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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

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1.

three major phases of Soviet Army training processes:

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a. basic training with a unit in the USSR.

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b. school conducted by a mechanized division in Austria for training tank crewmen.

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c. garrison training.

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2.

this report is divided into six parts.

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a. Part A is basic training with the 82nd How Brig in Mulinc (N 56-17, E 42-56).

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b. Part B covers training at the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn of the 13th Gds Mecz Div located in Goetzendorf (N 48-01, E 16-35), Austria. Although there were two

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training companies in the battalion, each with five training platoons, each training platoon had a different training mission. The first month of training was the same for all 10 training platoons of the battalion and was mainly a refresher course in basic training. Hereafter, this first months' training in Austria will be referred to as Phase I.

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c. Part C covers the second and third months of training [redacted] in the 1st Plat of the 1st Tng Co. During this period, [redacted] specialized training designed to prepare trainees of the platoon to be tank commanders.

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d. Part D covers [redacted] the remaining seven months of the course of the 1st Plat of the 1st Tng Co which ended on 25 October each year.

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e. Part E is [redacted] the training presented to the [redacted] training platoons and to the enlisted cadremen and officers of the battalion staff and the tank supply company.

f. Part F contains information on training schedules and other training data pertaining to the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn.

g. Part G contains miscellaneous training information. For better understanding of the training in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn, a T/O chart on page 37 is attached. This chart shows the ten training platoons of the unit.

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A. Basic Training

Assignment to Unit

82nd How Brig in Mulline, USSR.

At the time of the trainees' arrival in the brigade, barracks had not been prepared to house the trainees, and all spent the first night in the brigade club house sleeping on the floor.

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[redacted] officers of the brigade called all of the trainees from the club house and selected several persons who were able to write well. The officer asked these men to fill in personnel information on the printed forms. The information asked of each man was: his full name, civilian residence, with whom he had resided, parents' or next-of-kins' address, civilian occupation, place of last employment, and date of induction.

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4. [redacted] the trainees were sent by platoons through the brigade bath and outfitted in uniforms. After they were dressed, they were marched to the evening meal. At this time [redacted] received his first disillusionment in the army. The platoon sergeant gave the command to sing a song and there was embarrassed silence except for the sound of boots. The sergeant stopped the platoon and cursed them in foul language for having poor morale; an officer then came up and began to tongue-lash the platoon. The officer wound up his speech by saying that he wanted everyone to remember two things: that in the army what the trainees did not know, the army would teach them and what the trainees did not want to do, the army would make them do. They were again told to sing. Someone began and the rest of the platoon later joined in.

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5. The next day, the trainees did nothing except to remain in the barracks and get acquainted with each other. [redacted]

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Content of training

6. [redacted] training began with political studies, physical training, close order drill, and the study of four manuals. These manuals were the same as those used in the first period of training at the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn. (For complete descriptions of the four manuals, see page 9 paragraph 26.) For the next two weeks, about two or three hours each day were devoted to instruction. The rest of the time was devoted to fatigue details. After 2½ weeks, the trainees received one dummy carbine to be shared among four men. At this time, they began training in the care, maintenance, and nomenclature of the carbine. There was no additional weapons training except for one time when the entire battery of trainees was taken to the brigade firing range to fire the PPSH SMG. Without any further instruction, each trainee fired three rounds of slow fire at a head-and-shoulders silhouette target, 25 m distant, from the prone position. The only other training the men received was a considerable amount of creeping and crawling practice. Toward the end of basic training, there were two mock battles in the 3d Plat with 15 men on each side. This involved a lot of hurraing, creeping, running, and hiding; there were no casualties.

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Inspections and examinations

7. Each evening, the trainees had a battery CO's inspection. For almost two months, they had no other inspections. However, [redacted] they were examined by unknown officers from brigade headquarters. They were checked by these officers only on their knowledge of the four manuals, political information, and physical fitness. On this day, they also took their oath and from then until their departure date, did nothing except to stand guard. [redacted]

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Evaluation

8. Almost all of the instruction that [redacted] was conducted by the platoon leader, an artillery officer named Capt YUDINKOV (fnu). The rest of the instruction was done by the platoon sergeant. There were many fatigue details that interrupted training and the training itself was very sketchy and inadequate. One of the jobs the trainees had was to build a house for the platoon leader on the orders of the battery CO. The trainees were required to go to the railroad station and steal lumber, bricks, and other building materials for the house. This house was entirely built by the trainees and contained three rooms.

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B. First Phase of Training in the 1st Plat, 1st Tng Co, 55 Sep Tk Tng Bn**Organization**

The 55 Sep Tk Tng Bn was a training unit which consisted of a training cadre and two training companies. The student personnel in the training companies were partly replacements who had been sent to the unit from the 67th Replacement Depot in Kaisersteinbruch (N 47-59, E 16-42) to specifically take this specialized training. There were always a few trainees in the battalion who were sent from other units in the division to attend specific phases of instruction. The personnel who had come from the replacement depot were assigned to the battalion and remained assigned until the completion of their training course which lasted for approximately one year. After completing their training, they were further reassigned to other units in the division or retained by the battalion as cadre. The personnel who had been sent from other units in the division were returned to those units on the completion of the training. This battalion was a T/O&E unit maintained by the division for the purpose of training personnel in various phases of tank-team duties.

Pre-training Examinations and Assignment

On the second day [redacted] in the training battalion from the 67th Replacement Depot, the trainee-replacements who had been assigned to the unit with him were tested on their knowledge of the subjects they had been taught during basic training, i.e., close-order drill and school of the soldier. They were also tested on their physical conditioning status by the battalion's physical training instructor, Lt IGONOV (fnu), and were required to make a 100-meter run and a 1,000-meter cross-country run; they were not examined on their knowledge of tactics or other military subjects involving weapons. Close-order drill was tested by the company CO. At the time of the pre-training examinations, the trainees were not assigned to any company of the battalion but were assigned only to the battalion. They were housed in the companies until an assignment for them had been determined.

