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50X1-HUM

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1. Combat training of Soviet troops encompasses two elements, combat training proper and political training for the enlisted men. Political training covers the following points:
 - (a) A general picture of the USSR, with a discussion of its boundaries, area, population, wealth, resources, and its governmental and political structure.
 - (b) The constitution of the USSR.
 - (c) The military oath.
 - (d) The international situation, including a consideration of lectures given by various representatives of the government, resolutions passed at various meetings and sessions of the USSR.
 - (e) The autobiographies of national leaders like Lenin and Stalin.
2. The order of presentation of these several points is determined by the Main Political Administration of the Soviet Army via the military district, the Army and the Navy; it is then taken up by the divisions and regiments. The instruction is presented by the regimental propaganda officers together with the company and battery commanders at a definite time and cover the separate details of the several subjects. The latter officers conduct the exercises for individual groups of enlisted personnel, non-commissioned officers, platoon commanders, battery or company commanders, and regiment commanders.

1/1

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SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-2-

50X1-HUM

3. The enlisted men study the five points mentioned under a system of so-called political exercises which are conducted by the battery commander. Formerly, there was a manual covering these points entitled "Our Country". The exercises for the noncommissioned officers are carried out by the assistant to the battalion commander for political training and party organization. The exercises for the platoon commanders are conducted by the assistant to the battalion commander for education and political training. Battery commanders are instructed either by the regimental propaganda officer or the secretary. The battalion commanders are instructed by the assistant to the regimental commander in education and political training. Regimental commanders are instructed by the division education and political information chief. Whereas the exercises for the enlisted personnel deal with political training disciplines, in the case of officers personnel training (from platoon commander to regimental commander), such exercises are termed exercises in Marxism-Leninism. Rather than encompassing the five basic points mentioned, they deal with the History of the Communist Party, the basic principles of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin, and the international situation and lectures or reports by government representatives.
4. All exercises are conducted in accordance with the program of combat and political training, and are planned by the appropriate staffs. In the case of the privates and noncommissioned officers, the instruction is given twice weekly for two-hour periods; in the case of officers, the instruction is given on days set aside for commanders' training. However, on days when political exercises are conducted, the political information is given only to the privates and noncommissioned officers. This, then, is the picture of political training.
5. In his 2-3 years of service the service man studies only the five points mentioned. However, the five points studied include several score different themes. The personnel have great difficulty in assimilating the points covered in the political exercises. And the reason for this is simple. The privates and noncommissioned officers of the postwar period have a generally low educational background--this condition is particularly true of the recruits who entered the Army in the Spring of 1949. Mainly individuals in this group are quite illiterate. Thus, we have an illiterate soldier studying politics. Furthermore, at the end of their period of service some of these people will become candidates or members of the Communist Party. Thus, we have a picture of his ideology.
6. The matter of officer training in this respect is also not very exemplary. This is true, not so much because of their generally low educational status, as it is because the training presented assumes a state-directed form. For example: The study of the Communist Party is begun anew each year, that is, beginning with the first chapter. Obviously, such procedure can hardly be termed interesting. Actually, how much can you say about the social-political governments, etc., if you have served in the army for 10-15 years? It is not surprising, therefore, that the whole matter becomes a formality. The matter is somewhat as follows: The exercises are to be held on the following day--it means that for the sake of appearances, the subject is to be read over today, and certain question which can be asked will be asked. The exercises will be repeated in 10-15 days. And so it goes on for years.
7. Combat Training: The nature of combat depends, primarily, on the type of troops involved and encompasses a number of training disciplines such as the following:
 - (a) Special training (depending on the type of troops) for the different specialties, including signalmen, scouts, riflemen, topographers, members of computing and plotting sections, gun crew members, and radiomen.
 - (b) Physical training
 - (c) Rifle and marksmanship training
 - (d) Drill
 - (e) Tactical training

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-3-

50X1-HUM

- (f) Various service regulations
- (g) Engineer training
- (h) Automotive training, and other specialties

However, in addition to these several training disciplines, each of the types of troops has the most important training discipline for that branch. The most important training discipline for the infantry is tactics; for the artillery, artillery firing training; for the tank service, tactical-gunnery training; for the aviation service, aerial gunnery training; for the navy, tactical-gunnery training.

