

PREPARED TO ANTICIPATE ARTILLERY & CANNONS FIRING BARRAGES WHENEVER FLAMES OF SIGNIFICANT COLOR OR COLORS.

GO ON TARGET DESIGNATION:

THE GERMANS USE THEIR MACHINE PISTOL AS A MEAN OF COMMUNICATION. FOR EXAMPLE, A GERMAN PATROL MIGHT FIRE BURST OF TWO OR THREE'S, WHICH WOULD BE ANSWERED BY OTHER PATROL LATER BY OTHER MACHINE PISTOL IN OTHER AREA ALONG THE FRONT AND BEHIND IT. LATER THE NEAREST GERMAN PATROL WOULD FIRE "TRACER BULLETS" OVER A CERTAIN AREA, AND THEN, AFTER APPROXIMATELY 4 OR 5 MINUTES, THE GERMANS WOULD CONCENTRATE HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE ON THE AREA INDICATED BY THE TRACER. THIS IS THE CONSENSUS OF ALLIED OBSERVERS. WHEN A GERMAN PATROL WOULD SPOT A SUITABLE MILITARY TARGET & THEN COMMUNICATE WITH THE GERMAN ARTILLERY & CANNONS, POINTING OUT WITH TRACER BULLETS THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE TARGET.

-LOVER TRAP:

THE GERMANS CAN ON OCCASION, ABANDON A PREPARED SITING OR POSITION, AND WHEN ALLIED TROOPS OCCUPIES THE POSITION, HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF ARTILLERY BARRAGE IS REGISTERED ON THE "ZEROED-IN" POSITION. THE 88'S WERE FIRED IN BURST OF FIVE, ALWAYS FOLLOWED BY A HULL OF ABOUT 10 SECONDS. THIS HULLING GROUND AND WOULD INDICATE THAT ALL GUNS WERE LOADED & FIRED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS DOES NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THAT THIS FIRING PATTERN IS ALWAYS USED. HOWEVER, COMBAT EXPERIENCE WILL SOON TEACH THE ALLIED TROOPS THE FIRING PATTERNS OF THE GERMAN ARTILLERY.

ADVANCED GUN TACTICS:

THE GERMANS ARE STRONG BELIEVERS IN AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND USE THEM IN GREATER NUMBERS THAN WE DO. THE GERMANS SEEM TO OPERATE ON THE THEORY THAT IF THEY FIRE ENOUGH AMMUNITION INTO AN AREA OCCUPIED BY OUR TROOPS, THEY ARE GOING TO INFLICT ENOUGH CASUALTIES TO MAKE THE EXPENDITURES PROFITABLE, WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE

FURNISH MACHINE-GUN POSITIONS SOMETIMES CONSIST OF 2 CONCENTRATED GUNS SITED TO PROVIDE CONVERGING FIRE AND A THIRD, LESS WELL CONCENTRATED, OFF TO ONE SIDE. AN OBSERVER IS PLACED BETWEEN THE TWO CONCENTRATED GUNS. THE THIRD MACHINE GUN IS FIRED TO A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION, AND TRACER BULLETS ARE USED. THE OTHER 2 GUNS REMAIN SILENT.

THIS TRAP IS INTENDED TO DECEIVE ALLIED TROOPS INTO THINKING THAT THEY ARE ONLY ONE MACHINE GUN BUT THEY HAVE SPOTTED THIS POSITION ACCURATELY ENOUGH TO WAGER AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE IT. THE TWO CONCENTRATED MACHINE GUNS AWAIT JUST SUCH AN ATTEMPT, WITH THE HOPE OF CAUSING MANY CASUALTIES BY SURPRISE FIRE.

OFTEN EVERY MACHINE-GUN IS SITED IN GROUPS OF THREE ACROSS A SUTURE ROUTE OF ADVANCE FOR AN ALLIED FORCE. THE INTENTION IS TO POINT AN ADVANCING ALLIED FORCE TO REAR, A POINT ABOUT EVEN WITH THE FIRING GUNS, WHICH ARE FORWARD OF THE REAR GUN, THE REAR GUN BEING THE APEX OF A TRIANGLE. A FIRING GUN SPENS UP AND WHEN THE ALLIED TROOPS DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TO THE GUN, THE ONE BEHIND AHEAD STARTS FIRING. USUALLY THE THIRD GUN WILL WAIT UNTIL THE ALLIED TROOPS HAVE MOVED FAR ENOUGH FORWARD TO BE OUT OF RANGE TO PLACE FIRE ON THEM FROM THE REAR. THE GERMAN THEORY IS THAT WHEN A REAR GUN FIRST OR SECOND MACHINE-GUN POSITIONS ARE SITED, THE THIRD GUN POSITION WILL ONLY MAKE THE ALLIED ADVANCE A COSTLY ONE.

