

1/16/2006

HR 70-14

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4151

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

8 December 1977 [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: The Development of
Standardized Combat Documents in the National
People's Army of the German Democratic Republic

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on articles from a SECRET Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This article discusses the success achieved in the East German Army in accelerating the flow of information to all command levels through the introduction of standardized combat documents and the automated transmission of them. The advantages of standardized documents are discussed in the context of their use not only within the East German Army, but also among the allied armies of the Warsaw Pact, in that they avoid language difficulties by not requiring translation of information from one language into another. Examples of standardized documents are presented. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article appeared in Issue No. 1, which was published in 1970.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned [redacted]

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William W. Wells

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Distribution:

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Intelligence Information Special Report

Page 3 of 21 Pages

COUNTRY EAST GERMANY/WARSAW PACT

DATE OF
INFO. 1970

DATE
8 December 1977

SUBJECT

WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: The Development of Standardized Combat Documents in the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article from a SECRET Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article was written by F. Shtreletts. This article discusses the success achieved in the East German Army in accelerating the flow of information to all command levels through the introduction of standardized combat documents and the automated transmission of them. The advantages of standardized documents are discussed in the context of their use not only within the East German Army, but also among the allied armies of the Warsaw Pact, in that they avoid language difficulties by not requiring translation of information from one language into another. Examples of standardized documents are presented. This article appeared in Issue No. 1, which was published in 1970.

End of Summary

Comment:

A General-Leytenant F. Shtreletts also wrote "Trends in the Development of the Bundeswehr" in Issue No. 11 for 1976 (REF ID: A712 (02110-77)). A Fritz Streletz was identified as Secretary of the GDR National Defense Council. The names of authors are given in Russian transliteration. Ranks of one-star (general-mayor) and two-star (general-leytenant) general officers are given in Russian for nationals of countries following the Soviet system.

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Page 4 of 21 Pages

The Development of Standardized Combat Documents in the
National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic

by

F. SHIRELETTS

Deputy Chief of the Main Staff of the National
People's Army of the GDR for Technology and Armament

The revolution in military affairs objectively requires that we rethink all the problems of conducting armed combat and change, in addition, the forms and methods of fulfilling all the tasks that face us to advance peace and the building of socialism. Therefore, it is necessary to concentrate primary attention on achieving and ensuring the constant high-level combat readiness of the subunits, troop units, and large units of all the branches of the armed forces, for which it is necessary to raise the operational, tactical, and combat training of staffs [rest of line illegible].

Already today we must endeavor to draw conclusions from the expected picture of war and, on the basis of the scope of actions as well as the possible rapid changes of the situation in the theaters of military operations, to determine the tasks which are to be accomplished in the separate areas of military affairs.

One such task is troop control. Modern troop control must always be oriented towards the new, it must be scientifically sound, and therefore it requires new methods of control and [word illegible] of organization of the work of control organs.

THREE LINES ILLEGIBLE

taken into consideration in the activity of commanders and staffs.

Thus, for instance, reconnaissance data must be [two to three words illegible] processed, but the content must be transmitted, received, and consolidated. It is obvious that the passage of information can be

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Page 5 of 21 Pages

accelerated sufficiently only when, along with the use of dependable modern information transmitting equipment, a more improved form of information is employed.

TWO LINES ILLEGIBLE

during troop control. Such a form of transmitting combat documents has already been introduced

LINE ILLEGIBLE

for instance, in the air defense forces and rocket forces. The volume of information here is relatively limited and thus it is relatively easy to carry out standardization of combat documents.

From a prognosis of the development of operational art and tactics it is clear that the demands for acceleration of the flow of information [four to five words illegible] of combat documents for all the branches of the armed forces [two to three words illegible]. On the one hand, the volume and quantity of required information is constantly growing, and on the other hand, the time at the disposal of commanders and staffs is diminishing.

On the basis of these demands and the level of development of automated means for transmitting information, the improvement and acceleration of the receipt of information through the employment of new forms of combat documents must be regarded as an important measure to improve troop control. Thus, the effective way to solve this problem is the standardization of combat documents and automated transmission of them.

