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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT Soviet Artillery Tactics

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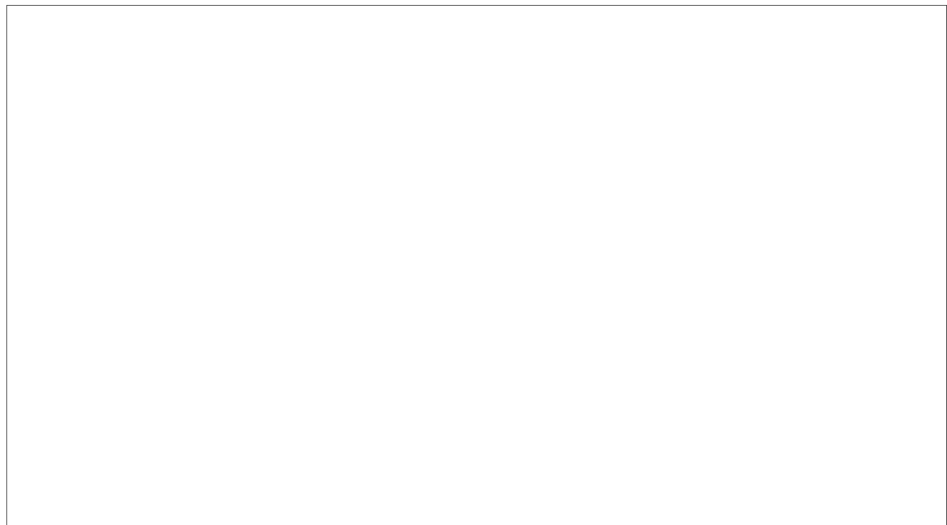
SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT

50X1-HUM



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50X1-HUM

1.



The deputy for artillery to the regimental CO, usually a lt Col and a graduate of an artillery school, commands a regimental artillery group. The commander of attached or supporting artillery units is subordinate to the deputy for regimental artillery, even if he outranks him (if, for instance, the CO of attached artillery units is a full col, and the deputy a lt col).

2.



The division or brigade artillery staff prepares an over-all fire plan, and then assigns specific targets to their artillery regiments which in turn prepare targets for each battalion, with the battalions then assigning targets to their batteries.

3.



A reconnaissance officer, subordinate to regimental or battalion CO, dispatches and controls artillery reconnaissance patrols.

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

5. [redacted]

The forward observer is the CO, and he directs the fire. A battalion CO (or battery CO) has about five to 10 men with him for fire direction and communication, not for security.

6. [redacted]

Battalion and battery COs organize AT defenses by directing all fire against threatening tanks. No passive defenses, such as ditches, etc. are employed.

7. [redacted]

Aerial reconnaissance, scouting by artillery reconnaissance men, and interrogation of prisoners are used to survey a target area.

8. [redacted]

Artillery and mortar units, attached for support, are released to local control only after termination of a battle.

9. [redacted]

The gun commander is responsible for the service ability of his gun. If a gun does not fire correctly, or the mechanism does not function properly, it is in theory not supposed to be used, but in actual practice the gun will be fired in combat for as long as it can fire. [redacted] all guns were in good condition.

10. [redacted]

At the end of the last war (1945) the Soviets developed delayed action fuzes, MD 7 and MD 8 /membrannoye deistviye7.

[redacted] shells with MD 7 or MD 8 fuzes bury themselves in the ground near the target, and explode later. They are used to fire on enemy pill boxes and machine gun nests. They are also used in fragmentation/high explosive projectiles.

11. [redacted]

[redacted] ricochet is accidental, and not a regular method of firing by Soviet artillery.

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION



50X1-HUM

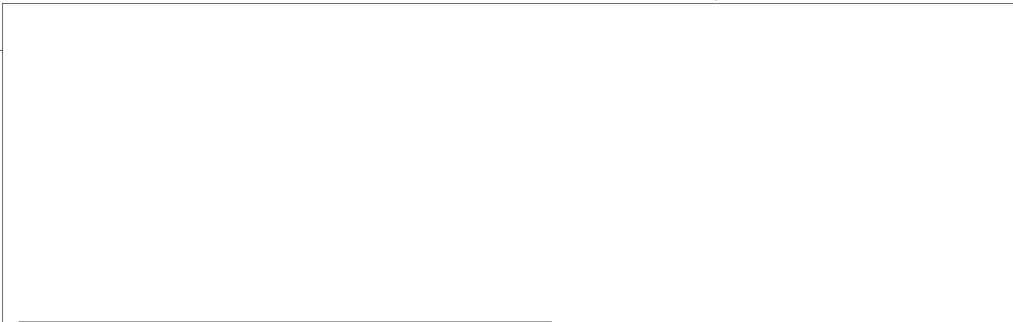
A. In a typical Soviet attack the following guns are used:

- (a) 57-mm AT guns for antitank firing; 76-mm and 100-mm for firing against personnel, tanks and pill boxes.
- (b) 122-mm and 152-mm Howitzers, 80-mm and 120-mm mortars, M-13 Rocket Launchers for destroying fortifications and pill boxes.

All guns can be used as AT weapons.

12.7-mm AAMG, 37-mm and 85-mm AA guns are used against enemy planes

13.

