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USSR

3/PPDT/T88

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NOBILITY'S REPORT ON HIS VISIT AS A CORRESPONDENT TO A
SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY NEAR LONDON
(1940)

From; LONDON

To: MOSCOW

No: 1232

30th Oct. 40

To DIRECTOR.

Yesterday NOBILITY [ZMAT'] [1], in the capacity of a correspondent, saw round 339th Battery of 26th Searchlight Regiment of 1st A.A. [PVO] Division which is stationed in the ICKENHAM-DENHAM area on the north-western outskirts of LONDON. He reported the following [1 group unrecovered]:

1. In a regiment there are four batteries, each of four troops [VZVOD]. A troop consists of two detachments [OTDELENIE]. Each detachment constitutes a self-contained unit with an establishment of 12-13 men, one searchlight, one sound locator, one diesel generator and one Lewis gun. In all there are 530 men and 24 searchlights in a battery [ii]. The officers [1 group unrecovered] territorial troops; they received a [B% special] type [1 group unrecovered] beginning of the war.

2. A detachment occupies a site 25 metres in diameter. The distance between detachments is 2.5-9 kilometres. The searchlights are automatically directed onto the target by means of the data from the sound locator. The searchlight beams are effective up to a height of 5,000 metres. Detachments are linked to battery and battery is linked to regiment and to Sector Operations Room [KONTROL'NYJ PUNKT PVO] from which information about the enemy is sometimes received. The battery

commander stated that during the last fortnight two SAUSAGE-DEALERS [KOLBASNIK][iii] had been shot down by machine-gun fire.

No. 324

BRION [iv]

✓ Comments: [i] NOBILITY: Unidentified covername. Also occurs in LONDON's Nos. 987 of 6th September 1940 (3/PPDT/T10), 1024 of 17th September 1940 (3/PPDT/T23), 1170 of 16th October 1940 (3/PPDT/T16), 1424 of 20th December 1940 (3/PPDT/T54) and 2246 of 12th August 1941 (3/PPDT/T79).

[ii] Presumably "battery" was sent in error instead of "regiment".

✓ [iii] SAUSAGE-DEALERS: Germans.

[iv] BRION: Col. I.L. SKLYAROV, Soviet Military and Air Attaché in LONDON 1940-1946.