From the conditions of present-day combat actions and the nature of the information to be transmitted, as well as from the necessity of secure and reliable transmission, there ensue the following demands on [word illegible] standardized combat documents:

- they must be standardized according to identical principles in such a way that they can be used in all branches of the armed forces, branch arms, special troops, and services;
- they must be employable at levels of command beginning with the troop unit and up to an operational formation inclusive;
- they must be identical in the different areas of control and must provide rapid transmission of information;
- they must permit the use of all means of secure troop control;

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Page 6 of 21 Pages

-- they must be simple to handle and ensure completeness and clarity of the transmitted information; the total information transmission time must be less than with conventional combat documents;

-- the standardization of combat documents must promote their automatic transmission.

In keeping with these requirements [three to four words illegible], for the command levels large unit and troop unit of the ground forces of the National People's Army standardized combat documents were worked out and introduced for use among the troops. This [one to two words illegible] that, by employing the new means, troop control can be improved in a real way and [one word illegible] be changed to further improve and make wider use of standardized combat documents for all branches of the armed forces of the National People's Army.

With the aid of standardized combat documents, the staffs of large units and troop units succeeded in working out the tasks and transmitting them in a considerably shorter time than with conventional methods. In this way it became possible to better implement reliable continuous control of troops.

The advantage of these documents consists in their identity for different levels of control and in the exceptionally simple form of using them. The versatile methods of employing them allowed us to test their effectiveness [one to two words illegible] at various levels of control. By means of the precise arrangement of the content of the standardized documents (forms) specially developed for separate types of combat, the information content of individual combat documents was increased. Besides that, the identical content of the detailed forms guaranteed identical understanding of the content of these documents. At the same time, considerable simplification of combat documentation was achieved, which sharply reduced the time for transmitting instructions and information about the situation.

In spite of certain shortcomings which arose with the use of standardized combat documents, it was established that their use favors the simplification of troop control. In particular, the following advantages of standardized combat documents, in comparison with the documents in effect earlier for assigning a task and transmitting information, were discovered:

-- timely and concrete assignment of the task to troop units; the

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Page 7 of 21 Pages

saving of time amounted to 50 percent;

- quick exchange of information between control organs;
- high information content through the use of forms;
- unburdening of communications channels by reducing the number of radiograms and shortening them;
- faster generalization of combat documents;
- simplicity of handling documents;
- the possibility of using means of automation in the process of troop control.

Also developed and worked out was a variant of standardization and formulation of combat documents for direct control to two levels down in all branch arms, special troops, and services.

The initial experiments with standardized combat documents for use at all levels of the system of control of the ground forces showed that the content of combat documents that is required by combat regulations can be transmitted in full. In the process, the volume of radiograms is cut back to about 25 percent. The total time to formulate, transmit, receive, and generalize information could be shortened by 50 to 60 percent.

Standardized combat documents can fulfil their functions fully and optimally only when they are identical in all the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries, since this ensures cooperation between the troop units as well as the tactical large units and operational formations of the allied armies. It was discovered that their use within the fraternal armies and between them can be carried out without great difficulties. Inasmuch as the immediate transmission of information is done with the aid of identical code groups, there is the possibility of exchanging combat information between allied armies via technical means of communications without resorting to translation of it by either the sender or the recipient.

Thus, it can be stated that in the interests of improving control and of closer cooperation among the troops of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact member countries, the use of identical standardized combat documents has substantial importance. This is true both of the control of national troops as well as of coalition troops. At the same time, standardization of combat documents avoids language difficulties since they do not require translation of the information from one language to another. Therefore, it is necessary to make extensive use of identical standardized combat documents within the allied armies and between them. We believe that the development of such a system would meet the interests of all the allied armies. The introduction of standardized combat documents and the

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Page 8 of 21 Pages

partial or complete automatic transmission of information via technical means of communications is thus the most expedient way to improve control of troops in the Combined Armed Forces.

In mid-May 1969, in keeping with the plan of combined undertakings of the Combined Armed Forces and combat and operational training of the Warsaw Pact countries, a conference of representatives of the allied armies was held in Moscow. At this conference were discussed questions of the development and introduction of identical combat documents for the allied armies, and the various methods of formalizing such documents, including the variant of standardizing combat documents adopted in the National People's Army. A diagram of the possible use of standardized documents and the elements of it are presented in Figures 1 through 7 and Tables 1 through 6.