8. The personnel in an artillery regiment are divided into the following groups: enlisted men (privates); noncommissioned officers; and commissioned officers. The latter are divided into: (a) platoon commanders; (b) battery commanders; (c) battalion commanders; and (d) the regimental commander. The privates, noncommissioned officers, platoon commanders, and battery commanders may be specialists of various types. These specialties may include: scouting (reconnaissance), computing and plotting specialists, topographers, signalmen, radiomen, gun crews, and drivers (chauffeurs). In accordance with these specialties there are privates, sergeants (commanders of sections), platoon commanders, battery commanders, and chiefs of various services. The various specialists in the regiment constitute the so-called instruction base; these bases are distributed among the quarters. In actual practice it looks somewhat like the following:

50X1-HUM

The regiment is distributed for quartering purposes on the basis of one battery of personnel per barracks hut. The hut is arranged to accommodate the personnel and to provide separate classrooms for conducting the exercises.

9. Apart from the provision individually made by batteries and battalions, the regiment provides for the classrooms as follows:

- (a) The tactical classroom, which consists, primarily, of a large room with desks and benches. The training aids include a large sand table. The relief of the tactical terrain therein is varied in accordance with the tactical situation involved in the exercises. For the most part, the relief created is that of the firing range, that is, taking into account topographical maps. It includes the forward edge of the defenses based on the tactical problem, the firing points, the battalion, regimental, and divisional reserves, the zones of the main and secondary tasks. The regiment equips the classroom with various charts, diagrams of different types of combat, various forms used in orders and commands, diagrams of tactical distributions, various diagrams illustrating techniques in foreign armies, etc. All these devices are supplied in accordance with the program of tactical training for the school year.
- (b) Artillery classroom, which includes:
 - (1) A miniature artillery firing range, 3 x 3 or 3 x 4 meters in its dimensions. The relief of the locale in this case is fixed. On the floor there is a topographical grid having a specific scale (for example: 1 meter equals 1 kilometer) of real coordinates. The firing range is situated in such a manner that it serves as a continuation of this grid. On the floor, that is, on the grid, outside of the firing range, there are several firing positions and observation posts. The firing points are indicated on the firing range--points such as machine gun positions, antitank defenses, batteries, tanks, infantry positions etc. Underneath all these firing points there are small electrical bulbs connected with wires leading to one place on the side of the firing range. There are several firing points each of which has its own number. The general catalog has the actual coordinates of these points as well as the coordinates of all the firing positions and the observation posts. All these factors

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-4-

50X1-HUM

taken together are termed the combat formation. The firing range likewise contains reference points. The forward edge of the defenses varies according to the tactical problem. As a rule, the firing range is designed for three batteries (laths) which are placed vertically one on top of the other. Each lath, that is, battery, is divided into divisions for lateral (right and left) adjustment. There is a small carrier on the lath containing small charges (these are the shells).

The lath, which is moved according to the range, and the carrier, which slides along the lath, are activated with the aid of small wheels and strings. If the firing on the miniature firing range is conducted on a full topographic basis, the map corrector is used. This device consists of a plane table board with the same combat distribution as that on the firing range. It contains a celluloid disc and one slide.

In fire using battalion combined observation (SND) there are two aiming circles. Firing always commences with the solution of the tactical problem. The exercises in this classroom are held for the artillery fire preparation and artillery training classes.

- (2) There are various diagrams of artillery fire with theoretical explanations.
- (3) There are listed various commands as well as the forms followed in issuing orders and instructions. All this is taken from the firing regulations, explanatory bulletins, and manuals.
- (c) The equipment classroom contains the following:
 - (1) Various posters on the parts of rifles and on ammunition.
 - (2) A disassembled gun mounted on frames
- (d) The rifle firing range. This range is arranged on the site. A relief of the locale is created (it is a miniature of the original) and contains houses, churches, roads, highways, river, etc. It is here that tactical firing is done, though not with the guns, but rather with the carbines which are fastened to the guns.
- (e) The rifle range

The preceding represents the training base on the regimental scale.

10. Each battalion independently has the following classrooms:

- (a) An artillery classroom--somewhat smaller in dimensions than the regimental classroom.
- (b) The tactics classroom is the same.
- (c) The equipment classroom is the same.
- (d) The signals communication classroom, which contains various posters and diagrams, and disassembled telephone apparatus.
- (e) The radio classroom is the same.
- (f) The automotive classroom--this, too, contains various posters and a disassembled automobile.
- (g) The culture and educational classroom, where the political training is conducted.