After the physical conditioning and the close-order drill examinations, a board of officers was assembled in the battalion. This board consisted of the training company COs, the training company deputy COs for political affairs, and one or two officers of the battalion staff including the Chief of Staff. The board determined the trainees' qualifications and decided to which platoons of the training companies each individual should be assigned. The processing by the qualification board lasted for several days.

Trainees were called before the board by name and asked to give their place of birth, their civilian occupation and specialty, and their place of permanent residence. After the board had informed the trainees about what phase of training was offered in which platoon, each trainee was asked to state his preference of assignment in the training platoons. [redacted] although the preferences of the trainees were asked by the board, [redacted] they were taken into consideration in actual assignment.

Replacements who joined the battalion [redacted] did not go through these examinations or appear before the qualification board. This was due to insufficient time before the beginning of the new training cycle. These men were merely assigned to platoons which had vacancies.

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Unit Training Missions

14. The 1st Tng Co had four platoons and each had a separate mission. The 2d Tng Co had five platoons each of which also had a separate training mission. The first platoon to which source was assigned, the 1st Plat, 1st Co, had the mission of training tank commanders for medium tanks. The course of instruction in all platoons of the two training companies was divided into two parts. The first short period of training [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was mainly a refresher on basic training.

15. The second period, which lasted approximately nine months, heavily emphasized armor instruction. The second period began [REDACTED] and continued through the remainder of the year. During the latter period, approximately six different courses were presented in the ten training platoons. The first period of training in the 1st Plat in the 1st Tng Co was the same as in the other training platoons of the battalion.

Training Subjects

16. The introductory period consisted mainly of instruction in the classroom and practical work outdoors with stress on the outdoor instruction. Classroom work in the 1st Plat of the 1st Co covered five main subjects of instruction: individual weapons training, chemical warfare instruction, study of four basic manuals, political studies, and political information classes; the last two subjects continued through the entire course.

a. Weapons Instruction

17. Individual weapon instruction covered four weapons, the M1944 carbine, the PPSH M1941 SMG, the TT-33 pistol, and the Nagant M1895 revolver. The platoon sergeant conducted all weapons instruction with the assistance of the squad leaders.

(1) Carbine

Students were first taught the nomenclature of the carbine with an electrically-lighted training aid which had a large-scale drawing of each part. The platoon sergeant described each part and its function. As he called out the name of the part, a squad leader plugged a cord, attached to the bottom of the chart, into a hole tagged with the name of that part. An electric bulb then lighted up above the picture of this part on the chart. Trainees were required to memorize each part's proper nomenclature and function. There were also cutaway carbines, showing the interior working mechanisms. [REDACTED] whether these training aids were home made or issue but claimed they were quite elaborate.

Students did not bring their own issue weapons into the classroom. The only weapon in the class was the demonstration carbine used by the instructor to illustrate assembly and disassembly of the weapon. After the instructor had shown the class the proper way to do this several times, he called each student to the front of the class and required him to repeat the assembly and disassembly of the weapon and to name each part and its function during the process.

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After the class had mastered these basic fundamentals, the instructor then discussed the characteristics of the weapon. These characteristics included its operation and its physical description, including weight, barrel length, number of lands and grooves etc., in addition to the maximum and effective ranges and other ballistic characteristics of the ammunition.

The instructor then discussed tactical utilization of the carbine. He stated that it was the basic arm of the individual infantry soldier and that, with it, the infantry was to overcome the enemy with fire and bayonet. This information was required to be memorized by rote.

The instructor then discussed the proper care and cleaning of the carbine. Students were taught that the carbine had to be inspected daily by the individual EM with the exterior parts of the weapon examined first for damage, rust, or wear. The front and rear sights were to be given especially careful attention; the bore was then to be examined for cleanliness and the belt was to be removed to inspect the interior for dirt and rust; each part was to have a light coat of oil.

The carbine was to be disassembled and thoroughly cleaned every five days. After firing, a soldier had to clean the weapon every day for the first three days after firing. They were told that in that garrison proper cleaning materials and liquid were available for cleaning the weapons. After the three-day period of cleaning, the EM was to go back to the daily examination of the weapon and a cleaning schedule every five days. In the field, soldiers were told to use rain capes or other field expedients to lay their weapons on for cleaning: they were never instructed to use hot water and soap to clean their weapons after firing. in practice, no soldier of his acquaintance complied with these instructions.)

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there was no cleaning liquid available; therefore, in his unit the men smeared, rather than cleaned, their weapons with oil after firing. There were never enough cleaning rods and the men were forced to cut long thin pieces of wood to run oil soaked rags through the bores.

(2) The SMG

The nomenclature instruction on the PPSH SMG closely paralleled the instruction on the carbine. Electrically-lighted training aids such as those used in carbine instruction were again used by platoon sergeants who did most of the instructing and again the trainees were called up to name the parts. Assembly and disassembly was accomplished by each trainee on the one weapon available for classroom instruction. Instruction then followed on the characteristics and operation of the weapon, again including weight, size, length, etc., the ballistic qualities of the weapon and its ammunition. Trainees were required to memorize that the SMG was to be utilized by the individual soldier for use in close-combat, that it was effective up to 200 m, and that it was to be utilized in subduing the enemy in a close area. Source did not remember any details on instruction on the care and cleaning of the SMG, because it was not the basic weapon for the battalion and he did not have too much interest in this weapon during the instruction. In his battalion, only squad leaders and platoon sergeants were armed with the SMG. However, he believed that the care and cleaning of the SMG would closely approximate requirements for the carbine. The only other actual contact the trainees had with the SMG was on days that they stood guard duty. On these days, the SMG was issued to each sentry for his period of guard. After guard duty, he was responsible for the cleaning of his SMG.

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(3) Hand Grenades

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Hand grenade instruction was also given by the platoon sergeant who described the various grenades in use in the Soviet army and their functions. This instruction covered about four hours in all.

ordinary offensive hand grenade concussion was the main topic for discussion. The other types of grenade covered were the defensive (fragmentary) and the anti-tank grenades.

Training aid equipment included actual grenades, grenades that had been cut away, and wall charts with cutaway drawings of grenades showing the interior components and their functions. Proper methods for throwing hand grenades from the prone, kneeling, and standing positions were also demonstrated. Later students were called before the class to show what they had learned.