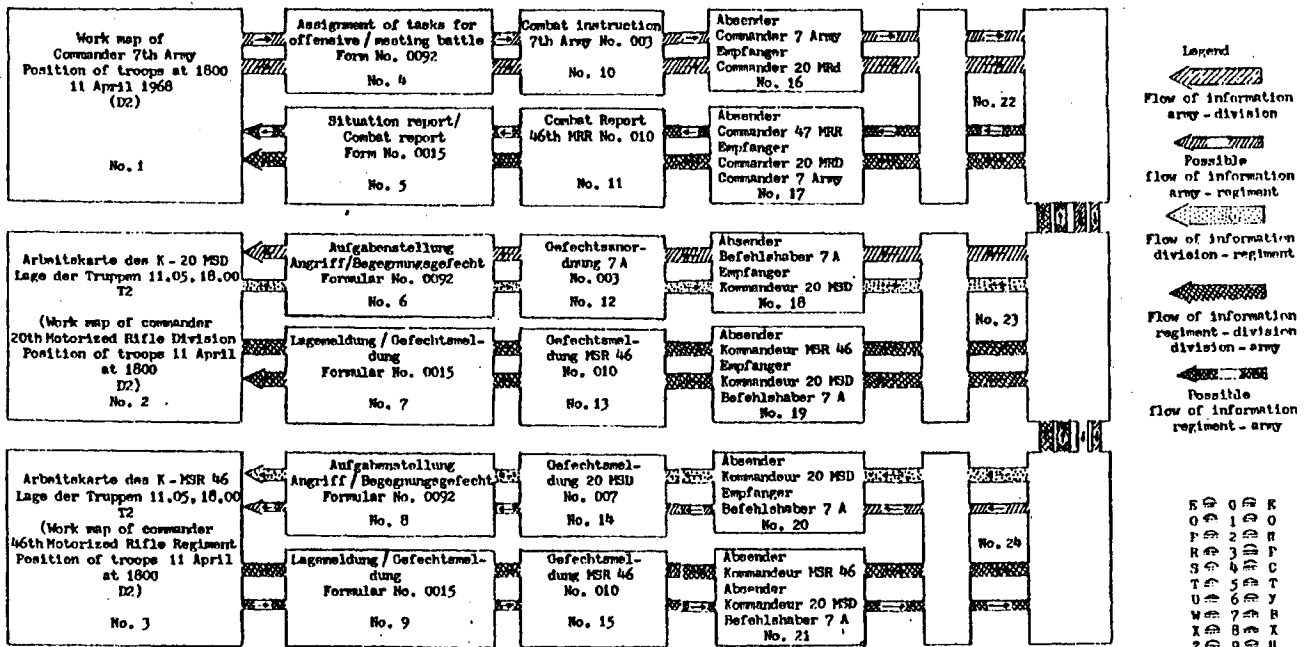
It has been established that the introduction of standardized combat documents promotes the implementation of identical work methods in staffs, raises the efficiency of troop control, and avoids language problems.

During the conference were also determined the principles of development of standardized combat documents and other measures for collaboration in this area.

The introduction of identical standardized combat documents in conjunction with automation of the processes of control will permit the quality of troop control to improve drastically, which will promote an increase in the combat readiness of the fraternal armies united by the Warsaw Pact and a further strengthening of our socialist alliance.

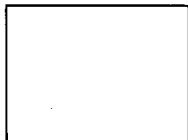
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DIAGRAM OF THE POSSIBLE USE OF STANDARDIZED COMBAT DOCUMENTS OF THE TYPE "EKSPRESS-FORMA" (Figure 1)



Notes. 1. In this diagram, by way of example, it is possible for the 20th MRD (Motorized rifle division) of the National People's Army of the GDR /to be subordinated/ to the commander of the 7th Army of Group of Soviet Forces Germany.
 2. Having combat documents of the form "Ekspress" in the army staff in Russian and in the staff of the 20th MRD and in the unit staffs of the 45th, 46th, and 47th MRR (Motorized rifle regiments) of the 20th MRD in German, there exists a real capability for the army staff without translation to control the division and unit even if the 20th MRD command post is put out of action.

3. The work maps of the commander of the 7th Army, the commander of the 20th MRD, and the commander of the 46th MRR show the situation for the second day of the operation and the combat task of the 20th MRD for the third day of battle.
 In this case, the commander of the 7th Army can directly control the battle of the 20th MRD if its command post is put out of action.
 4. The titles of the combat documents having the same form number are analogous in German and Russian.



