

Shelling of Kalininskiy District, Donetsk, using rifled artillery on August 27, 2014

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ABBREVIATIONS

UAF - Ukrainian Armed Forces

DPR - Donetsk People's Republic

ECP - Entry Check Point

LPR - Luhansk People's Republic

IMBr - Independent Mechanized Brigade

HES - high explosive fragmentation shell

MLRS - Multiple Launch Rocket System

SPM - self-propelled mortar

UNSDC - Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council

UAF - Ukrainian Armed Formations

PREAMBLE

On August 23, 2014, militia units, formed into regiments and brigades¹, on the move, liberated Telmanovo, attacked Torez and Snezhnoye, the Novoazovsk ECP, and launched an attack on Mariupol and Debaltsevo, preventing the enemy to transfer reserves. The panic evacuation of officials and nationalists of the Azov battalion began in Mariupol.

On the same day, the general counter-offensive of the LPR army began.

On August 24, the offensive of LPR units in the direction of Shchastya along Stukalova Balka developed, offensive battles took place in the Alchevsk direction (Rodakovo and Sabovka) and along the Krasnodon highway. The DPR army began to destroy, more often squeeze out, the encircled units of the Poroshenko regime from many small pockets around Luhansk, cutting off communications and suppressing them with massive artillery fire.

At the same time, a rally of many thousands was taking place in Kharkiv, organized by Yuri Apukhtin (in prison since December 2014), the leader of the banned “South-East” movement, which the authorities did not dare disperse². This was the last mass civil protest in the occupied territory.

On August 24-25, a final turning point occurred at the front, which Kyiv could not hide. Previously it was reported, for example:

“They are not surrounded – we are regrouping troops to continue the offensive to liberate settlements in the east,” said Andrei Lysenko, speaker of the NSDC information center³.

Dramatic changes reflect the enemy maps of these days. Having successfully attacked and practically cut the defense of the militia in half, units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and nationalist battalions within a day

¹ DPR rebels change combat tactics (published on 24.08.2014) Ukrainian Internet Publication “Doalog.UA”. URL: http://www.dialog.ua/news/14625_1408864787 (accessed on 03.03.2022)

² Russian march in Kharkiv (published on 23.08.2014) LiveJournal Online Journal Service. URL: <http://mikle1.livejournal.com/4598701.html> (accessed on 03.03.2022)

³ “The Russian military near Ilovaisk finished off our wounded” (published on 02.09.2014) “FACTY” Information Agency URL: <https://fakty.ua/187276-rossijskie-voennye-pod-ilovajskom-dobivali-nashih-ranenyh> (accessed on 03.03.2022)

found themselves in a defensive position along the entire front line, retreating all the way to Mariupol.

By August 26, the DPR militia managed to finally recapture Saur-Mogila, forcing a 4,000-strong group of the UAF and nationalist battalions to retreat. The DPR army, formed in battles from individual militia units, reached the Sea of Azov, taking control of 40 km of the coast and liberating Novoazovsk. Enemy units that found themselves surrounded continued to be partially destroyed, partially escape across the border into Russia, or permeate across the encirclement in small groups, taking advantage of the small number of militants who were unable to create a continuous encirclement (this was generally a characteristic feature of the fighting in the Donbass).

Precisely these days, a turning point occurred not only at the front, but also in the minds of the Poroshenko regime supporters. Volunteers, relatives and those who escaped from the cauldrons report a disaster, the loss of almost all armored vehicles, the defeat of the 51st brigade and hundreds of killed, captured, and wounded⁴. From now on, criticism and accusations of the Kyiv regime of betrayal were becoming increasingly widespread even in the media controlled by Poroshenko.

However, in the vicinity of Donetsk, clashes continued between the DPR militia and Ukrainian armed forces. The tensest situation was in the area of Donetsk airport, which was stormed by DPR militias⁵.

At the same time, densely populated areas of the cities of Donbass were subjected to regular artillery shelling. Thus, on August 27, 2014, the UAF subjected the city of Donetsk to artillery fire throughout the day, as a result of which 11 civilians were killed and 22 people got injuries of varying degrees of severity⁶.

This investigation will examine the **shelling of the densely populated Kalininskiy District of Donetsk**, which occurred on **August 27, 2014** at approximately **15:00**. During the shelling, the Palace of Culture named after the

⁴ Volunteers spoke about the tragedy of the 51st brigade near Ilovaik (published on 28.08.2014) "VESTI" Internet Agency. URL: <https://vesti.ua/donbass/67239-volontery-rasskazali-o-tragedii-51-brigady-pod-ilovajskom> (accessed on 03.03.2022)

⁵ Donetsk Airport Story of courage and betrayal. (published on 20.10.2014) LiveJournal Online Journal Service. URL: <https://werewolf0001.livejournal.com/2119016.html> (accessed on 03.02.2022)

⁶ City Council: eleven civilians died in one day in Donetsk (published on 28.08.2014) RIA News Information Agency. URL: <https://ria.ru/20140828/1021729617.html> (accessed on 12.04.2023)

October Revolution (Youth Center) located at Shevchenko Blvd., residential buildings at Lazarenko St., Krasnodonskaya St., and Shevchenko Blvd., and educational complex No.16 at Shevchenko Blvd⁷.

As a result of this shelling, a VAZ-2106 Zhiguli passenger car burned down at Shevchenko Blvd., **three people** who were in it **died**: Vladimir Glukhov born in 1981, Evgeny Kaplun born in 1978, and Artyom Shubin born in 1985. The men were heading home from work, Artyom Shubin and Vladimir Glukhov were sitting in the front seats of the car, Evgeny Kaplun was in the back seat on the driver's side. As a result of one of the shell hits at Shevchenko Blvd, shell fragments killed people sitting in the front seats; and Artyom Shubin's head was cut off. Evgeniy, who was sitting behind him, tried to get out of the burning car, but he failed to do so.

Another **civilian died from injuries incompatible with life**⁸.

At least eight civilians got injuries of varying degrees of severity.

Journalist of the First Republican TV Channel Dmitry Kolomoets, born in 1985, was returning from an editorial assignment along with a film crew of seven people in a GAZelle car. At the time of the shelling, the car was driving past a residential building at 56, Shevchenko Blvd. As a result of a shell detonation at Shevchenko Blvd., the car was damaged, three people in it were injured: the driver received an injury to his right arm, one of the journalists of the film crew received numerous shrapnel wounds to the head and torso, Dmitry Kolomoets received a through-fragmentation wound to his right shin⁹.

Donetsk resident Sergei Kuznetsov, born in 1962, just before the shelling, left the Obzhora supermarket at 58B, Shevchenko Blvd, and headed toward the intersection of Shevchenko Blvd. and Vladychanskogo St. As a result of a shell detonation, the man received shrapnel wounds to his head, left arm and left buttock. A few meters away

⁷ Archives. August 27, 2014. Genocide of the Russian population of Donbass (published on 28.08.2017) Antimaidan website. URL: https://antimaydan.info/2017/08/arhiv_27_avgusta_2014_god_genocid_russkogo_naseleniya_donbassa.html (accessed on 12.04.2023)

⁸ Successive shelling of Donetsk killed 16 people (published on 28.08.2014) The 1st TV Channel. URL: https://www.1tv.ru/news/2014-08-28/40559-ocherednoy_obstrel_donetska_unes_zhizni_16_chelovek (accessed on 13.04.2023)

⁹ 27.08.2014 Donetsk. Kalininskiy District. The film crew of the First Republican came under fire (published on 28.08.2014) VKontakte Social Network. URL: https://vk.com/wall-75166498_167 (accessed on 26.12.2021)

from him, a man, Pyotr Rybakov, born in 1935, lay unconscious on the ground, having received a shrapnel wound to the abdominal cavity. In a passing civilian car, Pyotr Rybakov was taken to the Donetsk Clinical Territorial Medical Association, and Sergei Kuznetsov was taken to the Donetsk Regional Clinical Trauma Hospital (now the Republican Trauma Center).

Donetsk resident Pavel Ostapenko, born in 1955, was heading toward his house at 36, Shevchenko Blvd., when he came under artillery fire passing by the residential building at 50, Shevchenko Blvd. The man got a penetrating blind shrapnel wound to the chest, damaging his right lung. At the incident location, he was given first aid and taken to the Donetsk Clinical Territorial Medical Association.

INCIDENT LOCATION

Having analyzed eyewitness accounts, photo and video materials, and also using the Google Earth Pro program, we were able to identify **seven locations** where artillery shells hit and map them using the Yandex Maps service (see Fig. 1).

Shell hit 1 occurred in the territory of the private sector at 51, Lazarenko St. The shell hit the outbuilding, as a result of which it was completely destroyed, and the neighboring residential building was also partially damaged at 49, Lazarenko St. (see Fig. 2). This impact location is clearly visible in the satellite image of September 3, 2014 (see Fig. 3).