The tactical uses of the three types of hand grenades were then described in detail. Students were told the amount and type of powder charge contained within each kind of grenade and its effective range. They were informed that the defensive (zashchitnaya) grenade was a fragmentary grenade whose fragments had, at times, a range of 200 m but that these grenades were to be used only from a well-covered fortified position. Offensive (napadatel'naya) grenades were of the concussion-type, which threw no fragments, and could be used by a soldier from a standing position without necessarily taking cover. The antitank hand grenade had a quality of adhering to the side of an armored vehicle and had a secondary penetration effect.

There was brief mention in the class of grenades which could be launched from a carbine or rifle but no practical demonstrations or training aids were shown. remember anything more about this type of grenade.

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(4) Pistol

Some rudimentary instruction on the TT pistol was also given to the trainees. They were shown how to disassemble and assemble it and told the nomenclature of all the parts, its operation, and its purposes. Because this pistol was not issued to the trainees and was not one that they would normally be expected to use, not much emphasis was placed on it.

Electrically-lighted training aids of the placard stand-type were also used in this instruction - the same type used in the instruction of the carbine, SMG, and revolver. The total amount of time devoted to the TT pistol was approximately two hours. Students were told that the TT pistol was to be used for ranges up to 20 m and that it was the weapon best suited for hand-to-hand combat.

(5) Revolver

Instruction on the Nagant revolver was very similar to that given for the TT pistol. The same types of training aids were used and two hours were devoted to this subject. The revolver was described in the same manner as the pistol and students were told that the weapon was intended for hand-to-hand combat at ranges up to 20 m.

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b. CW Training

[redacted] could not remember any offensive chemical warfare training [redacted] or any mention that the Soviet Army was planning or preparing, in any way, for offensive CW. However, he was told that the German Army had used toxic gases during World War II and that the Western nations had used bacteriological warfare in Korea and would use CBR warfare in any future war. Other than this, [redacted] never received any instruction on any phase of bacteriological warfare. [redacted] could not remember that [redacted] received any CW training during basic training. During this period, neither [redacted] were issued gas masks or any other CW items. [redacted] training in CW defense during his course in the 1st Plat of the 1st Tng Co as a tank commander trainee covered both class room lectures and practical outdoor work.

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Trainees in the battalion were given two hours of CW instruction in classroom sessions each week by the battalion chief of chemical services, a lieutenant. These were mostly lectures which largely consisted of a verbal description of CW items and some demonstration. [redacted]

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Subjects covered in the classroom were the use and care of the gas mask, protective covering for materiel, description and recognition of toxic agents, use and care of protective clothing during and after decontamination of areas and equipment, decontamination of areas and materiel, and individual first aid to counter toxic effects or chemical agents. [redacted]

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Some of the items used for classroom demonstration were large schematics of gas masks and canisters, cut away canisters, protective suits, a tabun gas-detection kit, and a toxic gas sniff set which contained samples of what [redacted] were mustard, chlorine, tabun (nerve gas), and phosgene. No demonstrations were given.³

In addition to two hours of classroom instruction in each of the above, the first-period trainees were given a 15 to 20 minute gas mask drill weekly throughout the entire school year. During this drill, they practiced using the gas mask with simulated punctures in the mask, hose, and canister. If the mask and hose leaked, personnel were taught to take the canister in their mouth and breath directly through it. In the event the hose was broken, the gas mask could be placed directly on the canister. If the canister had a hole in it, trainees were instructed to place their hand over the hole or press the hole tight against the chest.

On one morning each week during the year and in accordance with the training schedule, trainees were required to wear gas masks while undergoing all normal training including close-order drill. During these periods, the battalion chief of the chemical services passed through the different platoons checking the trainees for compliance with the schedule. Occasionally, he threw a smoke candle among a group of men to keep them "gas conscious". All of the practical work in the training platoons along CW lines was under the supervision and instruction of the platoon sergeants.

Enlisted cadre personnel of the battalion staff were not required to participate in any CW training but source did not know if the personnel of the Tk Supply Co had any training. Cadre members of the other two training companies in the battalion acted as instructors and participated in the training program.

Twice while in the 1st Tng Co, source went through a gas chamber in an unused building within the garrison. One platoon at a time went through the chamber, which was filled with tear gas, and remained in the chamber for a few minutes. The first time through they went with masks to test them, the second time they were sent without masks so that the men could feel the effects of the gas and realize the value of the gas mask. [redacted]

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c. Study of Manuals

Another subject covered during the first period of training was the study of four manuals which covered basic instruction generally applicable to the school of the soldier, interior guard duty, and similar subjects. This instruction was conducted in classrooms. These manuals were: The Interior Service (Ustav Vnutrenoy Sluzhby), Disciplinary Regulations (Distsiplinarnyy Ustav), Garrison and Guard Regulations (Ustav Garnizonykh i Karaulnykh Sluzhb), and Formations and Drill Regulations (Stroyevoy Ustav). These manuals covered the following subjects:

(1) Interior Service Manual

Instruction on the manual for interior service regulations consisted of a description and explanation of its contents. Students were told that this manual gave all the duties and responsibilities of all personnel from the individual soldier through the regimental commander, particularly in garrison. In addition, the responsibilities of rotating details such as duty officers, charge of quarters, and sentry duty were detailed. Other instruction from this manual covered military courtesy and discipline, ceremonies, and individual conduct and bearing. This manual contained the "Hymn of the Soviet Union", which the students were expected to memorize, as well as care and respect due to the national flag.

(2) Disciplinary Regulations

Disciplinary regulations was covered in general discussion but punitive and disciplinary authority of all commanders, from squad on up to division, was discussed in detail; the few rights of the individual soldier were also discussed. The types and limits of punishment for various infractions of rules were discussed and held up as a warning for future action. In addition, part of the instruction on the Disciplinary Regulations covered available commendations and rewards for meritorious service and the service required to obtain them.

(3) Garrison and Guard Regulations

Garrison and Guard Regulations was given a general classroom coverage about its purpose, contents, and description. Specific detailed coverage was given to the various aspects of garrison duty and the responsibilities of a sentry on routine guard posts. Emphasis was placed on the detailed responsibilities and duties of guards and sentries on special posts, such as a post in the vicinity of the unit standard.