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-5-

50X1-HUM

11. The battery has the following:

- (a) The cultural-educational classroom.
- (b) The classroom for noncommissioned officers (specialists) including scouts, telephone operators, and radiomen.

All the above classrooms are equipped during the preparatory period, that is, over a month's time. The overall worth of a classroom is dependent on the initiative and industriousness of the commanding officer of the subdivision.

12. Combat training includes a number of training disciplines which are called general training disciplines and are given apart from the special training and regardless of the individual's capacity. General training includes:

- (a) Political training
- (b) Drill
- (c) Chemical training
- (d) Physical training
- (e) Rifle-marksanship training
- (f) Various regulations:
 - (1) The drill manual (SU)
 - (2) Interior guard duty regulations (UKS)
 - (3) Garrison duty regulations (UGS)
 - (4) Military discipline regulations (DU)
 - (5) Unit interior economy regulations (UVS)

The foregoing disciplines are studied by all on the same level. After this, special instructions are given, such as:

- (a) For the telephone operators--matters pertaining to telephones.
- (b) For the radiomen--matters pertaining to radio.
- (c) For the scouts--artillery firing training and scouting (reconnaissance)
- (d) For the computers--artillery firing training
- (e) For the topographers--topographical training
- (f) For the chemical service personnel--matters pertaining to chemical service.
- (g) For the drivers--matters pertaining to automobiles.

13. With regard to drill, it may be said that the least amount of time is devoted to theoretical considerations. To be sure, the regulations specify the rules and responsibilities of the soldier--the soldier is expected to know these regulations. The noncommissioned officers are supposed to know a little more than the privates. They should know the orders and formations, the correct procedures in issuing commands, and instructions; that is, they should know how to command a subdivision. Drill training does not appear to present any serious difficulties; however, such is not the case. Drill training is of such a low order that the men in the subdivisions are still incap-

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

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-6-

50X1-HUM

able of walking according to regulations. If the soldier is obliged to serve 2 years, and the noncommissioned 3 years--in accordance with the law--both serve this time with the knowledge that they will complete their time; they do not serve with zeal. As to whether he serves willingly or unwillingly, it is hard to say. It is sufficient to note that there are no volunteers in the Army of the USSR, and that there is a military conscription law. I have already stated that the soldiers and noncommissioned officers serve 2-3 years; but if they are told to serve another year, and then go on to serve one, two, or three more years, we can see the reason for their poor combat training. It is not erroneous to state that during the past three years the soldiers and non-commissioned officers have been a problem to the government. Whether the government desires this or not, the situation is so. Generally, this difficult problem exists in all the training disciplines of the soldier.

14. Chemical training is given on infrequent occasions. The soldier is taught the construction of the gas mask, he is acquainted with a variety of persistent and non-persistent gases, and the protective measures.
15. A physical training is offered daily, usually 3 to 4 hours. The training is conducted in accordance with the Physical Training Manual and involves completion of separate sets of exercises for men with one year of service, those with two years of service, non-commissioned officers, officers, and officers over 35 years of age. The exercises are held in the so-called physical training grounds, that is, the physical training room. In this room we find the following equipment: horizontal bars, parallel bars, ladders, ropes, poles, rings, and vaulting horses. It is mandatory that all these exercises be mastered. On the whole, the course of training is very difficult. Many soldiers who complete their period of service still have not finished separate sets of exercises. It is to be noted that the 1949 recruits are especially poor in physical development. The men are small in stature, weak, and pale in complexion.
16. Marksmanship Training: The soldiers have as weapons the carbine, submachine gun, and RPD machine guns. Brief instruction is given in the construction of the weapons and in their tactical-technical data. Following this, they are trained to carry out the tactical exercises using these weapons. In the beginning, they are taught laying or training, aiming, different commands, targets, mounts, etc. First they fire blank cartridges and then ball ammunition. By the end of the year they should complete 1 or 2 exercises, according to the KOP (the firing training course).
 - (a) These will be from the Carbine Exercises No. 1 Practice Firing. Fire at a range of 100 meters at a kneeling target, dimensions 50 x 50 cm conditions--firing from prone position with use of a prop (parapet) with strap, time not limited, 3 practice rounds. Score--1 hit--satisfactory, 2 hits--good, 3 hits--excellent.
 - (b) Exercise 2. Firing at a range of 200 meters at a circular target, dimensions 1 square meter. Target consists of 10 concentric circles; the inner is marked 10, the next one 9, the next 8, and so on to 1. The circle has a radius of 5 cm. From circle 10 to circle 6 inclusive, the circles are black. Firing conditions: firing from prone position without prop or strap, time not limited, three practice rounds. Scoring: all three rounds must be grouped within circle 6, points not counted.
 - (c) From the submachine--Exercise 2. Firing at a range of 100 meters at kneeling target, dimensions 50 x 50 cm. Firing conditions--firing from prone position using prop and strap, time of fire unlimited, 9 practice rounds, fire by threes (automatically). The exercise is properly executed if 4 hits are registered in the target.
 - (d) Fire with the RPD machine gun. Range 200 meters. The firing conditions are the same as those for the carbine, Exercise No. 2. On inspection checks the officers carry out the same tasks, depending on who is representing the subdivision. In addition, all officers from platoon commander to the regimental commander conduct practice fire from the so-called personal weapons, that is, pistols.

