minutes.

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18 May. After 0600, the first IL-28s were heard approaching individually and at intervals of about 10 minutes from the direction of Rzesow. The aircraft dropped bombs at ground targets from an altitude of 4,000 to 5,000 meters and then headed toward Zechlin. Most of the aircraft dropped one bomb, however a few individual aircraft dropped 2 bombs each and once one aircraft dropped 3 bombs. The detonations were heard at short intervals. The approach flights and bombing continued throughout the day except for an interval of about 2 hours and was also carried out during the night until about 0300.

20 May. Between 1400 and 1800, bombing was practiced by individual IL-28s which approached from and departed toward the same direction as on the preceding day. Each aircraft dropped one bomb.

21 May. At 1300, 15 IL-28s flying in wedge formation approached from the direction of Rzesow. While flying in close-order formation, the aircraft simultaneously dropped bombs at ground targets from an altitude of about 2,500 meters. The formation approached three times and finally headed toward Zechlin. Between 1500 and 1700, individual IL-28s dropped bombs over the same ground targets as on the preceding day.

22 to 25 May, and 28 to 31 May. No approach flights were observed.

26 and 27 May, 1 to 4 June. IL-28s individually practiced bombing.

8 to 18 June. No air activity was observed in the Gadow-Rzesow area. On 12 June, the ground target on the bomb range was observed in the northeastern corner of Jagod 23 where a circle about 40 meters in diameter was seen. An earth wall about 30 cm high was raised around the circle and covered with lime paint. Basket-like sheet metal containers were placed in the ground around the circle at a distance of about 3 meters. The upper side of the container was closed like a petroleum lamp with a wick projecting from a metal neck. The containers were full of oil. A flagpole 8 to 10 meters high was placed in the middle of the white circle. The pole mounted a sheet metal flag, about 60 x 40 cm and painted black-red-golden, with a smaller red pennant underneath. No cable connections were seen. Bomb craters were observed side-by-side in the circle and to a distance of about 500 meters.

Comment. The observations made at Gadow-Rzesow bomb range agree with available information. Bomb practices observed were conducted by bomber regiments. The marking of the target by oil fires was mentioned previously.

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