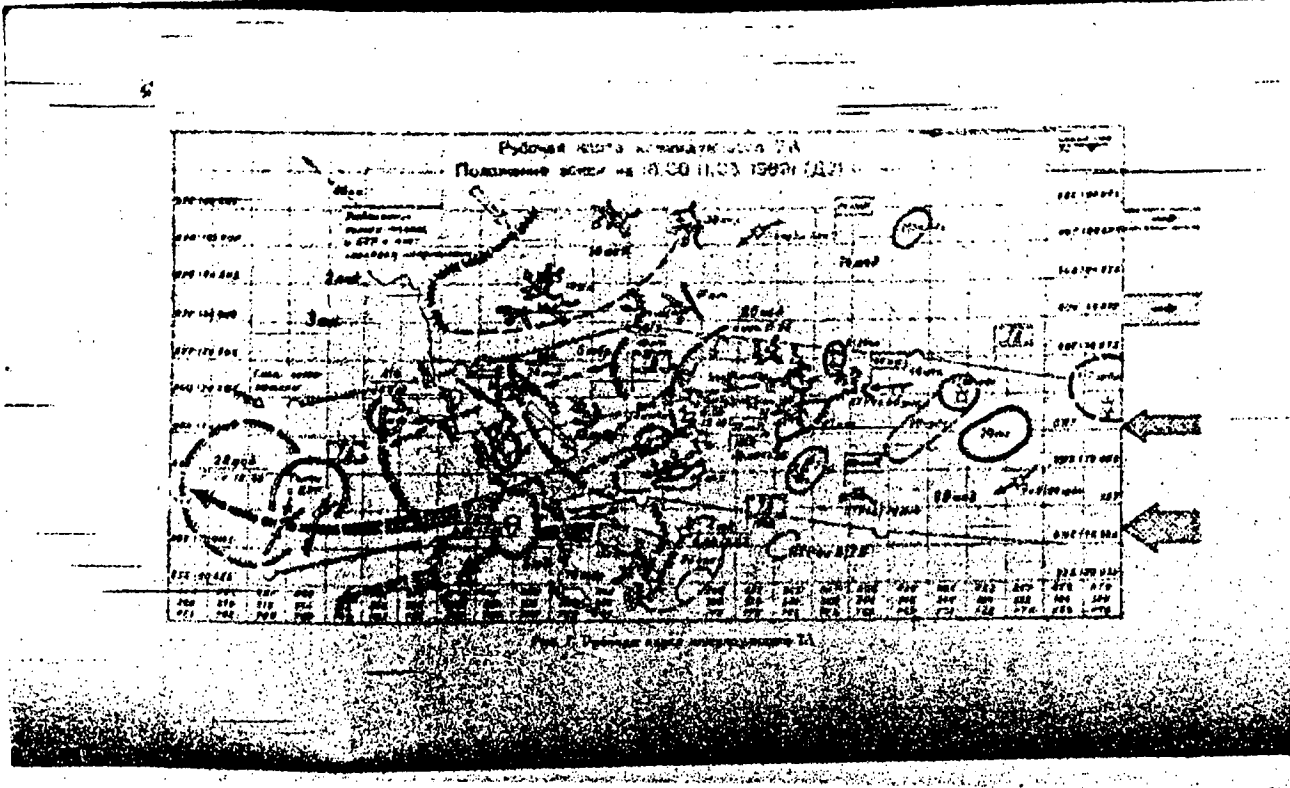
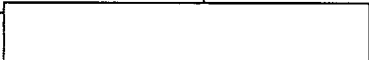
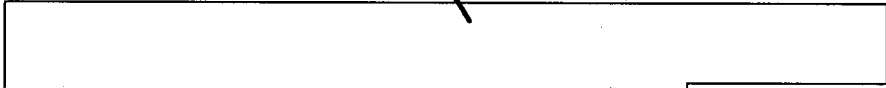
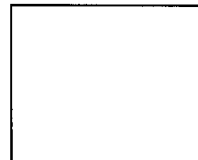
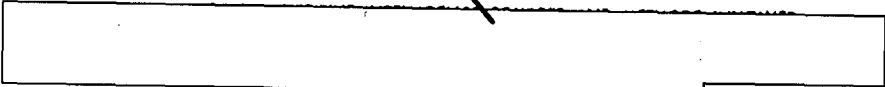
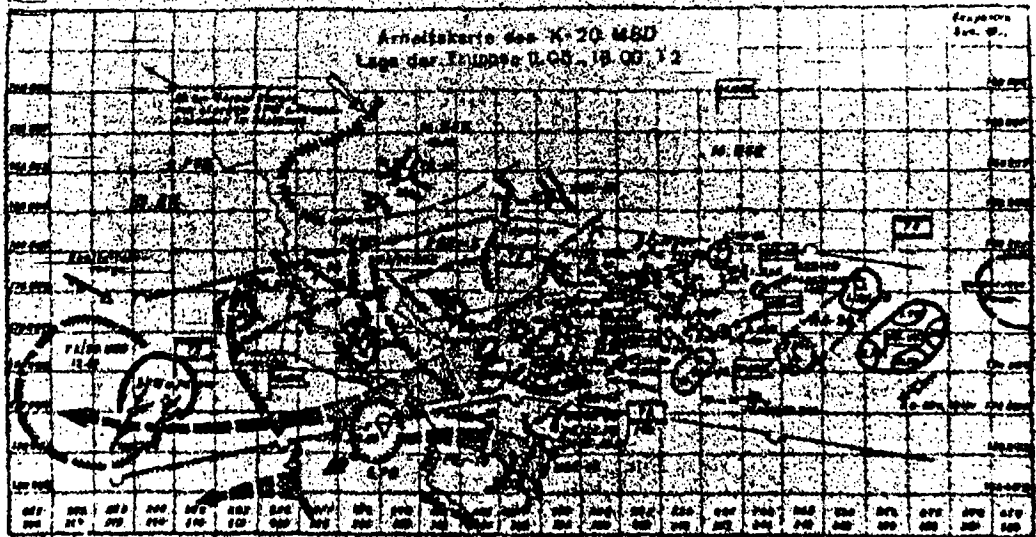