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SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-7-

50X1-HUM

(e) Pistol firing is limited in extent, consisting of only several drills; there are 2 basic drills from exercise No. 1. Fire is conducted from a standing position at a range of 15 meters at a target 50 x 50 cm. The target consists of concentric circles, the central one number 10, followed by 9, 8...1; the radius of the circle is 2.5 cm. The first 5 rings, inclusive of No. 6 ring, are black. Time of fire--not limited. Three practice rounds. The exercise is scored satisfactory if three hits are registered inside of ring 6, it is rated good if three hits are grouped inside of ring 7, and excellent if three hits are grouped inside of ring 8. Drill No. 2. Fire from standing position, range 25 meters. Target same type as in drill No. 1, time of fire 50 seconds. Five practice rounds. The exercise is completed satisfactorily if 25 points are scored, regardless of the rings in which the hits are scored. Drill No. 3. Fire is conducted at a standing-type target (the figure of a man). Conditions of fire--leave shelter and run 25 meters, draw pistol from holster while on the run, and score 5 hits at 5 targets in a period of five seconds from the firing (position). The exercise is then completed.

(f) This, then, is a brief summary of the firing assignments for the individual officers. It is not complicated, but it requires nevertheless, meticulous training, particularly involving the use of ball cartridges; the point of the matter, however, is that ball cartridges are lacking. In actual practice, however, the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and commissioned officers conduct their exercises at the target range according to schedule, that is to say, they go through the process of conducting adjustment fire and laying procedures; the officers attach little bags of sand to their arms to keep them steady, smudge the sights, etc. In short, they click away with the slides and triggers. And so, the days and months pass by, and with it the training year. When the inspection check is held, however, they do not then simply click away with the slides and triggers--now they fire with ball ammunition. However, inasmuch as the bullets are in flight for the first time, they go in the air, and not at the target. Conclusion: The rifle-marksanship training is of poor quality in all the units of the Soviet Army.

17. Various Regulations: The study of regulations is conducted on pretty much the same basis as the other forms of training. The contents of service regulations manuals are mastered according to the intelligence of the personnel and depend upon the rank and official function of the individual. For example, if the matter pertains to the soldier, his functions, rights, and obligations are quite limited. If the matter pertains to noncommissioned officers, these responsibilities are somewhat greater. And in the case of the commissioned officer it is still greater, depending on his rank and the post he assumes.

18. Special Disciplines:

(a) Gun crews. The special training for these men consists of firing and the study of the equipment. Elementary training and final training during the course of the training year begins with a general orientation in the parts of the weapon, that is, the gun, and a consideration of its technical-tactical properties. It also includes the preservation and care of the gun and the speed of movement, depending upon the type of road. After this, the actual gunnery training is given, that is, instruction in team work among the gun crew, and the duties of each number, from the gun captain to the ammunition cannoneer. They begin to execute the commands. Following this formation of various sheafs: parallel sheafs, effective fire, concentrated fire, at target length; vertical laying, horizontal laying, fire by direct laying, and fire from a concealed firing position. The tactics taught the gun crews consists of the following: selection of firing positions, equipping the firing positions, taking up positions, changing positions, open and concealed, camouflage, etc. Generally speaking, there are many questions here. The course of a year's training boils down to the fact that the gun crew should know how to handle the gun; that is, the crew should know how to fire the weapon, not simply firing the piece, but firing at various types of targets,