Shell hit 2 The projectile hit the ground in the territory of the educational complex No. 16 at 66A, Shevchenko Blvd., – approximately five meters east of the north-eastern corner of the garage (see Fig. 5). As a result of the projectile detonation, the glazing of the building of educational complex No. 16, the façade of the western side of the central building and the eastern façade of the garage were damaged (see Fig. 5).

In addition, the passage connecting the central building of educational complex No. 16 and the garage was significantly damaged: window frames were knocked out and walls were partially destroyed (see Fig. 6). Probably, there was another hit, but we do not have enough data to state this for sure.

According to Natalya K., a primary school teacher at educational complex No. 16, only a janitor was in the building at the time of the shelling, who was thrown away by the blast wave. The blast wave tore off stands, lamp shades, and the front door was “folded in half.” The children’s beds were strewn with glass and soil from flower pots¹⁰.

Shell hit 3. A projectile pierced the roof of the Palace of Culture named after the October Revolution (Youth Center) located at 54, Shevchenko Blvd., and detonated

¹⁰ Natasha! They hit the school, everything was broken - the director of school No. 16 in Donetsk (published on 10.02.2021) Donbass Today website. URL: <https://donbasstoday.ru/natasha-popali-v-shkolu-vsjo-razbito-direktor-shkoly-16-goroda-donecka/> (accessed on 12.02.2022)

inside it, resulting in a fire (see Fig. 7). The building got serious damage: the roof was completely destroyed; the glazing and interior of the building were partially damaged. The consequences of hitting the building are clearly visible in the satellite image from September 3, 2014 (see Fig. 8).

As of the beginning of 2023, the Palace of Culture named after October Revolution (Youth Center) is in disrepair and cannot be used.

Shell hit 4. The shell hit the roof of a multi-storey residential building at 56, Shevchenko Blvd, on its southern side (see Fig. 9), pierced the ceiling on the fifth floor, and the interfloor ceiling between the fifth and fourth floors (see Fig. 10). As a result, premises, glazing, and personal property of civilians were damaged in the apartments. The trace of the projectile that hit the roof of this multi-storey residential building is visible in a satellite image dated September 3, 2014 (see Fig. 11).

Shell hit 5. This was the very first hit from the incident in question. The shell hit the crown of a tree and detonated at a height of about 2 meters from the surface of the earth, also destroying a concrete pillar installed at a distance of about half a meter from the tree (see Fig. 12).

The journalists who were driving along Shevchenko Boulevard at that moment suffered from fragments of this particular projectile¹¹.

Shell hit 6. Another shell hit the ground about 25 meters north of the northern part of a multi-storey residential building at 83, Shevchenko Blvd. (see Fig. 13, Fig. 14). As a result of this shelling, one of the civilians had his right leg torn off by shrapnel at the knee level (see Fig. 15). Shrapnel also damaged multi-storey residential buildings at 83 and 85, Shevchenko Blvd.

Shell hit 7 was located at the pedestrian footpath about 20 meters north of the northern part of a multi-storey residential building at 77, Shevchenko Blvd. (see Fig. 16). A satellite image of September 3, 2014 clearly shows the location of the projectile impact (see Fig. 17). As a result of the projectile detonation, the glazing and facade of the northern side of the multi-storey residential building at 77, Shevchenko Blvd., the

¹¹ New. Journalists came under fire in Donetsk suburbs. 27.08.2014. (published on 28.08.2014) YouTube Video Hosting. URL:<https://youtu.be/JqMn4A5GkWs> (accessed on 19.09.2023)

contact network of the trolleybus was broken, motor vehicles were cut by shrapnel.

Civilians were killed.

Thus, as a result of the projectile detonation, a torn contact network fell onto a passing VAZ-2106 Zhiguli passenger car, the driver's side of which was cut by shrapnel at the same moment (see Fig. 18). As a result of the damage received and a short circuit in the contact network, the car instantly ignited and, by inertia, drove forward approximately another 50 meters, leaving behind a black mark on the asphalt (see Fig. 19). All civilians inside the car - three men - were killed¹².

On the opposite side of the road relative to the shell hit in the parking lot near the residential building at 77, Shevchenko Blvd., a man was seriously injured. Despite the efforts of paramedics who arrived at the scene, the man died from his wounds¹³.

¹² Consequences of the shelling of Donetsk on 27.08.2014 (published on 28.08.2014) Mail.Ru Video. URL: <https://my.mail.ru/mail/krivosheya85/video/112/25625.html> (accessed on 21.12.2021)

¹³ Donetsk. August 27, 2014. Nearby the Youth Center (PC), Shevchenko Boulevard (published on 27.08.2019) VKontakte Social Network. URL: https://vk.com/video-121569101_456247133 (accessed on 14.04.2023)

WEAPON TYPE

Testimonies and physical evidence

In Shevchenko Blvd., nearby shell hits 3 and 4, eyewitnesses of the incident found metal fragments (see Fig. 21). Fragments of this type indicate the use of rifled artillery.

At the same time, neither mine fins (typical of mortar attacks) nor remnants of the missile part of the shells (typical of the use of MLRS) were found. Also, aluminum shanks, typical for firing from smooth-bore tank guns, were not found.

These facts allow us to conclude about the use of rifled artillery. Considering the Soviet-style artillery used by the Ukrainian army in 2014, the main version of this investigation is shelling from rifled artillery with a caliber of 122 or 152 mm.

122 and 152mm Artillery

From the Soviet Union, Ukraine received a fairly rich fleet of rifled artillery. There are 8 types of guns in total. We have summarized the characteristics of these weapons in a general table. The guns of the Hyacinth family, which can fire at a distance of up to 28 kilometers, have the maximum range. The minimum range of 122 mm guns is slightly more than 4 km.

However, below we will prove that in the case of this shelling the minimum range could not have been less than 6 km.

Name	Description	HES gunnery range, meters	
		minimum	maximum

2C19 “Msta-S” ¹⁴	152mm self-propelled mortar	6,500	24,700
2A65 Msta-B ¹⁵	152mm howitzer	6,500	24,700
2C5 Giatsint-S ¹⁶	152mm self-propelled towed gun	8,600	28,400
2A36 Giatsint-B ¹⁷	152mm howitzer	8,600	27,000
2C3 Akatsiya ¹⁸	152mm self-propelled towed howitzer cannon	4,200	17,400
D-20 ¹⁹	152mm howitzer	4,600	17,410
2S1 “Gvozdika” ²⁰	122mm self-propelled howitzer	4,200	15,200
D-30 ²¹	122mm howitzer	4,200	15,400

¹⁴ “Msta-S” SPM (published on 22.11.2018) “MILITARY REVIEW” Network Edition. URL: <https://militaryarms.ru/voennaya-texnika/artilleriya/sau-msta-s/> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

¹⁵ 152mm Msta-B Howitzer (2A65). Gunnery range. Dimensions. Weight. Ammunition. Russian weapons, military equipment of the world. URL: <http://oruzhie.info/artilleriya/583-msta-b> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

¹⁶ Artillery. Large caliber. “Giatsints” (04.07.2018) “MILITARY REVIEW” Network Edition. URL: <https://topwar.ru/143897-artilleriya-krupnyy-kalibr-giacinty.html> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

¹⁷ The 1976 Soviet 2A36 Giatsint-B 152mm gun - the world’s most powerful wheeled, towed artillery system. Gunsfriend.ru website. URL: <https://gunsfriend.ru/152-mm-puska-2a36-giacint-b-1976-goda/> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

¹⁸ 2S3 Akatsiya Self-propelled Howitzer. Military-informant website. URL: <https://military-informant.com/art/2s3-sp-1538262475.html> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

¹⁹ Soviet 152mm Towed Howitzer Cannon D-20. The Third World War (Politico-Military Review). URL: <https://3mv.ru/8836-sovetskaya-152-mm-buksiruemaya-pushka-gaubica-d-20.html> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

²⁰ “Gvozdika” Military equipment: history, characteristics, use of self-propelled guns. Arsenal. URL: <https://metarsenal.ru/artilleriya/gvozdika-tank.html> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

²¹ 122-mm. Firing tables for the D-30 122-mm howitzer. TC No.145. Booksee.org website. URL: <https://booksee.org/book/539323> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

PROBABLE SECTOR OF SHELLING

All hits of the shelling under consideration can be inscribed in an ellipse, elongated along an axis directed from the north-west – north to south-east – south (see Fig. 26). It is noteworthy that hits from a single gun are usually elongated along the direction of fire.

At the site of shell hit 7, a clear trace of the main scatter of fragments is visible on the wall of residential building No. 77, Shevchenko Blvd. This allows us to determine the angle of the projectile arrival (see Fig. 23), which is approximately 57 degrees.