Another topic of instruction was the operation and function of the patrols furnished by each unit on special holidays to check neighboring towns and villages for unit personnel who were possibly absent from the post. Normally, these patrols were under officer supervision, but in a town without taverns or other alcohol dispensing installations this type of patrol was possibly under the supervision of an NCO. However, in the manual itself there was no mention made of either alcohol or beverages or the fact that towns and villages next to a garrison would be patrolled. Source believed that this patrol was a ground rule only in the Soviet Zone of Austria. Aids used by the instructor were a mock town and village, a mock garrison, and a mock headquarters building. One of the training aids used by the instructor was a mock miniature garrison with dumps, headquarters buildings, etc. This aid was used as the students went through the various phases of

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interior guard duty. Students were required to show how much class room instruction they had absorbed by simulating the proper performance of guard duty during the hours of daylight and darkness. These performances were in the presence of an officer, usually the platoon commander, who inspected the men's knowledge of the requirements of interior guard duty.

(4) Formations and Drill Regulations

This manual covered personal appearance, the wearing of the uniform, the school of the soldier, and close-order drill; only the first part was presented in class where the instructor gave a general description of the manual's contents. The rest of the instruction was outdoors.

27. During the first phase, there was at least one hour a day devoted to the study of the four manuals listed above. Instruction was normally under the supervision of a platoon sergeant. However, the platoon leader, an officer, or the company CO occasionally participated in this form of instruction. These four manuals were discussed for additional study from time to time in the second training phase.

d. Political Studies

28. Another phase of instruction was called political studies (politicheskaya podgotovka). This phase was always presented by the platoon leader and was taken from manuals published in a brochure form called Material for Political Studies. These booklets were brought to the battalion by the battalion political officer (for whom source worked) probably from the office of the Deputy CO for Political Affairs; the 13th Gds Mecz Div Hq, in turn, drew them from CGF Hq. These booklets were printed in Moscow as a publication of the newspaper, Pravda, and remained in effect for years at a time. [redacted] following titles: Text Book for the Infantry Soldier, Assistance for Listeners in Political Schools, Soviet Armed Forces during the Revolutionary War, Soviet Armed Forces During the Years of Peaceful Construction, Soviet Armed Forces During the Years of the Great Patriotic War, and The Armed Forces of the USSR. The latter mainly was used for introducing new inductees to the armed forces and oriented them as to what the armed forces was composed of as well as its function and missions. Another general manual was called Materials for Political Studies on Themes: How the Peasants Lived and Struggled in Tsarist Russia, Defense of the Fatherland is the Sacred Duty of the Soviet Armed Forces, Outside the Borders of the Dear Fatherland, Why the Soviet Warrior must hold the Fate of his Country, The Spaces and the Riches of our Motherland, and other related subjects. Other subjects were Military Secrets Must be Preserved Carefully, The Constant Wakefulness of Our Weapons, and about thirty other brochures covering speeches of various Soviet leaders. [redacted] library kept approximately 100 different brochures that were used in these studies, generally two or three copies of each topic. Some of the manuals were not for mass instruction but were used for instruction of the teacher and the political agitator of the Soviet Army. Political information of this type was presented to the students twice a week for two hours at a time and lasted throughout the soldiers' entire service. After the death of Stalin, new versions were published by Moscow and the old manuals were turned in; it was forbidden for the old Material for Political Studies brochures to be used.

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29. A second type of political class called "political information" (politicheskaya informatsiya) was presented to the students for a 30-minute period twice a week prior to the beginning of other studies. This class was conducted by the Deputy CO for Political Affairs of the company, a captain, and was usually a criticism of the behavior of individual soldiers. Personnel who had been seen intoxicated, in dirty clothing, fighting, or misbehaving themselves in any other way were strongly reprimanded during

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this period. Much time was spent in emphasizing the value of this half hour political information to the students. They were informed of such current topics as the enemies of the peoples which were endangering the security of the structure of the Soviet system. Prior to holidays, the period was used to tell of the meaning of the holiday and to warn them to behave themselves. They were always told "let us have this one holiday without any derogatory incidents".

0. The general topics of political information originated with the Deputy CO for Political Affairs' Office at division headquarters. On days when the topics were delayed in arrival or did not arrive at all, the Deputy CO for Political Affairs of the battalion selected a suitable topic for the various groups who took this half-hour of political information. Occasionally, the Bn Co for Political Affairs came to the group and presented the topic. Normally, the CO Deputy CO for Political Affairs handled the instruction for his company. Political information periods continued throughout the year. Material covered in later periods was on a higher level than that presented in the beginning period.

e. Outdoor Training

1. Practical work outdoors during the first period of training covered the following seven subjects; firing and training with individual weapons, close-order drill, training for guard duty, small unit infantry tactics, physical training, CW exercises, and a subject known as "Park Day".

(1) Weapons Training

Outdoor training with individual weapons covered the carbine and the PPSH SMG, and was given by the platoon sergeant assisted by the squad leaders. The major emphasis of this training was on proper loading and handling of weapons, various firing positions, dry firing, and range firing. The training was presented to the platoon as a unit.

The sergeant explained how to load the weapons and demonstrated the kneeling, prone, sitting, and standing firing positions. Personnel were instructed in proper breathing and trigger squeeze. This phase of dry firing training led to sighting and aiming exercises which used the triangulation method. Source believed that approximately 15 hours were devoted to individual training in weapons firing excluding the time spent in actual firing. The training lasted from two to four hours on various days.

50X1 During the first period of training, trainees fired the carbine
twice. The first range firing was [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] on the garrison firing range. At this time, each man fired
three rounds from a braced prone position at a bulls'-eye target
100 m away, examining the target after each round. The target
was fixed and was made up of concentric circles which decreased
in value; the bulls'-eye counted ten points.

The second carbine firing consisted of another three rounds from prone position, for record at the same range and target; this firing occurred at the end of the first period of training. After firing the three rounds, trainees were permitted to inspect the targets.