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

-8-

including infantry, tanks, firing points, etc. This is provided for by the program and by the general instructions of the appropriate commanders and chiefs. These are the requirements and demands, but in actual practice the situation is far from such. By way of example, there is the gunnery service among the troops of the Central Army Group, in Austria. This form of training is at a very low level, that is, the gun crews and tactical teams do not have combat efficiency. This is explained, first of all, by the fact that they are not up to full strength. Actually, a gun crew should consist of 7 men--at the present time there are only 2 to 3 men per crew. It is physically impossible for these 2 or 3 men to handle a gun. In May, 1949, General Kozhukhov, Chief of the Artillery of the Central Army group, in accordance with instructions from the high command, personally ordered that the gun crews in the Central Army group were brought up to strength. However, there were no men available. Each unit expected replacements, but when the recruits arrived the sizes of the crews were not increased. This situation was true in the Central Army group as a whole. This was the situation in 1949. Such was the gunnery service picture.

- (b) Reconnaissance service. The main training for these personnel is reconnaissance and artillery firing training. Their training is begun with reconnaissance procedures consisting of: the purposes of reconnaissance work, types and methods, the characteristics of various targets, target designation (there are several methods). Selection of reference points and their purpose. Reconnaissance of targets, reconnaissance beyond the battlefield. Reporting procedures, observation. Keeping the observer's book. Instruments, including binoculars, battery commander's telescopes, aiming circles (PAB), scout's periscope. They study topography, conventional symbols, reliefs, types of military locales, range cards, unobserved targets, target maps, etc. They do very little reading of topographical charts. Tactics--selection of the observation posts, equipping the observation post, the work of the observation post during the day and night, camouflage, etc. Artillery firing training consists only of training in estimating ranges by eye, and rapid preparation of fire using the aiming circle. They fire only by the observed bursts, the most simple type of fire. In actual practice during 1949, only the commanders of reconnaissance detachments fired with ball ammunition--and even then all of them did not get a chance to do so. What can we conclude about the reconnaissance service? Reconnaissance, a special form of service, absolutely requires more general training. But, here again, the people for this work are unavailable. For this reason, reconnaissance is at a low level of efficiency. Those features which are required of reconnaissance units, namely, persistence and thoroughness, that is, ability to conduct observation throughout the entire depth of the combat area, are, of course, not met. This service is poorly prepared for present-day reconnaissance work.
- (c) Telephone service. This form of training is not so difficult that one cannot be taught something about the telephone apparatus, how to haul the reels around, the hooking up of communication lines and then repeating what the commander says, that is, transmitting the commander's message. Telephone men study the telephone apparatus, the work on it, they study the defect of the instrument, do practical work in hooking up communication lines, and transmit commands. Tactics includes laying out lines in various places, that is, in the forests, in the hills, through valleys, camouflage techniques, etc. But here, again, there is a general shortage of personnel. In practical tactical exercises the communications system never meets the requirements of the commanders in directing their subdivisions. In the momentum of battle, uninterrupted communication is not possible. It should be noted that not only the shortage of men (telephone operators) makes it impossible to establish communications in good time, but the telephone equipment frequently operates in a faulty manner.