Nearby shell hit 2, a clear trace from the main scatter of fragments is also visible on the walls of the garage and educational complex No. 16. The angle of the projectile arrival measured in these cases is 51 degrees along the tracks from the main scatter of fragments on the wall of the educational complex building (see Fig. 24) and 54 54 degrees along the tracks on the garage wall (see Fig. 25).

Thus, it can be argued that the angle of arrival of the shells was on average approximately **54 degrees**. This angle of arrival also suggests that the shelling could be carried out from a distance close to the maximum.

In the case of shell hit 2, the trace from the main scatter of fragments on the garage intersects with the surface of the ground on its eastern side, a few meters from the north-eastern corner of the wall (see Fig. 27), and on the central building of the educational complex No. 16 - in its western part a few meters north of the main entrance (see Fig. 28). This enables us to build a line between the two points above, which will be perpendicular to the shelling direction. The azimuth of this line was 311 degrees (see Fig. 29).

In the case of shell hit 7 on the wall of a building located near the explosion at 77 Shevchenko Blvd., a clear trace of the main scatter of fragments was also left. The trace intersects with the surface of the ground on its northern side approximately 15 meters from the north-western corner of the residential building (see Fig. 30). This enables us to build a line between the point above and the site of the shell hit, which

will be perpendicular to the shelling direction. The azimuth of this line was 314 degrees (see Fig. 31).

The minimum firing range for 122 mm or 152 mm rifled artillery is 4,200 m, while the maximum range for 122 mm is 15,400 m, and for 152 mm it makes 28,400 m.

At the same time, in the firing tables of the D-30 howitzer²² a range of 6,400 m corresponds to an angle of a projectile arrival equal to 42 degrees (using a minimum powder charge). Considering the possible measurement error, we will accept a **minimum firing range of 6,000 m.**

Summarizing the above, we can argue that **the shelling in question was carried out in the direction** from the north-west – north to south-east – south, and the azimuth was approximately 312 degrees.

Based on the direction of the shells fired we determined with an error of ± 15 degrees and the estimated firing range, we can map the sector from which the Kalininskiy district of Donetsk was shelled on August 27, 2014. Additionally, “maps of military operations in the territory of the DPR and LPR on August 20-28”²³, created by a blogger under the nickname “kot_ivanov”, we will plot the demarcation line on the map (see Fig. 32).

For the version of shelling from 122 mm guns, this is the Peski – Opytnoye – Donetsk airport sector. And for the version of shelling from 152 mm guns, this is the Vodyanoye – Yasnobrodovka – Berdychi sector.

²² 122-mm. Firing tables for the D-30 122-mm howitzer. TC No.145. Booksee.org website. URL: <https://booksee.org/book/539323> (accessed on 20.04.2023)

²³ Maps of hostilities on August 20-28, 2014 (published on 28.07.2014) LiveJournal Online Journal Service. URL: <https://kot-ivanov.livejournal.com/2014/08/28/> (accessed on 26.04.2023)

MILITARY PRESENCE

At the end of June 2014, the Right Sector and Dnipro-1 units were redeployed to Donetsk airport. The 93rd Independent Kholodnyi Yar Mechanized Brigade arrived there along with the 17th Separate Kryvyi Rih Tank Brigade²⁴.

At the end of July, the offensive was actively deployed toward the airport de-blocking. In a short time, the villages of Tonenkoye, Orlovka and Severnoye were captured in a short jerk by the 93rd IMB. On July 21 the village of Peski was taken²⁵. DPR representatives retreated closer to Donetsk city limits²⁶.

It should be mentioned that before the arrival of longer-range guns in October, it was the 93rd IMBr artillerymen who were working in the vicinity of Donetsk airport²⁷. Satellite images of 06.09.2014 show traces of artillery work in the sector between the settlements of Severnoe and Avdeyevka (see Fig. 33). The 2S3 Akatsiya self-propelled mortars headed by Aleksey Leonidovich Dubovik (code name: Squall) were deployed at these positions²⁸ (see Fig. 34). This man was on site nearby Donetsk airport from July to November 2014, where he was in charge of artillery of the 93rd IMB²⁹.

The overall leadership of the Donetsk airport defense from May 26, 2014 to October 3, 2014³⁰ was exercised by the commander of the 3rd Kirovograd Special Forces Regiment, Aleksandr Sergeyeovich Trepak (code name: Redit)³¹ (see Fig. 35). I knew and controlled the entire airport: the perimeter, Peski, the entry and exit of the

²⁴ Storming the Donetsk airport 2014-2015. RF Soldiers. URL: https://www.soldati-russian.ru/index/shturm_doneckogo_aehroporta_2014_2015/0-788 (accessed on 05.05.2023)

²⁵ News from Donetsk and the region as of August 1, 2016. Peski: the beginning of a legend. Informational Donbass - The Donetsk Region guide. URL: <https://donbass-info.com/content/view/31070/31081/> (accessed on 05.05.2023)

²⁶ Why Donetsk airport fell five years ago and why the legend of cyborgs was born (published on 21.01.2020) LiveJournal Online Journal Service. URL: <https://varjag2007su.livejournal.com/5933960.html> (accessed on 05.05.2023)

²⁷ How Ukrainian artillerymen protect the outskirts of Donetsk (published on 16.10.2014) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/DofEc-Hm5cl> (accessed on 05.05.2023)

²⁸ Oleksiy Leonidoych Dubovik. Wikipedia Free Encyclopaedia. URL: https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Дубовик_Олексій_Леонідович (accessed on 05.05.2023)

²⁹ Brave hearts. Artillerymen (published on 14.10.2015) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/DFwCG19BArs> (accessed on 05.05.2023)

³⁰ News from Donetsk and the Region as of January 24, 2016 Battle for Donetsk airport. Unknown details of the most tragic special operation of the ATO (published on 21.01.2016) Donbass-info website. URL: <https://donbass-info.com/content/view/26433/26444/> (accessed on 05.05.2023)

³¹ Oleksandr Sergiyovych Trepak. Wikipedia Free Encyclopaedia. URL: https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Трепак_Олександр_Сергійович (accessed on 05.05.2023)

columns, and all the artillery. Everything was closing in on me,” Trepak said in his interview to “Censor.net”. He stressed that he had ordered the firing toward Donetsk on his own, without orders from the headquarters³².

Thus, the following can be stated:

1) There were units of the UAF, armed with 152mm 2C3 Akatsiya self-propelled howitzers in the sector of shelling.

2) The responsibility for this shelling lies primarily with the officers who headed the actions of the Ukrainian armed formations, namely the commander of the 3rd Kirovograd Special Forces Regiment, Alexander Sergeevych Trepak (code name: Redit), and the commander of the 93rd IMB howitzer battalion, Aleksey Leonidovych Dubovik (code name: Squall).

³² Donetsk Airport Defense Commander, the Hero of Ukraine Redit: “I’m not a cyborg. I was also scared” (published on 17.06.2015) CENSOR.NET website. URL: https://m.censor.net/resonance/340362/komandir_oborony_donetskogo_aeroporto_geroyi_ukrainy_redut_ya_ne_kiborg_mne_toje_bylo_strashno (accessed on 05.05.2023)

CONCLUSIONS

As follows from the above, on August 27, 2014 at approximately 15:00 (Moscow time) Kalininskiy district of Donetsk, in particular, the Palace of Culture named after the October Revolution (Youth Center) located at Shevchenko Blvd, residential buildings at Lazarenko St., Krasnodonskaya St., and Shevchenko Blvd., and educational complex No.16 at Shevchenko Blvd., a public transport vehicles and crowded places came under artillery fire from Soviet-style rifled artillery. The shells flew in a direction from north-west – north to south-east – south (azimuth of 312 degrees, error making ± 15 degrees).

All shell hits fell on densely populated residential areas of the city and led to damage to civilian objects, death and injury to civilians. Thus, the principles of selectivity and proportionality were violated.

As a result of the analysis of news videos and information from the Internet, it was found that the rifled artillery guns from the 93rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces could be located in the sector from which the shelling was carried out.

The responsibility for the artillery work at this site lies primarily with the commander of the 3rd Kirovograd Special Forces Regiment, Alexander Sergeevych Trepak (code name: Redit), and the commander of the 93rd IMB howitzer battalion, Aleksey Leonidovych Dubovik (code name: Squall).

LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS

Indiscriminate shelling of a densely populated residential area in the town of Makeyevka, in which civilians were killed and injured, is a crime for which responsibility is provided by the norms of national legislation of Ukraine and by the norms of international law.

In compliance with **Art. 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine**, for “... use of methods of the warfare prohibited by international instruments, or any other violations of rules of the warfare recognized by international instruments consented to be binding by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, and also giving an order to commit any such actions”, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of eight to twelve years., and if he same acts accompanied with an intended murder, shall be punishable by imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years, or life imprisonment.