Figure 2. Work map of the commander of the 7th Army



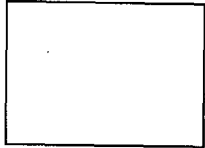


- 160 OUE
- 162 OUF
- 164 OUG
- 166 OUH
- 168 OUI
- 170 OUI
- 172 OUP
- 174 OUS
- 176 OUV
- 178 OUX
- 180 OYE



REX ROE ROP ROY ROU ROZ RPA RPB RPY RPU RPV RPK RPL RPS RPU RRV RSW RST RTR RTP RTS RTU
 308 310 312 314 316 318 320 322 324 326 328 330 332 334 336 338 340 342 344 346 348 350 352 354 356

Figure 3. Work map of the commander of the 20th Motorized Rifle Division



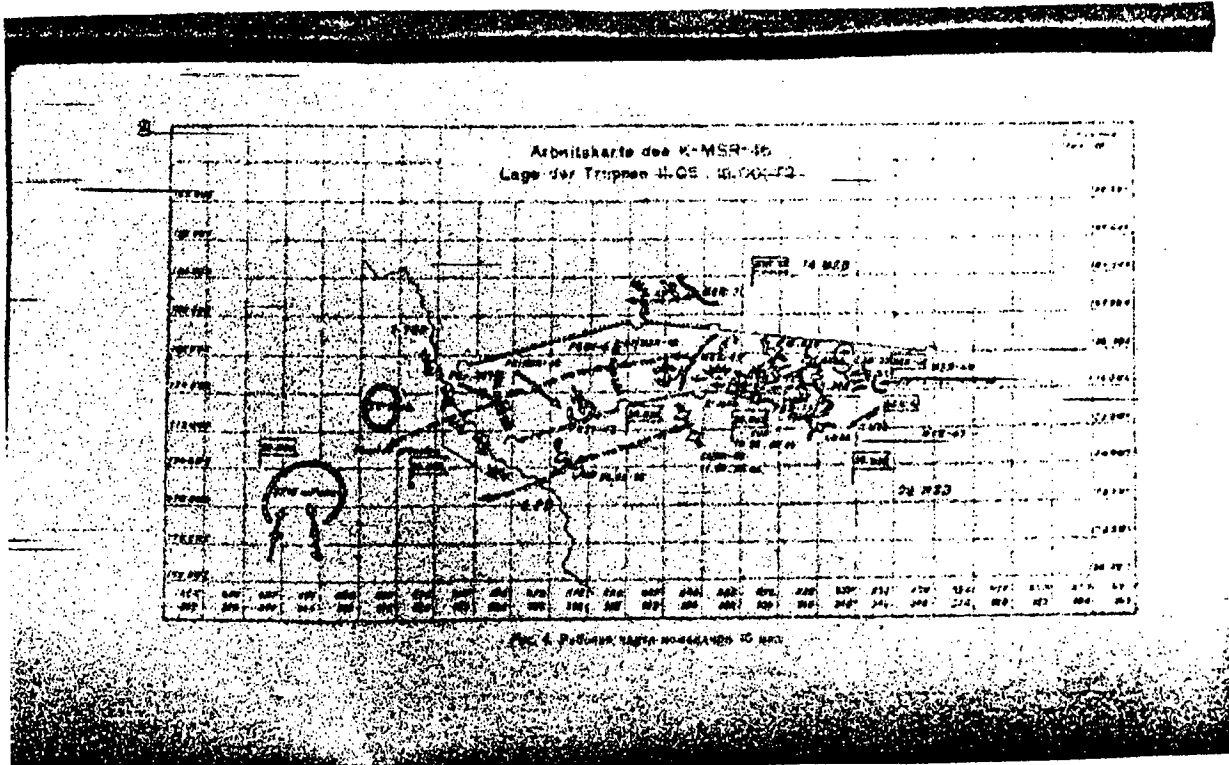
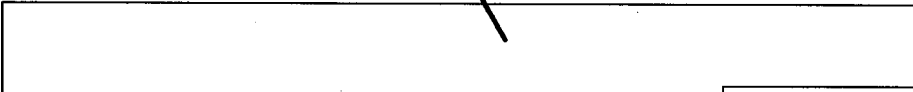
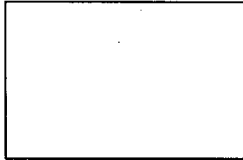
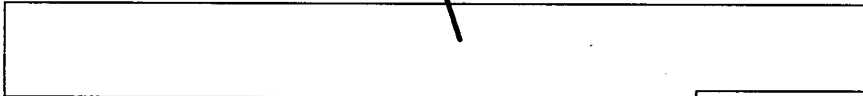