Both times, the entire platoon fired with each firing order made up of five trainees. The company commander was in charge of the firing range and the platoon leader gave the firing commands. Ammunition was passed out by the company clerk (kaptenarmus). The targets remained in place after the firing

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and were not pasted. Empty brass was collected and inventoried by the company commander. Scores were recorded on a roster by the platoon leader and the personnel were informed of their scores the day after the firing. The highest score possible for the three rounds was 30 points. Scores from 22 to 30 were considered excellent and those who came close to a possible perfect score often received commendations from the company CO. Scores of 18 to 22 were considered good, 16 to 18 satisfactory, and below 16 unsatisfactory. When there were enough personnel who did not receive at least satisfactory scores, they were required to refire the course.

50X1 Trainees also fired the PPSH SMG twice during the first period of training [redacted] the first time for practice and the second time for record. The same cadre personnel who ran the carbine firing conducted this firing.

Practice firing consisted of three rounds of slow fire in a prone position at a head-and-chest silhouette target from 50 m distance. This firing was scored either satisfactory or unsatisfactory with at least two out of three hits anywhere on the target counted as satisfactory. The target was inspected after each round.

The SMG fire for record consisted of nine rounds and trainees were told that the best results were obtained by firing three bursts of three rounds each. This firing pattern constituted automatic fire. The rounds were loaded into a drum and three men comprised a firing order. The targets were waist-length silhouettes at a distance of 100 m. The targets were inspected after each order completed firing. Four hits out of nine were considered satisfactory and seven or more hits earned the marksman a commendation from the company CO. This firing was in prone position.

(2) Close-Order Drill

Close-order drill was first given to the trainees in the first period of training without weapons. Trainees were shown the individual position of a soldier in facing and marching movements. Training then progressed to include squad drill under the direction of squad leaders and then to platoon-type formations. During the latter part of the first period of training, the trainees marched with carbines or SMGs. At this point, they were given instruction in the manual of arms for both weapons. Close-order drill was scheduled two hours per day three times a week. However, there were days when the entire morning was spent in close-order drill. Generally, it followed an hour of classroom instruction on the drill regulations manual. As part of CW training, trainees were also expected to perform close-order drill wearing gas masks.

(3) Interior Guard Duty

Outdoor training in interior guard duty was also combined with the classroom instruction on the subject. Trainees were instructed in the proper methods of challenging and walking posts, etc.

(4) Tactics

Instruction in small unit infantry tactics was given by platoon NCOs. It covered platoon and squad formations, the individual soldier's selection of position, individual fortifications, and

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equipment to be used in entrenching. Trainees were taught that an individual trench was best constructed with the light infantry entrenching shovel. When this was not available, a knife or bayonet was to be used. If no equipment was available, the hands were to be used to excavate a small shallow individual trench. This latter example was cited for those who felt that the entrenching tool was just an extra burden.

The trainees were taught how to dig individual fortifications for firing from the prone, kneeling, and standing positions. They were told that a full depth individual trench was the best fortification for the individual soldier. They were instructed that in different situations different types of individual fortifications were preferable. For example, if a soldier was not told how long he would occupy a given position, it was then his duty to dig a full depth trench for himself. If he had been told that he was to take part in an imminent attack and that he would not remain in position too long, he was to dig a shallower individual trench.

Trainees also were instructed in the purpose and usefulness of a breast work (brustverk) added to individual fortification measures. This breast work was to be spread out in a fan shape directly to the front of the soldier in the direction of fire.

Instruction was also given on the way an individual soldier was to cross open ground. In crossing an open field, a soldier was to take no more than eight or nine paces, quickly fall into a prone position, and then immediately crawl either to the right or left for three or four meters. It was best to hit the ground behind a small rise or some other cover. He was to remain in this position until the man closest to him moved out and was then to repeat his forward movement again.

Trainees were also instructed in crossing wooded areas but source was unable to recall any of these details. In addition, there was instruction on withdrawal from a position with the trainee remaining prone and crawling backwards.

(5) Combined Arms Training

Another phase of tactics instruction covered the employment of small groups of infantry in support of tanks. The tank technical officer of the company supervised this training. All of this instruction took the form of practical exercises. Some of the trainees who had taken basic training with infantry units in the USSR commented that the infantry tactics instruction they received in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn was better and more complete than that which they had received in infantry units.

The practical work with tanks consisted of the trainees taking up predetermined positions 100 m in front of a barbed wire entanglement. The trainees were scattered in a convex line with about five-meters' distance between the men. One tank took up a position about 200 m behind the trainees. In the center of the formation, there was about a 20-meter-space for the passage of the tank. After the tank passed through the line of trainees, the trainees immediately arose and bunched up behind the tank. When the tank broke through the barbed wire, the men followed the tank and spread out to the right and left of it. They then threw dummy hand grenades at a line of trenches in front of them. Approaching the trenches, they simulated fire with SMGs. After occupying the first line of trenches, they immediately moved out and took a second line of trenches, again following the tank.

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50X1 [REDACTED]

Another phase of small unit training covered was the practice assault on a concrete pill box. Trainees were instructed that if they had to take a pill box without armored aid, two men were to go forward and fire automatic weapons into the firing slits of the pill box while the rest of the platoon charged and forced the door. If tank support was available, a tank took the place of the two soldiers and fired through the pill box slits. No mention was ever made of the possibility that another pill box covered the one being assaulted.

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There was some theoretical discussion of artillery coordination. Trainees were told that artillery would place a rolling barrage in front of infantry and could replace the tank for barbed wire breakthroughs. [REDACTED] never saw any practical demonstrations of artillery fire but [REDACTED] there was some theoretical mention of tank-infantry-artillery cooperation [REDACTED]

(6) Physical Training

PT in source's unit was given daily. Every morning, the trainees were taken on a 20-minute run and also given physical exercises. There were two different runs, one around four barracks buildings and the other around the entire battalion area. This run was also used as a form of punishment by the platoon sergeant. On occasions when the platoon sergeant felt up to it, the platoon was required to run to Goetzendorf and back - a total distance of about 10 km.

In addition to the daily exercises, there was instruction on parallel bars, single bars, and other forms of gymnastics. The trainees were also expected to be able to climb a rope hand over hand; they had hurdle jumps and other track training. When there was snow on the ground, gymnastics and PT were held indoors; but, at all other times, even in the rain, this activity was performed outdoors.