In compliance with **Art. 13 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions** of 12 August 1949, concerning the protection of victims of armed conflicts of a non-international character, dated 8 June 1977: “The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited”.

In compliance with **Rule 71 of Customary International Humanitarian Law** (Volume 1, ICRC, 2006): “States must never make civilians the object of attack and must consequently never use weapons that are incapable of distinguishing between civilian and military targets”

“The use of weapons which are by nature indiscriminate is prohibited”.

In compliance with **Art. 3 common to all Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949**, extending its effect to non-international armed conflicts, “persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed ‘hors de combat’ by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse

distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria”.

To this end, violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds and mutilation, are prohibited inter alia with respect to the above-mentioned persons.

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65. Shell hit in a residential building near Obzhora, Kalininskiy district of Donetsk on 27 08 2014 (published on 28.08.2014) YouTube Video Hosting. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zj4ewF1R04Y> (accessed on 05.05.2023)
66. Consequences of the shelling of Donetsk on 27.08.2014 (published on 28.08.2014) Mail.Ru Video. URL: <https://my.mail.ru/mail/krivosheya85/video/112/25625.html> (accessed on 05.05.2023)
67. Kindergarten No. 16, Kalininskiy district, after the shelling on 27.08.2014 (published on 28.08.2014) YouTube Video Hosting. URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUrhkq9E4wQ> (accessed on 05.05.2023)
68. The Ukrainian military lost armored vehicles and Grads during the retreat (published on 28.08.2014) NTV website. URL: <https://www.ntv.ru/video/971187/> (accessed on 05.05.2023)

ANNEXES

Annex 1

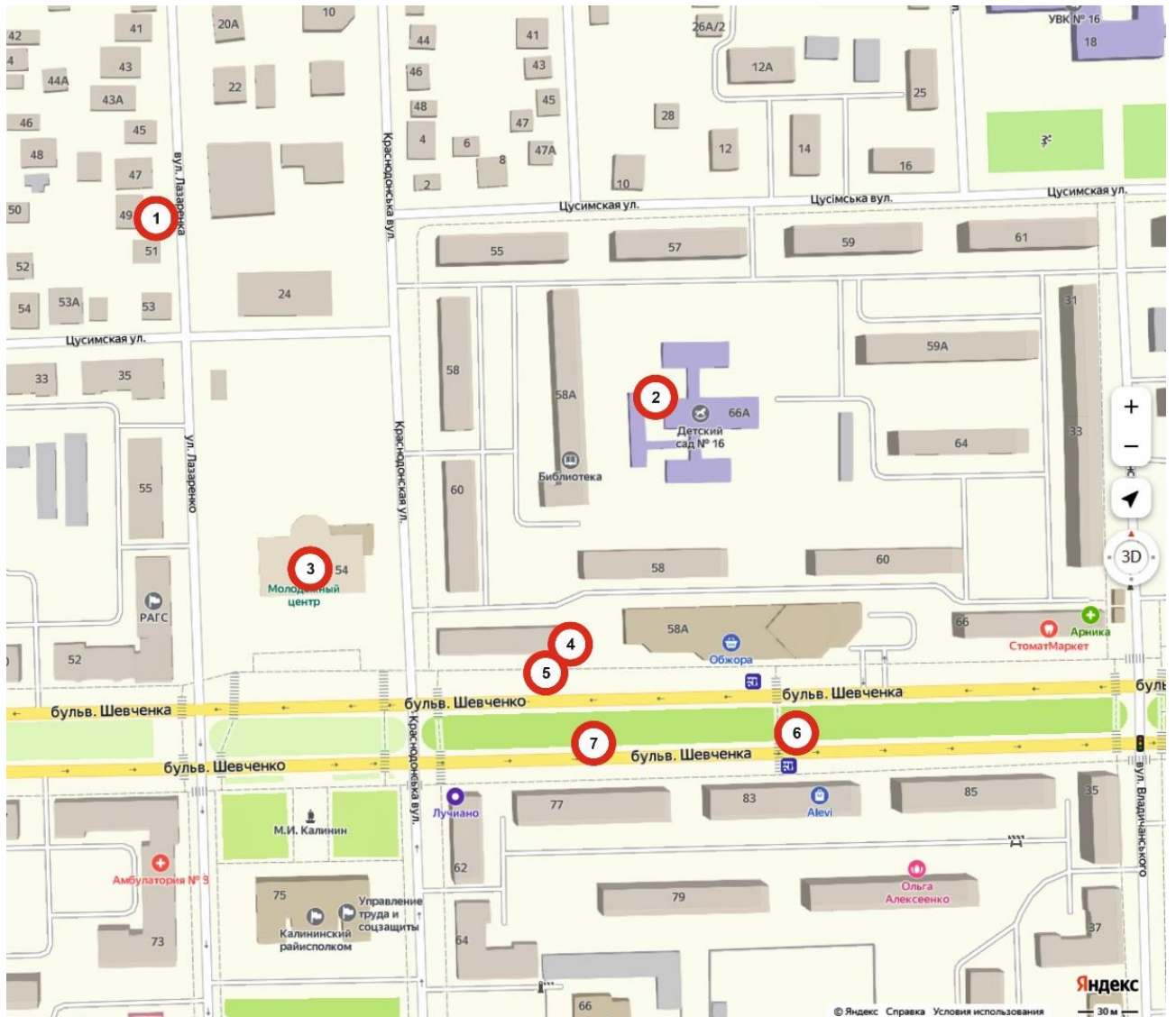


Fig. 1 – Scheme of shelling of the Kalininskiy District of Donetsk on August 27, 2014.



Fig. 2 – Consequences of shell hitting the territory of a private household at 49, Lazarenko St.³³.

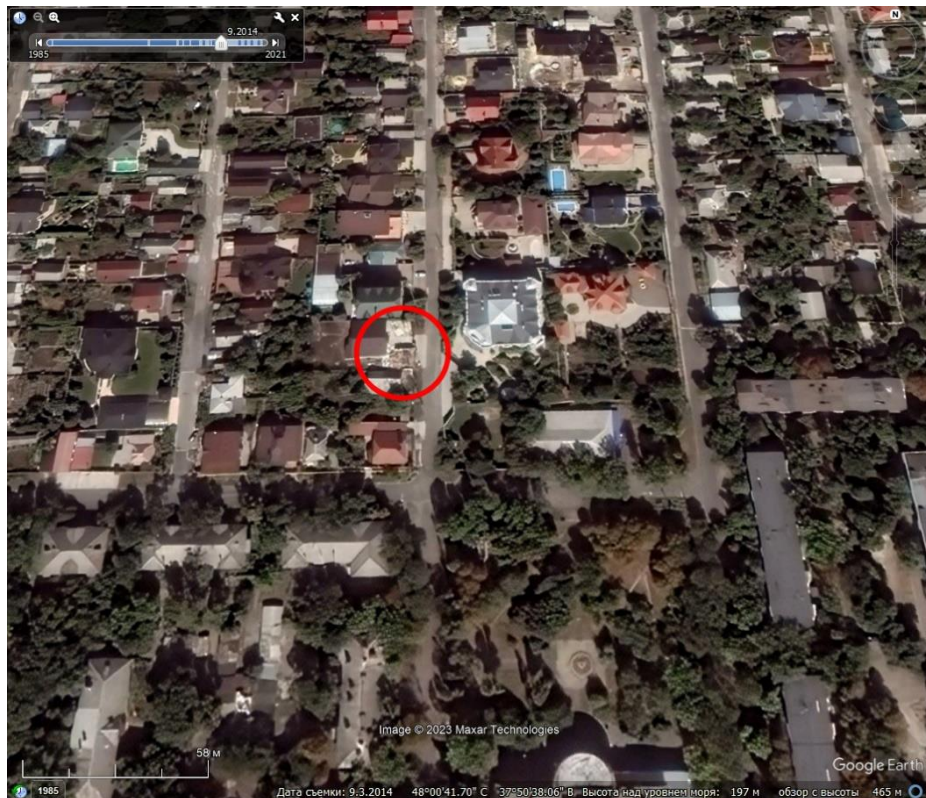


Fig. 3 – The consequences of shell hitting the territory of a private household at 49, Lazarenko Street, in a satellite image dated September 3, 2014.

³³ Shelling of Shevchenko Boulevard in Donetsk. 27.08.2014. (published on 28.04.2014) VKontakte Social Network URL: https://vk.com/video-66814423_169821990 (accessed on 21.12.2021)



Fig. 4 – The site of the shell hitting the ground in the territory of the educational complex No. 16 at 66A, Shevchenko Blvd.³⁴.