THE GERMAN ARMORED HALF TRACK SELF-DRIVEN VEHICLE IS A MEDIUM PERSONNEL CARRIER USED IN PART BY GREATER GUNS, FITTED WITH TWO LARGE MACHINE GUNS AND ONE SMALL MACHINE GUN. IN ADDITION TO THE FORWARD MACHINE GUNS MOUNTS IN THE FRONT AND REAR, A LARGE MACHINE GUN IS MOUNTED IN A V-SHAPED SLOTTED ON EACH SIDE OF THE VEHICLE. THE SMALL MACHINE GUN ON THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE IS SIMPLY ONE CARTRIDGE LOADED PROJECTILE USED TO PROTECT FROM THE REAR & THIS PROJECTILE IS ATTACHED TO THE END OF A 3.3 FOOT LENGTH OF HOSE, WHICH INDICATES IT IS THE PROPELLING UNIT & THE TANK.

AS WELL AS BOTH WEAPONS IN THE PERSONNEL CARRIER THEMSELVES, THE FLAME THROWER PLATOON WILL BREAK INTO THE HOSTILE POSITION.

- (C) IF THE OPPOSITION REMAINS UNDER COVER, IT WILL BE "BURNT OUT". BURSTS OF FIRE FROM THE FLAME THROWER SHOULD BE PROJECTED ONLY AGAINST THESE TARGETS WHICH DEFINITELY ARE WITHIN RANGE. TO FIRE FLAME BURSTS INDISCRIMINATELY, BEFORE REACHING THE OPPOSITION, COERELY WASTE FUEL AND OBSCURE VISION.
- (D) IT IS IMPORTANT TO DIRECT THE FLAME AGAINST THE BOTTOM OF THE TARGET FIRST AND THEN WORK UP, SO THAT HOSTILE PERSONNEL WHO COULD HAVE LONG-RANGE AUTO-RIFLE WEAPON IN READINESS WILL BE DESTROYED.
- (E) THE TYPE OF TARGET AND THE COURSE OF ATTACK WILL DETERMINE WHETHER FIRE IS TO BE OPENED WHILE ON THE MOVE OR AT THE HALT.
- (F) TRENCHES WILL BE CROSSED AND ENGAGED FROM THE FLANK. TREE TOPS, ROOFS, AND RAISED PLATFORMS CAN BE SET A FIRE IF THE PRESENCE OF HOSTILE SOLDIERS IS SUSPECTED.
- (G) IF A FLAME BOMBINATION IS DESIRED, THE TARGET FIRST WILL BE SPRAYED WITH OIL AND THEN IGNITED BY A BURST OF FIRE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE WHEN ATTACKING SLOPES, TRENCHES, ENTRANCES TO PILL BOXES ETC.
- (H) FIRE WILL NOT BE OPENED IN THICK, NATURAL JOG, EXCEPT BY SPECIAL ORDER.

GERMAN NOTES ON MACHINE-GUN TACTICS

USEFUL INFORMATION IS AT HAND REGARDING THE GERMAN SECTION OF TWO LIGHT MACHINE-GUN SUCH AS IS FOUND IN THE INFANTRY REGIMENTS OF PANZER AND PANZER GRENADIER DIVISIONS.

FOR OPERATIONAL PURPOSES, A SECTION OF THIS TYPE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS, AN ASSAULT PARTY (STOSSTRUPF), AND A SUPPORT OR COVERING PARTY (DECKUNGSTRUPF). THE ASSAULT PARTY CONSISTS OF ONE LIGHT MACHINE-GUN AND ITS CREW, A RIFLE GRENADIER BROWNINGER, AND FOUR INFANTRY WITH HAND GRENADES. THE PARTY'S MISSION IS TO MAKE THE FINAL ASSAULT ON A HOSTILE POSITION. IT IS SUPPLIED WITH EXTRA AMMUNITION, INCLUDING BELT DRUMS FOR THE LIGHT MACHINE-GUN, SO THAT A HEAVY RATE OF FIRE COMBINED WITH RAPID MOVEMENT CAN BE MAINTAINED IN THE DECISIVE MOMENTS OF THE ATTACK. THE COVERING PARTY, WITH THE SECOND LIGHT MACHINE-GUN, REMAINS BEHIND TO PROVIDE SUPPORTING FIRE. A SNIPESHOTTER, WITH A SNIPERS RIFLE EQUIPPED WITH A TELESCOPIC SIGHT, HAS THE SPECIAL MISSION OF PICKING DOWN (NIEDERHALEN) HOSTILE COVERMENT AND OBSERVATION.

THE TACTICAL PROCEDURE FOR THE PLATOON OF 6 LIGHT MACHINE-GUNS, TO WHICH THE DOUBLE BARRELLED GUN SECTION BELONGS, FOLLOWS THE SAME PATTERN AS THAT OF THE REGULAR INFANTRY PLATOON. HOWEVER, THE MANNER IN WHICH A PLATOON OF THE FORMER TYPE OPERATES IN TRENCHES HAS THAT OF NEARLY TOTAL INTEREST. ONE SECTION IS DEPLOYED AS AN ADVANCE SCREEN, WITH ITS TWO LIGHT MACHINE-GUNS ON THE FLANKS. THE TWO OTHER SECTIONS FOLLOW IN ECHELON, EACH WITH ONE OF ITS LIGHT MACHINE-GUNS IN THE REAR. THIS FORMATION IS DESIGNED TO PERMIT A THOROUGH CONQUEST OF WOODED OR OTHERWISE BROKEN TERRAIN AND THE SWIFT REPOSITIONING OF A DEFENSIVE BATTERY IN THE EVENT THAT THE PLATOON IS OUTFLANKED OR SURPRISED FROM THE REAR.