During the first period of training, gymnastics were conducted for two hours three days a week. The exercises were simple at the beginning but became more complex later. In the final phases of PT, there were two cross-country runs: the first was one kilometer and the second was three kilometers. These runs were made in full field equipment with weapons.

PT was generally under the supervision of the platoon sergeant and the squad leaders. However, there were times when the platoon leader supervised and conducted the training.

(7) "Park Day"

The remaining phase of the first period of training was known as "Park Day". This was usually given on Sundays and was devoted to fatigue details and the cleaning of vehicles and other armament of the battalion. During these days, the trainees did construction and repair work on battalion facilities. Company formations were held at which time the unit officers published various administrative orders and details. On this day, the battalion and higher headquarters conducted inspections, but these inspectors were mainly interested in the ability of the trainees to perform close-order drill. Generally, there were comments made on the appearance, conduct, and bearing of the trainees.

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First Period Post-Training Examinations

32. At the completion of the first period of training, examinations on all phases of training were conducted for the trainees [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] Generally, they were 50X1
either practical applications of what the trainees had learned or oral answers to specific questions asked by the platoon sergeants and the company officers. Upon the completion of the examinations, the bulk of the trainees went into the second period of training in the battalion. Those who failed to pass the examination were reassigned to various regiments of the division; however, there were very few failures.
- a. On Close-Order Drill
33. The first test was in close-order drill. At a designated time, each platoon was called out for the examination which was conducted by the platoon leader. The inspecting officers were the staff officers of the battalion, the battalion CO, and the representatives of the 13th Gd Mecz Div Hq.
34. Testing consisted of the individual soldier's being required to perform various phases of close-order drill and requirements from the school of the soldier. Then came squad and platoon drill, but the EM were only expected to follow commands, not to give them. Two EM [redacted] 50X1
platoon failed in this phase and were immediately transferred to other platoons of the battalion. [redacted] platoon was a tank commander's training platoon, but failure in close-order drill did not mean that a soldier was dropped from the battalion. During the examination period, there were several soldiers from other platoons of the battalion who were considered outstanding and who were transferred to [redacted] platoon, which was considered the elite unit of the school. 50X1
- b. On Physical Training
35. The PT test consisted of two or three specific gymnastic exercises which each trainee was required to perform, but they were normally not the most difficult ones which the men had mastered. The inspectors were the same as those for the close-order drill phase. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1
- c. On Basic Manual Study
36. The trainees' knowledge of the contents of the four basic manuals presented in the first period of training was tested orally by the platoon leader or the staff officer representatives from the division headquarters who were normally political officers. Each EM was asked three questions from each manual; he was expected to answer these questions in some detail. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] Questions were generally based on the individual soldier's duties and responsibilities as listed in the manuals. The questions were fairly simple and required only common-sense answers. 50X1
- d. On Political Training
37. The political examinations were conducted by the platoon leader and the division political officers. Occasionally, political officers of the battalion and companies were present. The examinations were conducted in the following manner:
- The platoon was gathered in the classroom and the political officer would state a general question and ask if anyone knew the answer. If anyone thought he knew the answer, he raised his hand, identified himself, and proceeded with the answer. The political officer then asked the trainee one or two additional questions.

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38. There was a saying in the battalion that no one ever failed the political examination for two reasons. The first reason was that it was not so much the answer that was given but rather the assurance of the trainee in giving his answer that counted. The second reason was if an individual did not know the specific answer, he only had to praise the Soviet system and defame all other systems; this attitude made him automatically correct.

e. On Weapons

39. Testing on the four individual weapons covered in Phase I was conducted by the battalion CO and the chief of staff in the following manner:
50X1 [redacted] platoon was called together in a room with the two officers. The battalion CO called out at random ten soldiers and assigned each one a specific test. A typical example was the disassembly and assembly of a pistol, giving an explanation of each action, and naming each part as this work progressed; source was asked to disassemble and assemble the drum of a PPSH SMG. After the ten men were tested by practical demonstration on the four weapons, the battalion commander orally examined the remaining twenty men. Several of the members of the platoon failed in this phase; however, they were not transferred out but were allowed to retake the examination. [redacted] the reason given by the inspectors for their failures was the [redacted] the poor quality of instruction given in this subject during the first period of training. The platoon commander was severely reprimanded by the battalion CO for these failures. However, [redacted] it was not entirely the platoon commander's fault but the fault of the training program which permitted personnel to be called away for other work during the time when they should have been taking the training. [redacted]

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f. On Tactics

40. The infantry tactics instruction phase was tested orally by [redacted] platoon leader and the company CO of the 2d Tng Co. The questions were based on subject matter covered in the first period of training. One man failed the examination but this did not seem to affect his status in the platoon. In fact, no one appeared to be particularly interested in the soldier's grasp of infantry tactics, least of all the examining officers.

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C. Second Phase of Training in the 1st Plat, 1st Tng Co, 55th Tk Tng Bn Organization

41. The second phase of training in the tank commanders training platoon, the 1st Plat, 1st Tng Co, began [redacted] and lasted through [redacted]

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In the second period of training, much more emphasis was placed on theoretical classroom work and a much wider span of instruction was presented than in the first period. Where the first training phase was largely a repetition of basic training, the second period of training consisted of detailed training in the duties and responsibilities of a tank commander. The tank used for all the training conducted [redacted] was the T-34. The studies covered technical instruction on the tank, its armament, and other related subjects on tactics, such as map reading, etc.

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Training Subjects

a. Close-Order Drill

42. Close-order drill training in the second period covered formations of approximately the same size as those in the first period of training, i.e., up to platoon level. However, there were some differences in application. In this period, trainees were taught how to handle the

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sub-machine gun in formation instead of the carbine. They were also instructed in command procedures at squad and platoon levels. For this purpose, trainees were called out of formation, given command of squads and platoons, and were required to conduct the drill, giving the commands.