Fig. 5 – Consequences of shell hitting the territory of the educational complex No. 16 at 66A, Shevchenko Blvd.³⁴

³⁴ Children's Educational Complex No. 16 DONETSK Kalininskiy market 27.08.2014. 14:52 Mortar attack. (published on 27.08.2014) Odnoklassniki Social Network. URL: <https://ok.ru/video/16828074672> (accessed on 26.12.2021)



Fig. 6 – Significantly damaged passage between the building of the educational complex No. 16 and the garages at 66A, Shevchenko Blvd.³⁵



Fig. 7 – Consequences of shell hitting in the Palace of Culture named after the October Revolution (Youth Center) located at 54, Shevchenko Blvd.³⁶.

³⁵ Kindergarten No. 16 Kalininsky district after the shelling on 27.08.2014 (published on 27.08.2014) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/aUrhkq9E4wQ> (accessed on 03.02.2022)

³⁶ New. In Donetsk, three people burned to death after shelling. 27.08.2014. (published on 28.08.2014) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/kpUMzWlsPYM> (accessed on 26.12.2021)

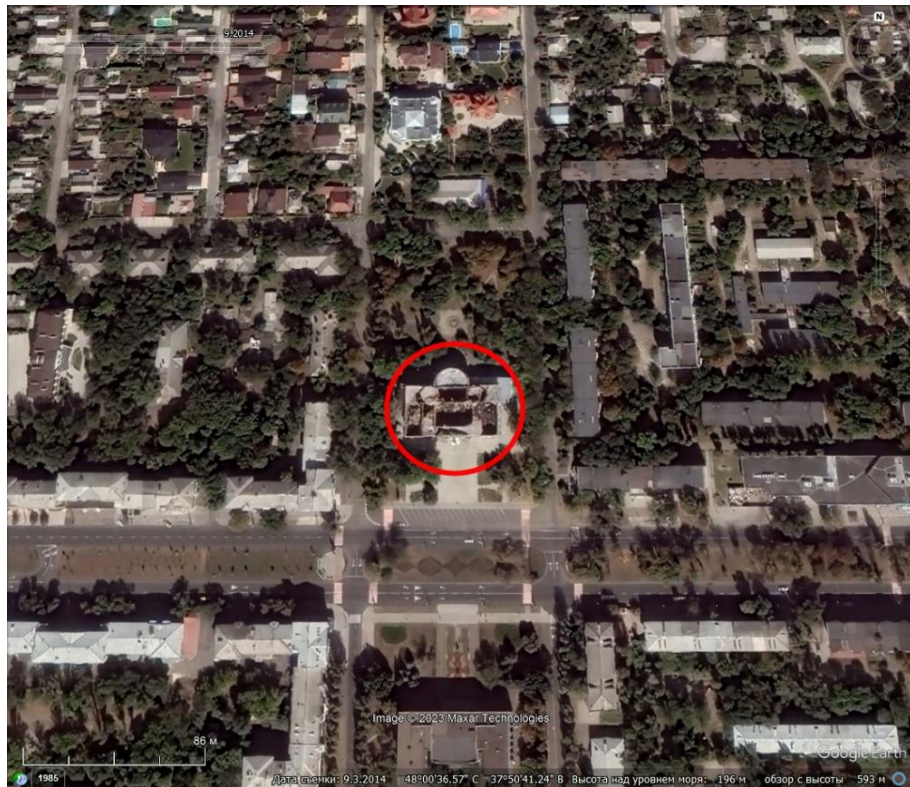


Fig. 8 – Consequences of shell hitting in the Palace of Culture named after the October Revolution (Youth Center) located at 54, Shevchenko Blvd. in the satellite image dated 03.09.2014.



Fig. 9 – The trace of projectile hitting in the roof of the multi-storey residential building at 56, Shevchenko Blvd. (left: view from the building roof³⁷; right: view from the roadway in Shevchenko Blvd³⁸).

³⁷ New. In Donetsk, three people burned to death after shelling. 27.08.2014. (published on 28.08.2014) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/kpUMzWIsPYM> (accessed on 26.12.2021)

³⁸ SHELLING OF DONETSK on 27.08.2014 at 15-00 Shevchenko Blvd, nearby OBZHORA Trading Center (published on 27.08.2014) Odnoklassniki Social Network. URL: <https://ok.ru/video/5724112193> (accessed on 26.12.2021)



Fig. 10 – Consequences of projectile hitting in a multi-storey residential building at 56, Shevchenko Blvd.³⁹

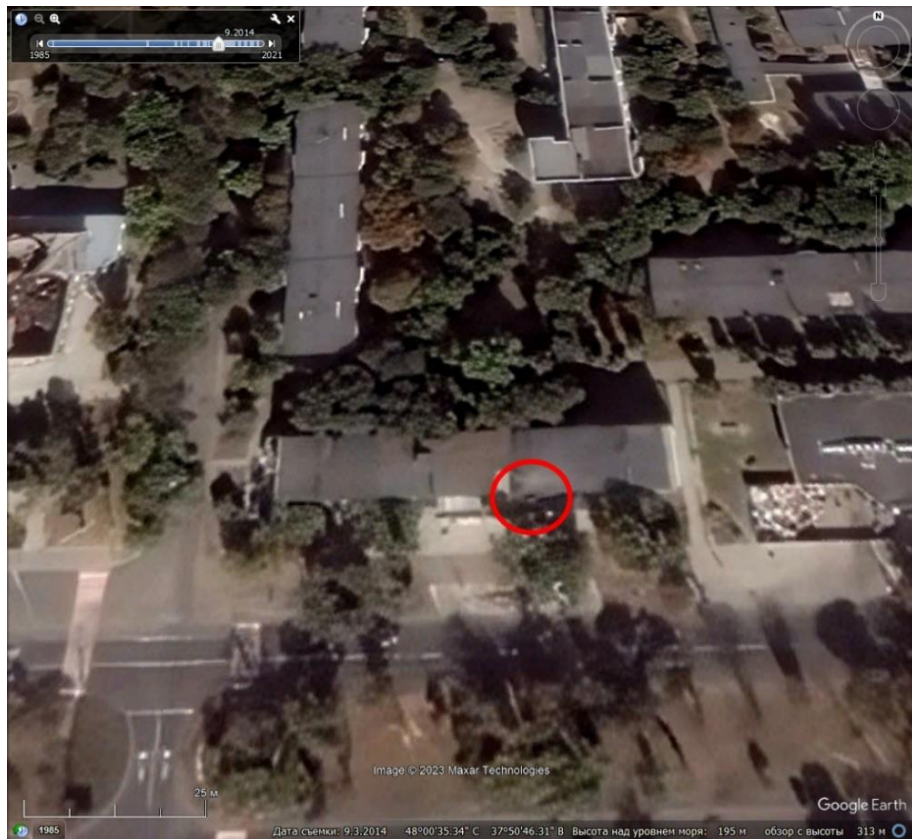


Fig. 11 – The trace of projectile hitting in a multi-storey residential building at 56, Shevchenko Blvd. in the satellite image dated 03.09.2014.

³⁹ Successive shelling of Donetsk: a shell hit a car, a youth center was destroyed (published on 28.08.2014) Odnoklassniki Social Network. URL: <https://ok.ru/video/5817435446> (accessed on 26.12.2021)

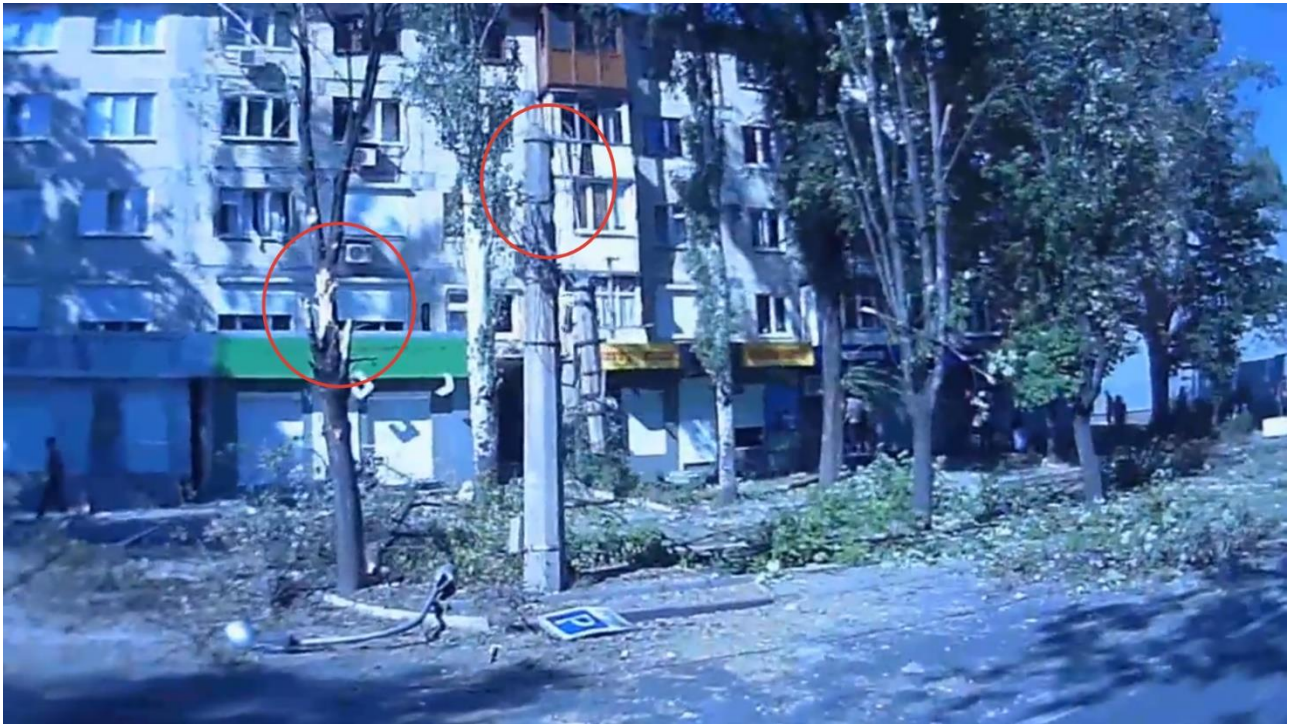


Fig. 12 – The place where the shell hit the crown of a tree, opposite the residential building at 56, Shevchenko Boulevard⁴⁰.



