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COMMUNICATIONS ZONE USFET
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER
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LET ORDNANCE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT)

NUMBER.....378)

SUBJECT: German 8.8 cm. Pak 43/3 Gun Mounted on Russian 15.2 cm. Howitzer Carriage.

Observations by: Maj. F.G. Wilson and T/5 J.E. Corbett, Ord.Tech.
Intell.Team No. 9

1. General:

a. During the latter stages of the war in Europe, the Germans were forced to develop many hybrid models of artillery weapons in an attempt to overcome material and manufacturing shortages. One of these hybrid models with which they were experimenting was the 8.8 cm. Pak 43/3 Gun (normally mounted on the self-propelled Jagdpanther) mounted on the carriage of the Russian 15.2 cm. Howitzer, Model 38.

b. The specimen examined was in the process of being modified, and appears to have been completed except for the travelling lock.

2. Gun:

a. The normal 8.8 cm. Pak 43/3 gun is used, the cradle, recoil mechanism and shoulder guard for the gunner being retained (Photos 1 and 2). The weapon is fired electrically. The firing button is located on the left side of the carriage (Photo 2).

b. The gun apparently travels in battery, giving it an extremely long overhang (Photo 1).

3. Top Carriage:

The Russian carriage has been slightly modified in order to fit it for the much smaller caliber gun. The Russian trunnion bearings are unchanged, but the trunnions have been modified by welding square plates to the inside of each. These plates are bolted to like plates which are welded to the cylindrical cradle. The original Russian elevating arc is used. The bracket to which the arc is bolted has been replaced by a much longer one (Photo 2).

4. Bottom Carriage:

The lower carriage, except for the positioning of the travelling lock, has not been changed. The travelling lock has been moved forward in order to place it under the cradle of the 8.8 cm gun which, as mentioned above, is not retracted when in the travelling position (Photos 1 and 2).

5. Sighting Equipment:

The sighting mechanism used with this weapon is the same as that for the 15.2 cm. howitzer. It consists of a range drum, matching pointers and a panoramic telescope mount.

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6. Data:

Overall length of gun (including breech ring and muzzle brake).....	258-15/16 ins.
Length of gun (including breech ring but excluding muzzle brake).....	247-1/2 ins.
Number of lands and grooves.....	32
Type of breech mechanism.....	Vertical, sliding wedge
Firing mechanism.....	Electric
Overall length in travelling position.....	382 ins.
" width " " "	82-1/2 ins.
" height " " "	72-3/4 ins.
Elevation.....	-1° to 65°
Traverse.....	50°(total)
Recoil scale markings.....	520 mm. to 620 mm. (19.68" to 24.40")
Normal Recoil.....	550 mm. (21.65")

FOR THE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER,

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Colonel, Ord. Dept.,
Assistant.

Inclosure:

Appendix: 2 photos.

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Photo 1
Left side view of weapon in travelling position.
Note long overhang of tube.



Photo 2
Left rear view showing sighting mechanism,
electric firing switch and recuperator.
Cradle travelling lock shown in approxi-
mate position it would be in if modifica-
tions were completed.

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