- 43. All of this training was under the supervision of the platoon and squad sergeants; but, occasionally, the company officers participated as observers. The actual time devoted to close-order drill decreased sharply at the beginning of the second period of training. However, there was greater emphasis on the individual's knowledge of the drill manual. This emphasis was shown by the questions that were constantly asked the trainees by their instructors on different subjects and the different theoretical situations to which the trainees had to find answers.

b. Physical Training

- 44. PT in the second period followed the the same general pattern as that of the first period except that exercises in the second period became more complicated and required more ability and practice work with the parallel bars and other gymnastic equipment. Many soldiers devoted their off-duty time to practicing various required gymnastics.

c. Technical Training

- 45. Technical (automotive) training consisted mainly of instruction on the T-34 tank. It began with a description of the exterior and interior parts of the tank, including nomenclature, specifications, capabilities, and functions. It then progressed into actual operating mechanisms, and students were required to learn the function and operation of the tank engine. For this purpose, there were tank engines in the classroom which the students were required to disassemble and assemble and working principles and part's names they had to memorize. In addition to the engines themselves, there were numerous wall-chart training aids which gave the specifications and diagrams of the tank motor.

- 46. One very interesting training aid used for automotive training of the T-34 tank was located in a room called the Cutaway T-34 Tank Classroom. In this room there was a real T-34 tank that had been cut away to show its various functional parts. It had an engine block and transmission which were partially cut away with the key parts painted in different colors. All classes or all platoons made periodic visits to this classroom for instruction. 50X1
50X1 removed from the battalion classroom and taken to the motor park. Instruction from that time on in this phase of automotive training was carried on outside in the park. 50X1

- 47. Concurrently, students were given instruction on tank transmission, carburetion, ignition, and similar phases which covered the principles of all the mechanical working parts of the tank. Approximately four hours each week were devoted to this training and it was always conducted by 1st Tng Co technical lieutenants. 50X1
50X1 platoon sergeant and the squad sergeants assisted in the instruction by supervising the work of the individual trainees when they performed various phases of assembly and disassembly on the tanks.

- 48. Manuals used in this instruction were as follows: ⁴

- (1) Guide to Material Parts of Tank T-34. Eighty copies of this manual were shared by 300 students in the training battalion. About one out of four students actually possessed the manual.
- (2) Handbook for the Tank Crew. This manual was considered obsolete and was not recommended for instructional purposes by the battalion officers and instructor NCOs.

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- (3) The Service Guide for Diesel Motors V-2 and V-2-V. This manual was used only by the instructors. In the battalion there were only five copies of this manual which were available only to the technical officer instructors.
- (4) Guide to the Operation of Diesel Motors V-34. There were 25 copies of this manual available only for instructor personnel.
- (5) The Guide to Service of the Tank T-34. Forty copies were issued to officers and key instructor NCOs; twenty copies were kept in the library. This manual arrived in the battalion in 1953.
- (6) Guide to Operation of Tank T-34/85. Twenty-nine copies of this manual were issued to officers and instructor NCOs and one copy remained in the library. This manual came to the battalion in 1954.
- (7) Handbook for Master Driver. There were eight copies of this manual in the library.
- (8) Field Repair of Tank T-34. There was only one copy of this manual in the library and it was available to instructors only. There were no other copies in the unit.

d. Driver Training

49. Driver training in T-34 tanks began with a description of the various purposes and uses of the tank while in motion. This training was conducted by the platoon commander and the two technical specialist lieutenants. The second step in driver instruction was conducted in the battalion vehicle park and dealt with the starting operations of the tank motor. From this time on, the instructors were the mechanic drivers of the tank supply company and each brought his own assigned tank to the class. Trainees went through the various phases involved in the process of properly preparing the tank before starting its engine. These phases included connecting the fuel tanks, preparatory hand signals prior to starting, and the actual winding of the tank engine. The training then progressed into the various phases of tank movement, starting from the halt and driving the tank at low speeds. After that, instruction on shifting the gears and operating the clutch and transmission were given. After the trainees had mastered the initial phases of driver training, they drove to a nearby unused air strip and practiced changing gears at higher speeds and did various turns and maneuvers in the tanks. After they had mastered operating the tanks in the open field, they began to train in driving the tank in column on open roads. They learned the proper use of visual signals, the control of the tank driver by the tank commander, and practiced these signals with and without tanks. They learned the meaning of signals with flags and the signals with which tank commanders directed other tanks in their formations. [redacted] the platoon had progressed to driving over obstacles, night driving, and night driving over obstacles.

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50. [redacted] before graduation a tank commander should have had at least 11 hours practice in driving a tank.

51. [redacted] some of the phases of tank driving the platoon was expected to master were driving a tank up a river bed, over streams, and in swampy terrain. The training in stream crossings and on swampy ground was conducted along the banks of the Leitha River. Other training in driving tanks over difficult terrain was conducted in the area of the Bruck (N 48-01, E 16-46) training grounds, about 15 km from the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn caserne. Trainees drove the tanks to and from the training

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grounds, about 15 km from the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn caserne. Trainees drove the tanks to and from the training grounds with the time utilized in this travel counting as driving time. In going to the Bruck training ground, the tanks occasionally went through two villages; this was considered as part of the training in driving through residential areas. However, at other times, they did not go through the villages but followed the Leitha River to the training ground.

e. Tank Weapons Training

52. Training with the weapons of the T-34 tank consisted of instruction on the 85 mm gun and the DTM and DT MGs. This training was conducted by the platoon leader who utilized the manuals covering these weapons. The initial part of the training was in the classroom where the theory, nomenclature, and description of the weapons was discussed in detail by the platoon leader. The platoon leader called on individual students for field stripping and an explanation of certain elements just as in the case of the individual weapons' training previously described.

53. There were occasions when the battalion chief of gunnery training, a captain, gave additional instruction to the students on Sundays. This was generally an additional duty before an inspection from a higher headquarters. [redacted] tank-weapons training consisted of two two-hour periods each week. This training consisted of instruction on the preparation of the weapons for firing, practice in setting the sights, clearing stoppages, and care and maintenance. One form of training was accomplished in the tank park by tying chalk to the barrel of an 85 mm tank gun; and then, by use of the cranks and the gun sights, the trainee was required to draw specific figures on the blackboard by turning the weapon. Trainees started off with simple horizontal and vertical lines, progressed to diagonals, then made diagonals inclosed in a box, and, finally, progressed to complex figures employing curves. This was to acquire maximum manual dexterity in the use of the gears and hand cranks of the weapon. For the use of the sight, the trainees went through a system of dry firing by making triangles on a blank sheet of paper with the use of a pencil.