Fig. 13 – The site of the shell hit in the ground about 25 meters north of the northern part of a multi-storey residential building at 83, Shevchenko Blvd.⁴¹

⁴⁰ Odnoklassniki Social Network. URL: <https://ok.ru/video/846832405147> (accessed on 21.12.2021)

⁴¹ 27 08 2014 Donetsk. Shelling of the Kalininskiy district, Obzhora (published on 27.08.2014) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/oTs9ESk2iKI> (accessed on 21.12.2021)



Fig. 14 – The trace of projectile hitting in the ground opposite the multi-storey residential building at 83, Shevchenko Blvd.



Fig. 15 – A wounded civilian with a severed right leg in Shevchenko Blvd.⁴²

⁴² Donetsk. Shevchenko Blvd. after the shelling by special forces killing squads (published on 25.09.2014) Odnoklassniki Social Network. URL: <https://ok.ru/video/16233532158> (accessed on 19.02.2022)



Fig. 16 – The site of the shell hit in the pedestrian footpath about 20 meters north of the northern part of a multi-storey residential building at 77, Shevchenko Blvd.⁴³.

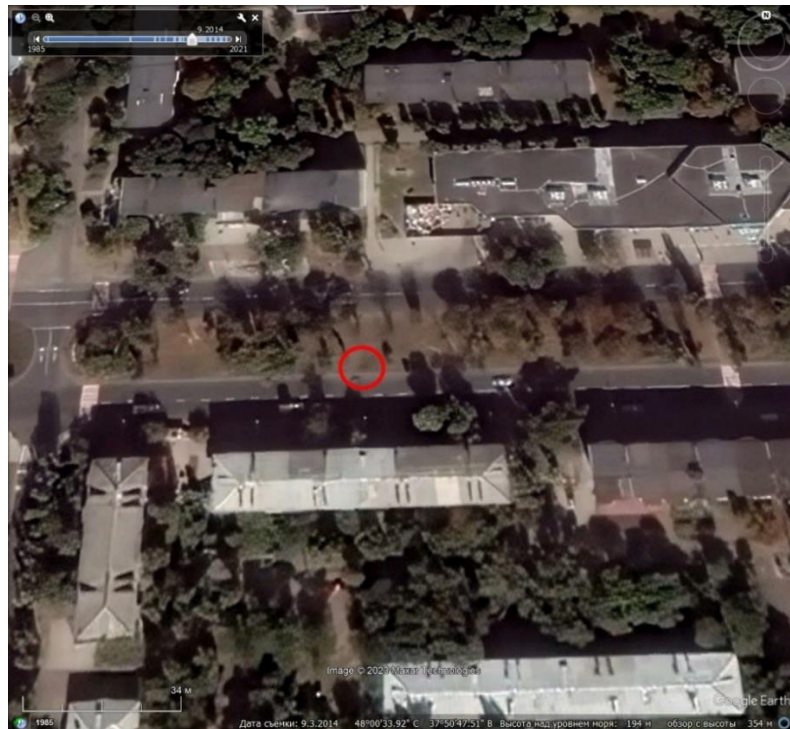


Fig. 17 – The trace of projectile hitting in the pedestrian footpath opposite the multi-storey residential building at 77, Shevchenko Blvd. in the satellite image dated 03.09.2014.

⁴³ Shelling of Shevchenko Boulevard in Donetsk. 27.08.2014. (published on 28.04.2014) VKontakte Social Network URL: https://vk.com/video-66814423_169821990 (accessed on 21.12.2021)



Fig. 18 – Dead civilians in a burnt-out VAZ-2106 Zhiguli passenger car⁴⁴.



Fig. 19 – A black mark on the asphalt surface left by a burning VAZ-2106 Zhiguli passenger car⁴⁵.

⁴⁴ Donetsk on 27.08.2014. Killing of civilians by the Kyiv junta. The video was filmed by our DPR rapid response liaison officers, who almost came under fire. For the “Let’s save Donbass” group (published on 27.08.2014) VKontakte Social Network. URL: https://vk.com/video188071357_169993195 (accessed on 21.12.2021)

⁴⁵ Donetsk on 27.08.2014. Killing of civilians by the Kyiv junta. The video was filmed by our DPR rapid response liaison officers, who almost came under fire. For the “Let’s save Donbass” group (published on 27.08.2014) VKontakte Social Network. URL: https://vk.com/video188071357_169993195 (accessed on 21.12.2021)



Fig. 20 – A civilian who was fatally wounded in a parking lot near the multi-story residential building at 77, Shevchenko Blvd.⁴⁶



Fig. 21 – Shell fragments found in the vicinity of shell hits 4 and 5 in Shevchenko Blvd.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Shelling of Shevchenko Boulevard in Donetsk. 27.08.2014. (published on 28.04.2014) VKontakte Social Network URL: https://vk.com/video-66814423_169821990 (accessed on 21.12.2021)

⁴⁷ ATO. Shelling of Donetsk on 27.08.2014 Part 2 (published on 28.08.2014) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/TdO6jTnr-kk> (accessed on 21.12.2021)

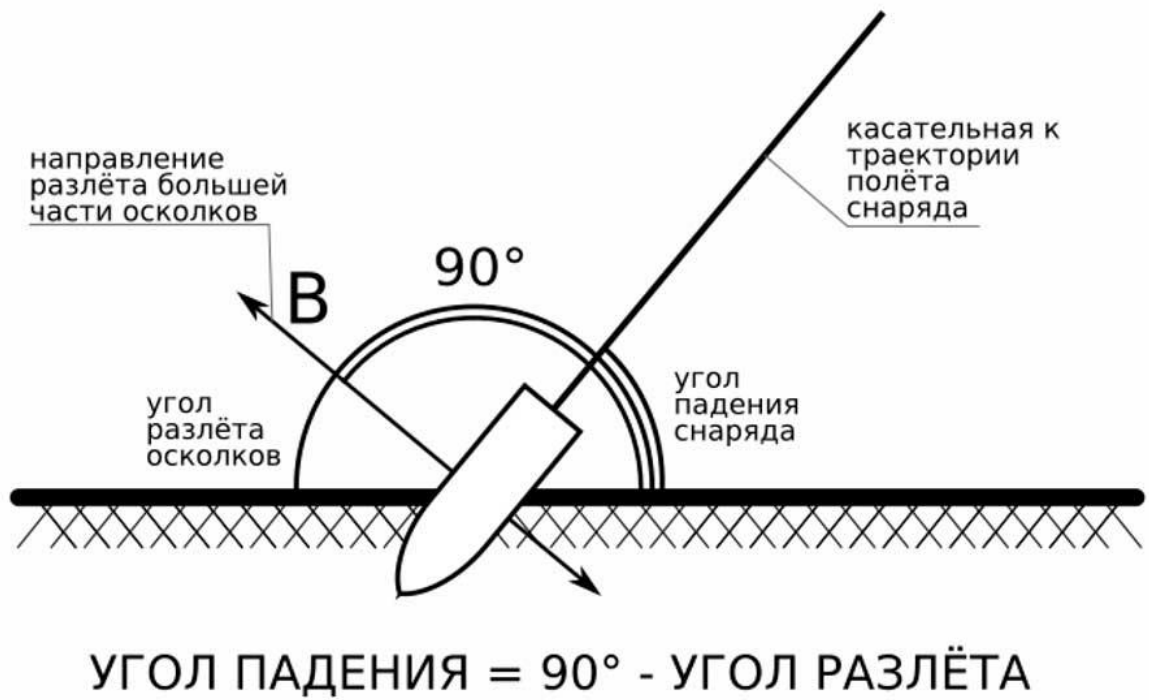


Fig. 22 – Determination of the projectile grazing angle.