Figure 4. Work map of the commander of the 46th Motorized Rifle Regiment



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Page 13 of 21 Pages

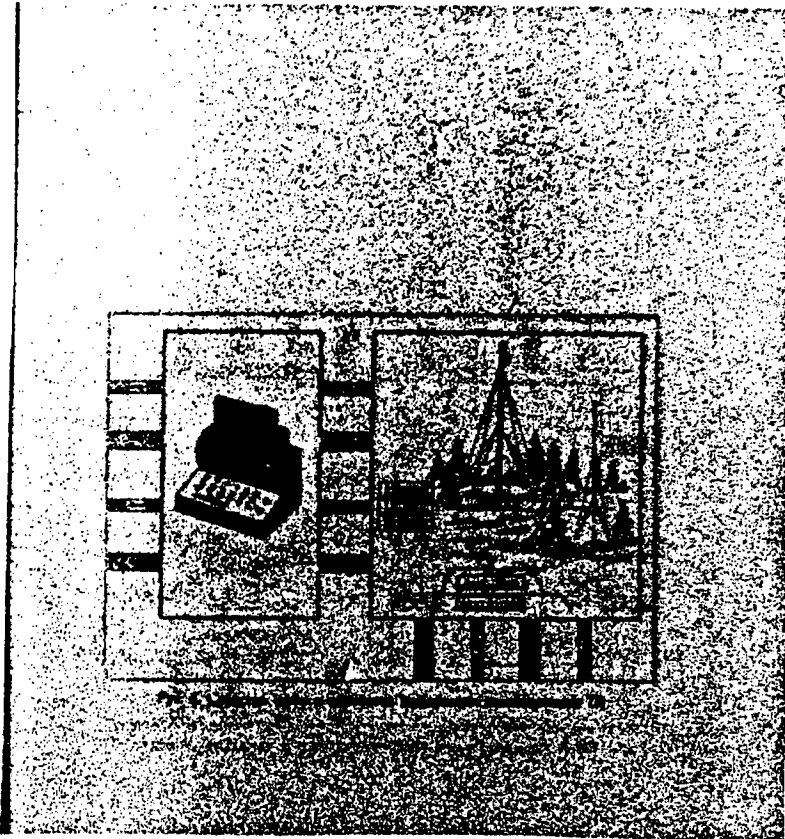
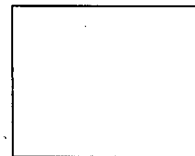
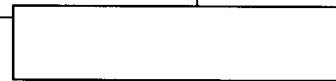
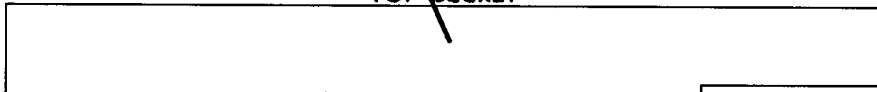