GERMAN ASSAULT SQUAD

THE MANNER IN WHICH GERMAN ENGINEER ASSAULT SQUADS ARE TRAINED TO ATTACK PILL BOXES SUGGESTS THAT THE SAME METHODS COULD BE USED AGAINST PREPARED POSITIONS. IT IS USEFUL TO KNOW SOMETHING OF THESE METHODS, IN VIEW OF THE GERMAN BELIEF IN COUNTERATTACKING POSITIONS CAPTURED AND HELD BY ALLIED FORCES.

It is known that for a field exercises in which a pillbox was to be attacked, an assault squad of a German Engineer Battalion was armed as follows:

- ✓ Squad Leader (usually a sergeant): machine pistol, automatic rifle, 2 stick grenades, 3 egg grenades, 2 smoke grenades, and 10 smoke pots, and 1 pair of wire cutters.
- ✓ Smoke crew (Nos. 1 and 2): for each man a rifle, 4 egg grenades, 4 smoke grenades and 10 smoke pots.
- ✓ Wire-cutting party (Nos. 3 and 4): for each man a rifle, 7 grenades, and 2 pole charges, a Bangalore torpedoes and a pair of wire cutters.
- ✓ Pillbox assault party (Nos. 5, 6, + 7): for each man a rifle, 7 grenades, and 2 pole charges.
- ✓ Flame-thrower crew (Nos. 8 and 9): for each man a pistol and a rifle; number 9 carried 7 grenades (unspecified), while No. 8 carried the flame-thrower and 5 grenades.
- ✓ Machine-gun crew (Nos. 10, 11 and 12): armament unspecified, but probably consisted of pistols for each crew members, grenades, as well as their M.G. When a machine gun is not employed, these crew remain in reserve and serve as ammunition carrier.

AN ENGINEER ASSAULT SQUAD ATTACKS A PILL BOX.



The Squad assembled on Road shown in Figure 2A. After reconnoitering the terrain, the Squad leader selected the positions for the machine guns and the point where a path was to be cut and blasted through the wire. The Machine Gun crew took up position on the left flank, and covered the embrasures of the pillbox, while the Flame Thrower crew took up position, dictated by the direction of the wind, on the right flank. When a smoke screen had been laid, the wire cutting party cleared a path through the wire and the assault crew rapidly advanced through the open pathway. The wire cutting crew knifed up and assault the first trench or cut up, followed closely by the pillbox assault crew and the flame thrower crew.

The Machine Gun Crew No 2 Advance through the Gap while the Smoke Crew continues to cover the Right Flank. The Flame Thrower Crew works it way forward and directs the flame against the embrasure and against the door. As the fuel started exhausting, the NCO (CO) shouts, "Last Burst" the Assault party then places the charges in the embrasure and against the door & detonates the charges. After the second trench has been stormed & secured, the Assault party consolidates the position for any eventuality to follow.

One of the most interesting aspects of the German field training is that the Squad leader took his men forward & reconnoitered the terrain and the point to be attacked before committing his men into action. The implication is that the Germans place an assault of this type as useful in an advance against hostile prepared position, as well as in an attempt to neutralize a troublesome pillbox. Presumably the Germans anticipate that when one of their forward Infantry Companies has been pinned down by fire from pillboxes or prepared positions, the Assault Squad should be brought forward to knock out such positions and to permit the advance to be resumed. Such a mission might be performed equally well by a specially trained Squad from the Assault Companies and platoons now being organized as Regimental Troops on the Italian front. Although not all of the German Infantry units have the necessary equipments for such specially trained units to employ in assault tactics, one sure never underestimate the Germans on the battlefield.

Along IQUITER BENT TO
HOLD GRAIN STRAKS



AN 5-INCH MORTAR CONCEALED IN A GRAIN FIELD

FIGURE 23 ILLUSTRATES HOW "5" GUNS ARE CONCEALED IN GRAIN FIELDS ON THE ITALIAN FRONT. THE GERMANS USUALLY BURY THE GUNS AT 600 INTERVALS, QUINTE-FIXE APART, AND USUALLY IN OR BESIDE THE EXISTING FARM-VEHICLE TRACKS ALONG THE EDGES OF THE FIELDS. IN CERTAIN OCCASION DEPENDING ON THE TERRAIN, THE GERMANS WILL RUN A VEHICLE THROUGH A FIELD AND THEN BURY "5" GUNS ON THE TRACKS.

THE GUNS ARE USUALLY TAID WITH STOWS OF GRAIN OR GRASS, (DEPENDING ON THE NATURAL SITUATION OF THE AREA), PRESSED ACROSS THE TOP OF THE 5-INCH IQUITER AND THE FRONT BENT CURT THE STALK AS TO CAMOUFLAGE THE GUN.