Fig. 23 – Determination of the fragment scattering angle (shell hit 7).



Fig. 24 – Determination of the angle of a projectile arrival based on the trace of the main scatter of fragments on the wall of the building of educational complex No. 16.



Fig. 25 – Determination of the angle of a projectile arrival based on the trace of the main scatter of fragments on the garage wall of educational complex No. 16.

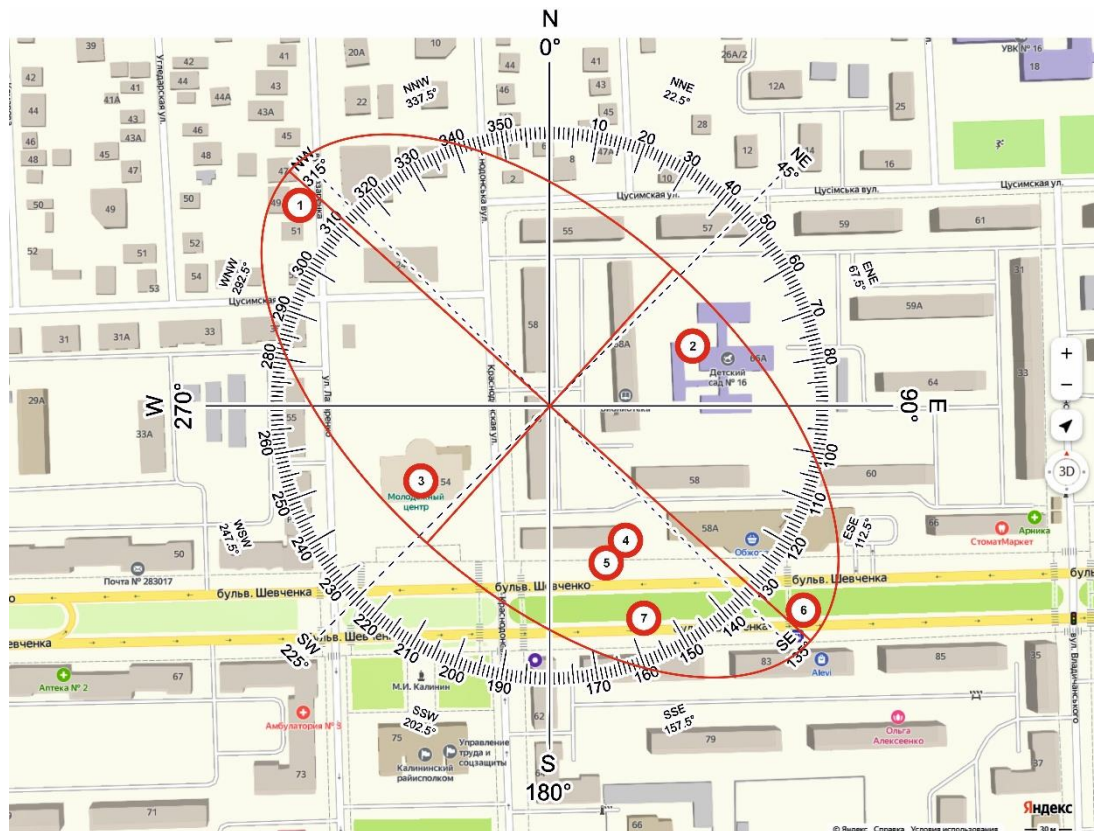


Fig. 26 – Hits of the shelling under consideration inscribed in an oval.



Fig. 27 – Traces from the main scatter of fragments on the wall to the south-west of shell hit 2 (photo dated February 12, 2022).



Fig. 28 – Traces from the main scatter of fragments on the wall to the north-east of shell hit 2 (photo from February 12, 2022).

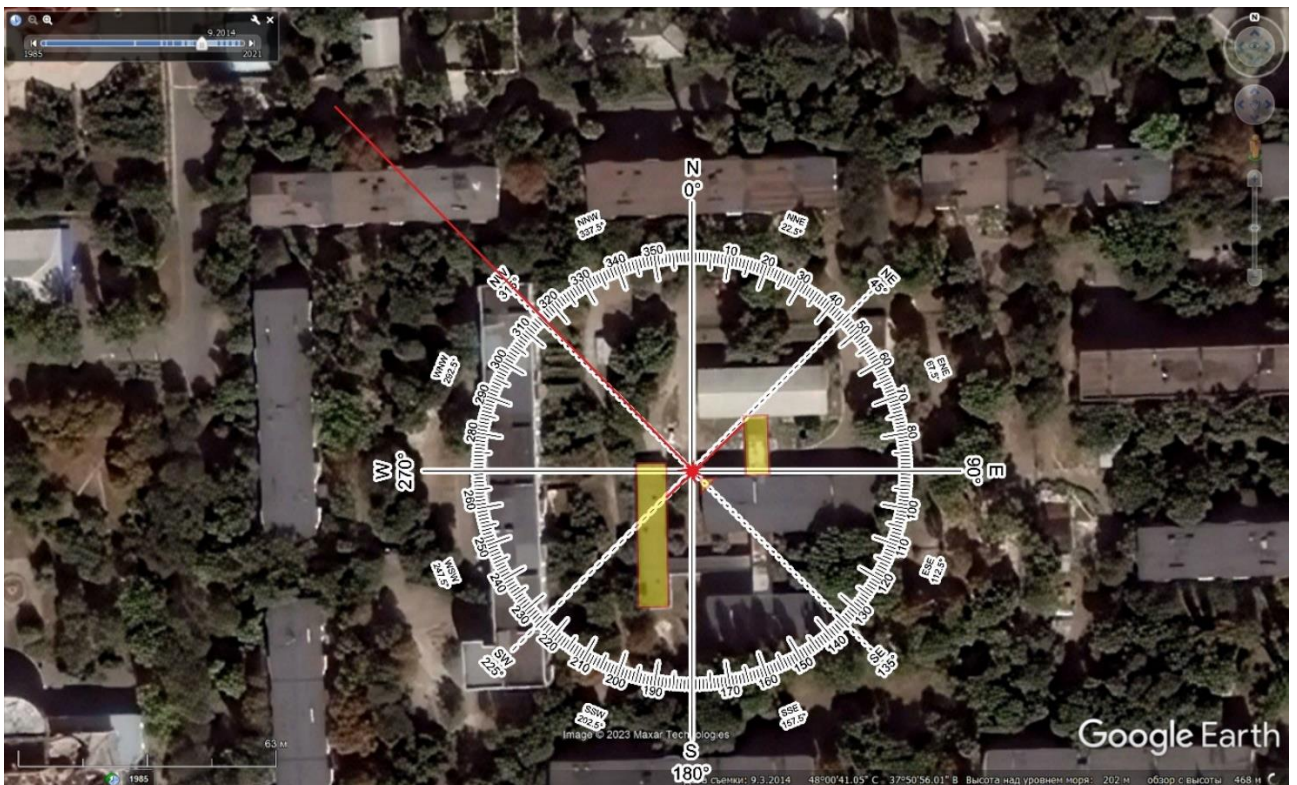


Fig. 29 – Shelling direction in the case of shell hit 2.



Fig. 30 – Traces from the main scatter of fragments on the wall to the south-west of shell hit 7 (photo dated February 12, 2022).