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-9-

50X1-HUM

- (d) Radio operators. Exceptional stress has been placed of late on radio as the basic means of communication. The training of radio men has been well organized, so that these men apply themselves assiduously to their tasks. Various types of meets are organized among the different classes of radio operators; these are repeated annually. In short, radiomen are fairly well trained, but there is a shortage of them. They study the radio; that is, its circuits, trouble shooting, etc. The main occupation consists in the practical work of transmitting training commands using the microphone and the telegraph key (Morse code). Nothing detrimental can be said about the training of the radiomen. However, as is true of the telephone apparatus, radio sets frequently fail to operate. There is a shortage of power supply units since there is only one charging station in the regiment. The radio sets are not used in the daily exercises--they are used only in tactical exercises and in tactical firing. Hence, we have a situation wherein the radio operator may have mastered the theoretical principles of the radio in the classroom by having transmitted commands, by having received and transmitted messages rapidly and correctly, but having done no practical work on his own instrument; that is, he does not know its defects, nor what has to be done to instruments when they fail to operate. The radio operator himself is not to blame on this score, but he is never given an opportunity to work on his own radio when he is going through his course of instruction. It is necessary to note that units of the division and higher levels have refused to use radios made in Russia--rather, they are using German-made radios. It seems that certain modifications may have been incorporated in them by the Russians. There is some radio and telephone equipment of American manufacture. Radio communications is considered the basic form of communications in all the arms of the Soviet Army.
- (e) Computers and topographers. There is no doubt that these specialties require men who have had the best training. In comparison with the number of personnel in other specialized branches of service there are relatively few of these men. Until 1946, these people were very well trained. This is explained by the fact that they were selected from the variety of personnel who entered the armed forces during the war, that is to say, they had a good background of general training. This has changed since 1946, because of the gradual demobilization of the Soviet Army, and because the older personnel who had been specialists in this branch left the service. Today the personnel have a low level of general preparation. Their training, as always, is dependent upon the excellence of training of their individual service chief. The reason for this is that he conducts the exercises with them personally, that is, after the men complete their course of instruction in the noncommissioned officers' schools. Topographers have as their main subject the study of the topography of the locale (the relief), the study of the system of coordinates (local and national), various kinds of pictures, various intersections, and the tying-in of this with the combat formations. The organic equipment consists of one instrument--the theodolite. Generally speaking, their training consists in having them tie-in the combat formation of the subdivision accurately, that is, determine the coordinates of the firing positions, observation posts, and the various targets. The tactical fire of the subdivisions depends, mainly, on the work of the topographers. At the present time their preparation is varied. The 233rd Gun Regiment had the better topographers in the past; at the present time they are better trained in the 32nd Regimental Artillery Group. Generally speaking, however, the topographers are currently more poorly prepared than they were in 1946.
- (f) Computers. Here, again, the situation is the same as with the topographers. Their special training consists in artillery firing training. They are given instruction in the methods of fire preparation, that is, in correcting fire, not in artillery firing proper. They commence their training by preparing visual estimates of data for artillery fire; following this, they are instructed in rapid preparation of fire and in deliberate preparation of fire, that is, using the analytic and graphic methods of computation. Generally speaking, their preparation at the present time is considerably poorer than it was in the

SECRET/US OFFICIAL ONLY

SECRET/US OFFICIALS ONLY

-10-

50X1-HUM

past. However, there are not many of these specialists in the table of organization, and the number of personnel is sufficient.

- (g) Chemical troops. There are very few of such troops to begin with, and special training is not offered for them outside of individual procedures given by the chemical instructors to the enlisted men.
- (h) Drivers (chauffeurs). The matter of drivers in the Central Army Group is worst of all. There are nowhere near enough drivers; only 50 - 60% of the vehicles are serviced by drivers. Furthermore, those who can drive do so very poorly. To be sure, there is a division school for chauffeurs, but the whole trouble is that the men who come to the subdivisions from these schools lack practical experience. There is very little gasoline. The gas rations are very small and are always consumed in excess of the technical norms when the machines are in very poor condition. The drivers are very poorly trained, and there has not been a single instance of a subdivision leaving for exercises without having had an accident. These accidents are especially frequent during the winter and during the period of extensive exercises conducted by the Central Army Group. Their theoretical training is likewise poor, although such instruction is provided for in the plans; when it is given at infrequent intervals, it is of a very low order. The battery limber section commander conducts the training--he is the driver. It should be noted that the entire automotive park is very poorly prepared. I cannot recall a single instance of a regiment (to say nothing of larger units) having left for their training exercises without machines having lagged behind. You would expect that the condition would be better in the mechanized divisions, but such is not the case. Very frequently, the 13th Mechanized Division, in executing a march from Vienna to Allenstein, found its leading vehicles in the latter place while the rear of the column was still in the outskirts of Vienna. Such, in general, is the situation with regard to automotive training and the training of drivers. Nevertheless, the higher echelons are devoting much attention to the matter of automotive training. For example, in 1949, an order was issued by the Ministry of the Armed Forces making it mandatory for all officers to take the automotive course--actually, this order was not followed out. The reason is the same; that is, there is no chance for practical experience, since the officers have neither personal nor service vehicles.

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