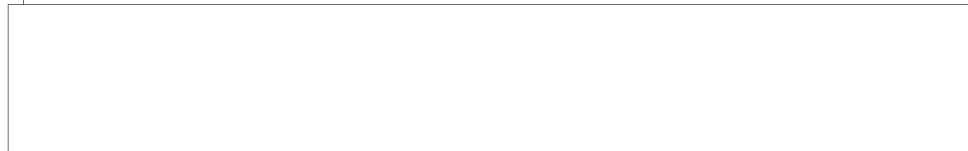


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50X1-HUM

SU's (100-mm SP, 122-mm SP and 152-mm SP guns) are considered artillery and are under artillery control and regulations.

15.



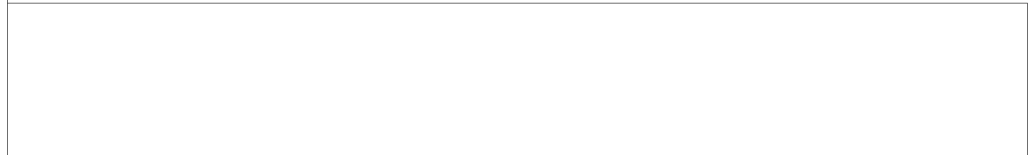
- (a) Subsequent concentration: all guns fire on the same target.
- (b) Standing barrage: artillery preparatory fire before the attack which does not displace.
- (c) Infantry accompanying barrage: guns either displace or transfer their fire.
- (d) Anti-tank barrage: stationary AT fire.
- (e) Rolling AT barrage: fire on tanks from guns which displace.

16.



Both point and area concentration fire are employed. Destruction fire with indirect artillery fire is conducted by firing according to map coordinates and by correcting the fire.

17.



SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-4-

50X1-HUM

19.

The deputy for artillery is subordinate to the CO and advises the CO in the proper use of artillery. While theoretically the combined arms commander or unit CO has the final say, the over-all CO will always be guided by the artillery deputy.

20.

Towed artillery in tank and mechanized formations has the function of mobile artillery to support these units in combined infantry/tank artillery attacks.

21.

A 76-mm or 100-mm gun will be in position and open fire within four to five minutes.

A 57-mm AT gun can be in position and ready to fire within one to two minutes.

A 122-mm Howitzer will be in position and ready to fire within seven minutes.

The battery CO supervises the firing, and either the platoon leader or NCO gun commander directs the actual firing.

22.

After a target has been determined, it is zeroed in by registry. The battery CO acts as forward observer and directs the fire by giving vertical and horizontal corrections by phone or radio. Then, reference points and/or grid coordinates and the exact elevation and azimuth are entered into the log of the gun by a recorder. The gunner /navodchik/ makes the actual corrections. The CO, acting as forward observer, has a compass, an azimuth scale, binoculars, a battery commander's scope, a radio and a phone for fire direction.

23.

Most concentrations are preplanned, based on aerial reconnaissance or on reports of reconnaissance men. If a surprise target appears, the unit CO, on receiving orders from a higher CO will immediately transfer his fire by direct aiming, without prior registry, to the target of opportunity. This transfer can be accomplished in one to two minutes.

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-5-

50X1-HUM

24.

The forward observer adjusts fire on a target by the procedure cited in [redacted] 22, above.

25.

26.

A battery is usually in an area of 100 meters square, guns 30 m apart, in line or staggered. The CO of the battery, with reconnaissance, radio and telephone men is usually in front of or alongside the battery. Guns are always camouflaged in revetments and are always in firing position between fire missions.

27.

The new 85-mm gun is a field and AT gun. [redacted]

28.

All guns available to the artillery deputy are used in a joint AT defensive barrage with a standing barrage, and an over-lap can not be avoided.

29.

30.

Fire can be transferred three to 12 km, according to the caliber of the gun, and is usually 100 meters in front of advancing infantry.

31.

In the Soviet Zone [redacted] There are [redacted] tracked prime movers for 100-mm guns. In the USSR all new ZIS trucks are used as prime movers. The prime movers are cross country vehicles and are not road-bound.

32.

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

-6-

The unit of fire for 57-mm AT guns and 76-mm field guns is 240 rounds, (high explosive/fragmentation and armor piercing)

122-mm Howitzer has a unit of 200 rounds^a In combat one unit is carried with the gun, and one or more units are in regimental trains.

33.

Soviet artillery has: direct support, (regimental and divisional guns support the attack) general support, (all guns, howitzers, mortars, tanks, SU's, rocket launchers), reinforcing (one battery helps other batteries) and general support reinforcing. If assigned batteries cannot accomplish the assigned mission, other batteries reinforce them.

34.

Dagger fire /Kinzhalnyi ogon/ is overlapping crossfire and is frequently used.

35.

AT units can be used as regular artillery if there is not sufficient other artillery for the assigned mission.

36.

Newly arrived artillery units move into position anywhere from one night to two weeks ahead of an attack, depending on the ability to advance without alerting the enemy.

The main consideration in the selection of time is the secrecy of the move. Moves are usually at night and without lights. Gun positions are reconnoitered by division and regimental COs with their staffs, who then assign the positions to battalion CO, who, in turn, assign battery firing points. The crews, arriving with the guns prepare the gun positions, with particular emphasis on camouflage, ease of resupply of ammunition, terrain features, and visibility.

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