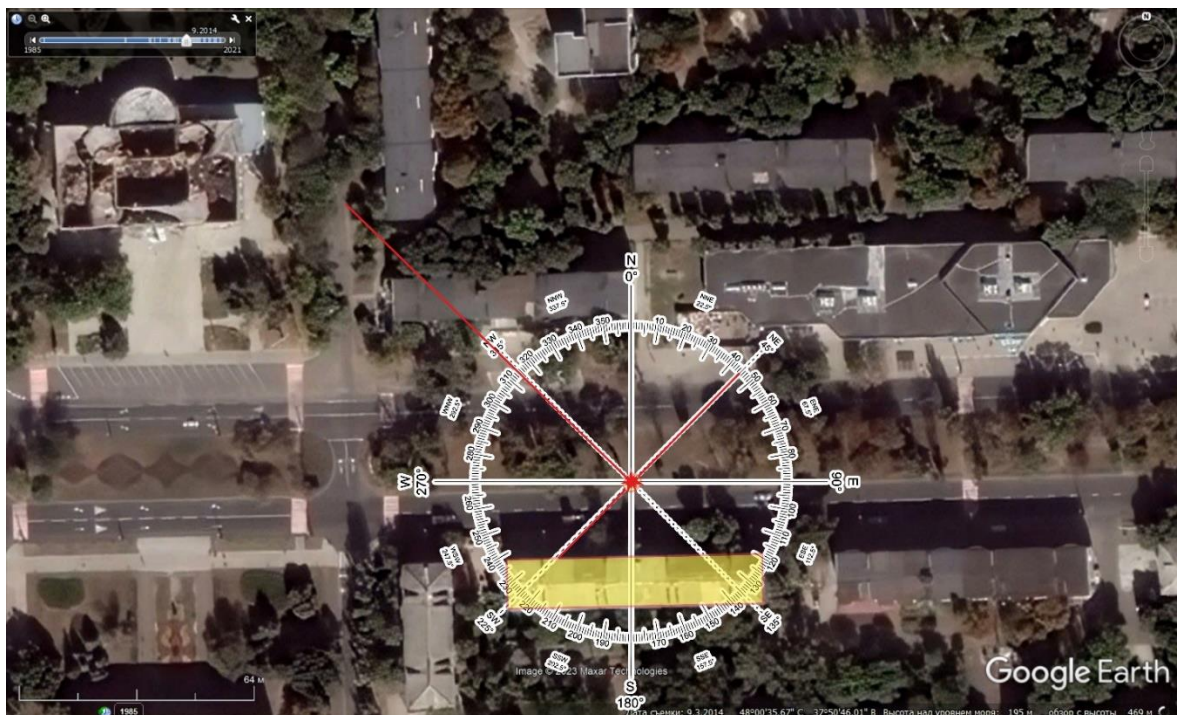


Fig. 31 – Shelling direction in the case of shell hit 6.

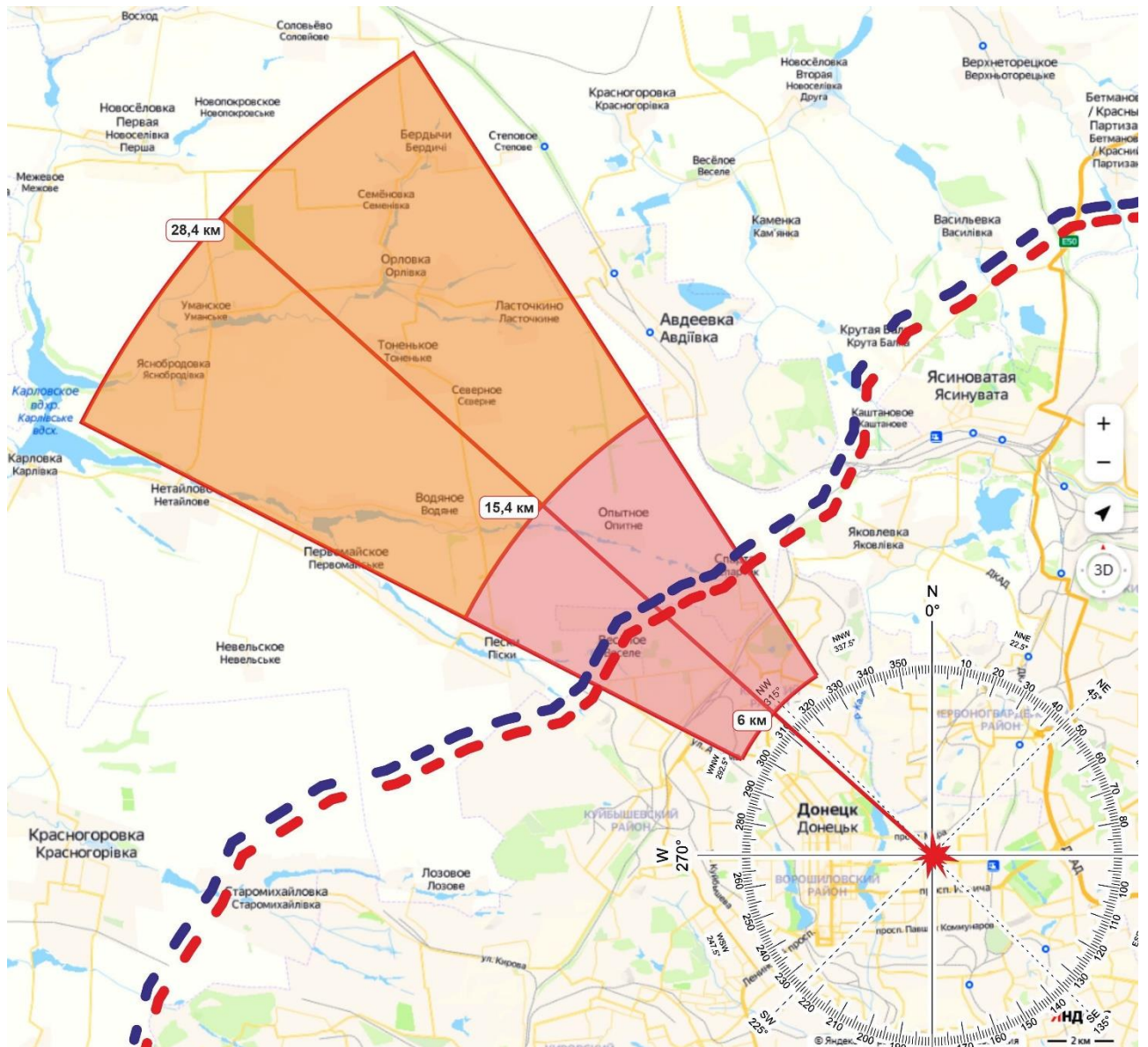


Fig. 32 – A diagram of the sector from which the Kalininskiy district of Donetsk could be shelled on 27.08.2014. 122 mm guns – range from 6 km to 15.4 km. 152 mm guns – range from 6 km to 28.4 km.



Fig. 33 – The traces of artillery work between settlements Severnoye and Avdeyevka.

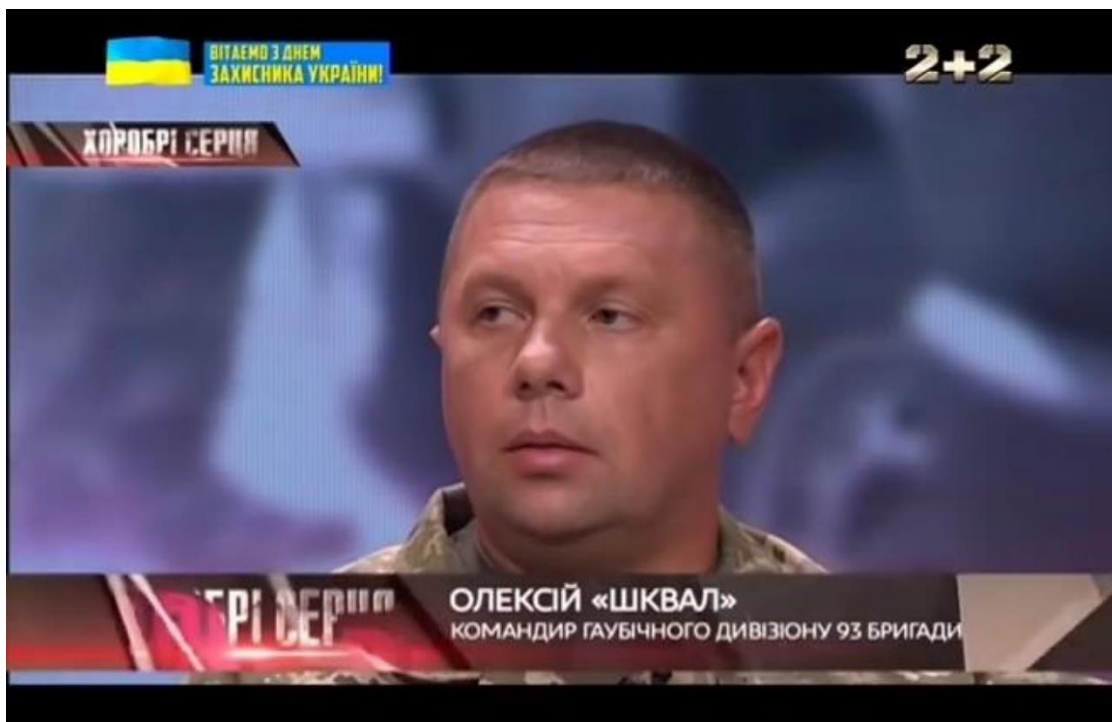


Fig. 34 – The 93rd IMB Howitzer Division Commander, Aleksey Leonidovych Dubovik⁴⁸.

⁴⁸ Brave hearts. Artillerymen (published on 14.10.2015) YouTube Video hosting. URL: <https://youtu.be/DFwCG19BArs> (accessed on 05.05.2023)



Fig. 35– Commander of the 3rd Kirovograd Special Forces Regiment Alexander Sergeyevych Trepak⁴⁹.

⁴⁹ Person of the year (published on 30.12.2014) NV Project. URL: <https://nv.ua/ukr/project/person-of-the-year-40003280.html> (accessed on 05.05.2023)