Figure 5. Means of communications and information processing of the commander of the 7th Army

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Page 14 of 21 Pages

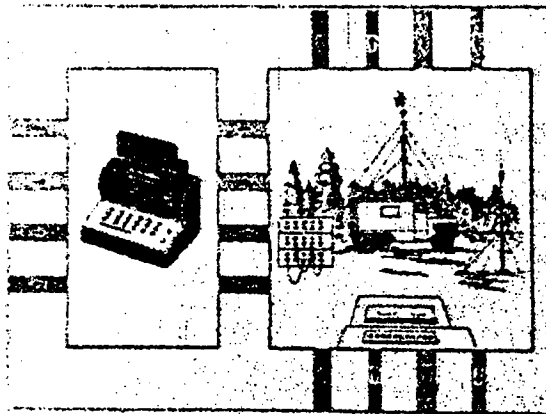
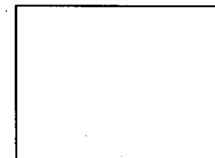


Fig. 6. Means of communications and information processing of the commander of the 20th Motorized Rifle Division

Figure 6. Means of communications and information processing of the commander of the 20th Motorized Rifle Division

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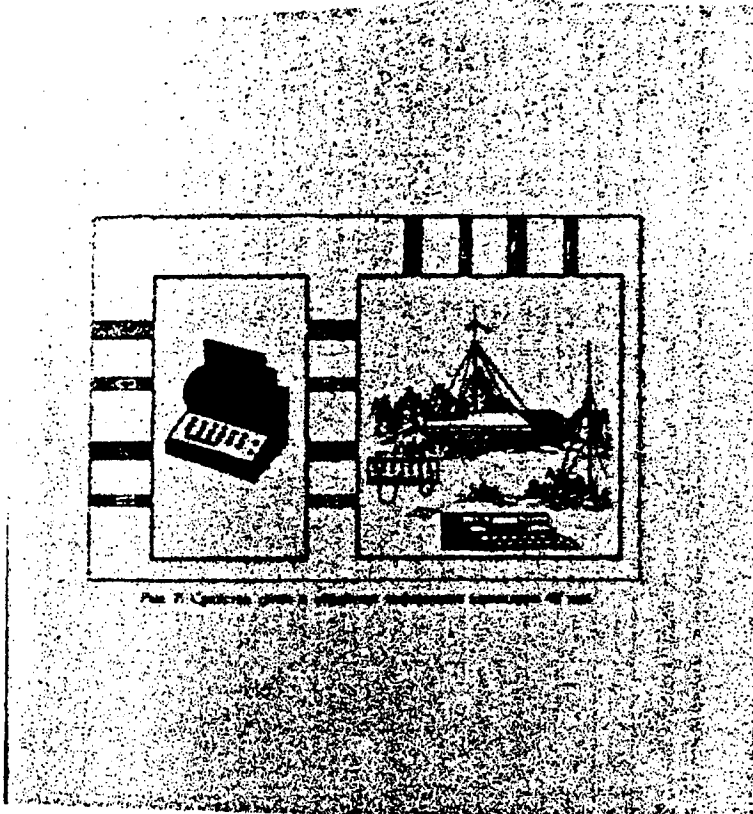
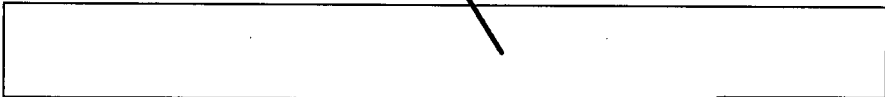
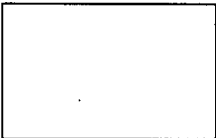


Figure 7. Means of communications and information processing of the commander of the 46th Motorized Rifle Regiment



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METHODS OF TAKING POW (OPERATIONS DIVISION SERVICE)

FORM NO. 892

Table No. 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
18	AL	day of operation	hour	date	named post	type of combat document	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100											

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Page 17 of 21 Pages

Table No. 2

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COMBAT INSTRUCTION

7th Army, No. 003, Command Post /rest of line illegible/

11 April 1900 hours, map 1:100,000

On the third day of the operation, operate in the first echelon with the task of advancing in the direction 178----- 1763128 172----- and rout the enemy grouping, part of the forces of the 5th Motorized Infantry Brigade and 11th Tank Division in area 175----- 174----- 178314.

The immediate task is to occupy line 170----- 178-----.

In cooperation with an airborne landing force, the 3rd Motorized Rifle Regiment, in area ----- 179----- 18314, make an assault crossing of the river /illegible/ from the march in sector -----.

Subsequent task is line 1783205 163200, with the task of the day to occupy area 17231- 17----- 1783143 1783100.

Axis of the main attack is 1763302 1763230 1773201.

/An air regiment?/ of fighter-bombers is supporting.

Separation line on the right is 1673410 16----- 1713100.

Separation line on the left is 1783510 1763308 1803122.

Adjacent on the right, the 14th Motorized Rifle Division is defending sector 161325- 1643203 1673217.

Adjacent on the left, the 4th Tank Division is operating in the direction 1783212 17-3217 180316- from the line /of commitment to battle?/ 1773331 1813210 with the immediate task of occupying sector 1793205 1813210.

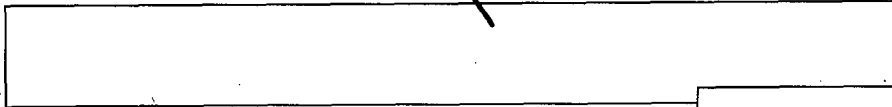
Axis of relocation of the command post of the 7th Army is 1703316 1763121.

Forward command post at 1743-72 beginning at 0000 hours 12 April.





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Page 18 of 21 Pages

Table No. 3	
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GVS No. _____	
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Radiogram No. _____ (AB)	
Sender <u>Commander 7th Army</u>	
Receiver <u>Commander 20th Motorized Rifle Division</u>	
	
	
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SITUATION REPORT - (COMBAT REPORT)

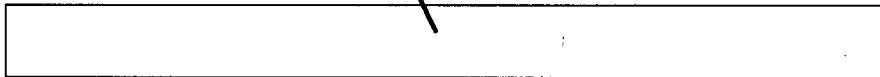
Form No. 0015

Table No. 1

AB	AF	day of the operation	D/A	V/W	O/P	I/H	T	S/A	L/A	N/N	E/R	M/GA	BP/W	BO/R/A
AB	AF				command post	type of command	01	situation report no.	command report no.				Northern Army Group	USA
AD	AL				camp		02	1,500,000	1,200,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,125,000	Central Army Group	Federal Republic of Germany
AF	AL				direction of movement		03	large unit	unit	combat	with force	part of force	Field Army	Germany
AG	AL				line period		04	force	combat formation	mobile	combat	artillery	Naval Operations	Netherlands
AH	AL				camp		05	activity	activity	combat	operational	tactical	Belgium	Belgium
AI	AL				action		06	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AJ	AL				line/area		07	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AK	AL				command post		08	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AL	AL				command post		09	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AM	AL				command post		10	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AN	AL				command post		11	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AO	AL				command post		12	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AP	AL				command post		13	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AQ	AL				command post		14	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AR	AL				command post		15	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AS	AL				command post		16	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AT	AL				command post		17	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AV	AL				command post		18	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AW	AL				command post		19	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AX	AL				command post		20	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AY	AL				command post		21	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
AZ	AL				command post		22	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BA	AL				command post		23	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BB	AL				command post		24	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BC	AL				command post		25	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BD	AL				command post		26	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BE	AL				command post		27	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BF	AL				command post		28	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BG	AL				command post		29	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France
BH	AL				command post		30	advancing in direction	breaking through the defense	penetrating			Central Army Group	France



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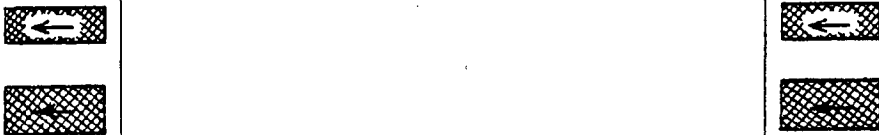


Page 20 of 21 Pages

Table No. 5
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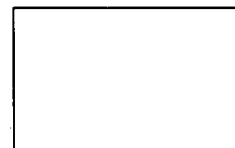
COMBAT REPORT

/ILLEGIBLE/

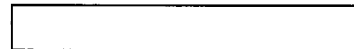


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Page 21 of 21 Pages

Table No. 6	
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Radiogram No. _____ ()	
Sender <u>Commander 46th Motorized Rifle Regiment</u>	
Receiver <u>Commander 20th MRD, Commander 7th Army</u>	

No. 17



~~TOP SECRET~~