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f. Tank Tactics Training

54. Only theoretical classroom instruction in tank tactics was given to the trainees [redacted] Most of the manuals covering tank tactics were considered obsolete and the only material used from these manuals was the basic tank formations. The instructor for this class was the platoon leader. [redacted]

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generally, there was instruction on enveloping movements (both or either flank), bypassing movements, triangle defensive formation, and others which he could not remember. There was no instruction above platoon level prior to source's departure from the platoon.

55. One of the tactical training aids that was used was set up in a room. It was a mock-up of a tank turret with tank-gun sights. In front of the turret there was a miniature three dimensional landscape with roads, forests, houses, miniature movable vehicles and tanks, and a sky background with clouds. The vehicles operated on a conveyer-belt principle. Students were shown various phases of tank attacks and used these for gunnery training. There was a specially-designed cotton shell burst which was moved from place to place to show simulated hits. This training aid was used mainly for purposes of explanation.

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56. In the topographical study classroom, there was a sand box with moveable houses, tanks, and other equipment where the students actually practiced moving the miniatures through various tank formations.

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Instruction in tank tactics was usually given once or twice each week, generally in one or two-hour periods.

g. Map-Reading

57. Map-reading classes taught by the platoon leader generally preceded the tank tactics. The first hour was devoted to map reading while the second hour was devoted to tank tactics. There were two books used in the class room instruction. One of these books was the Manual On Military Topography. The second book used in the instruction was the Handbook on Military Topography, dated 1946. In both manuals there were maps that were used in instruction in learning how to work with various kinds of map scales. Students were also required to learn map symbols, both military and conventional. The platoon leader brought various military maps of different scales for demonstration purposes from the secret document section.

58. The class was taught to read and interpret aerial photomaps. There were copies of these in the map reading manuals. However, the major part of map training occurred after source had been transferred to battalion headquarters. During his time as a student, most of the map instruction was of the familiarization variety.

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59. [redacted] most of the maps used were pre-World War II versions. However, [redacted] one specific instance when [redacted] a map with the words, "drawn prior to World War II, corrected 1944." [redacted] "Military Division of the Main Geodetic Administration" were on the bottom of the maps.

h. Chemical Warfare Training

60. During the second training period, about one hour a week was devoted to chemical warfare instruction. This consisted of donning a gas mask and anti-gas cape and taking up firing positions while under a simulated toxic gas spraying attack defense or conditions which simulated troops either deployed in or crossing a contaminated area. (See paragraph 18 for further details on chemical warfare.)

1. Study of Basic Manuals

61. In the second phase, trainees continued the study of the four manuals presented in the first period. The stress in this phase was different in that trainees were required to learn the duties of commanders at various levels up to the regimental CO level. They were told that they should assume they would be NCOs and tank commanders themselves sometime in the future.
62. An additional manual, The Field Manual for Armored and Mechanized Forces, was added to the original first four in this phase. From this manual, the trainees were required to learn the duties of each tank crew member and those of the tank commander. This manual was secret, was not issued to the students, and they never actually had physical possession of it. Rather, it was used only by the instructor,

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the platoon leader, who dictated pertinent passages and sections of the manual. After the students copied these items into their notebooks, they were responsible for the information as school subject matter. These notes covered the duties and responsibilities of each member of the tank crew under field conditions, in combat, in individual movement and in convoys, in bivouac, during halts, and in defensive positions.

J. Tank Weapons' Firing

63. Tank weapons' firing was conducted for the trainees during the second period of training with the 85 mm tank gun and the DT and DTM 7.62 mm tank MGs.

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The target was a fixed tank silhouette 20 X 10 cm at a range of 100 m. Each trainee was permitted three 7.62 mm rounds and fired these one at a time at a command from the platoon leader who was in charge of the firing. After each round, the tank turret was turned away from the target and turned back on the target at the command to fire. At this range and using the tank sights, it was almost impossible to miss the silhouette and, therefore, only the grouping of shots and not the individual hits was assessed.

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k. Engineer Training

64. Engineer training in the second period was presented to the trainees by the Bn Chief of Engr Services, a senior lieutenant. The subject matter was taken from a manual, Aids to Tank Crews, dated 1946. Additional information was dictated to the class by the instructor. The time spent in engineering training was normally one or two hours per week.
65. The subjects covered were tank trenches, camouflage, use of engineer tools in the preparation of positions, tank obstacles, descriptions of engineer tools (such as saws, picks, and various types of booby traps), and alarm systems; all of these subjects were presented in the classroom. The only practical work in this course was the repair of various outdoor demonstration tank obstacles used in training tank drivers.
66. Anti-tank mines was another subject covered in this phase of instruction. In this training, students were shown drawings of cutaway mines. Students also received instruction in arming and disarming actual AT mines. Instruction covered kinds of mines and explosives used in each, types of triggering mechanisms, and other similar data. Source was unable to remember which kind of mines he had worked with and could not describe them in detail. Theoretical instruction was given on smoke screens and their application to tank warfare. Examples of the various types of smoke screens and methods for their employment were shown in drawings; no practical demonstrations were given.

l. Radio and Intercom Training

67. Radio and tank intercom training was conducted by the radio technical officer of the first company, Sr Lt KOBELEV (fnu). Twice a week, instruction was given from one to two hours.
- all instruction was given only in the classroom and mainly on the 10RT radio. The principles, structure, operation, and functions of this radio were described in detail. In addition, students were instructed in the operation of 9RM and 10RK26 radios.

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68. Cutaway samples and working models of these three radios were used in the classroom as training aids in conjunction with charts and drawings which showed the various operating positions of the dials. In addition, there was discussion but no practical work on 9RS radios. This latter subject matter was drawn from manuals. Radio antennas were discussed in detail as to types and functions.
69. The T-34 radio intercom system and its operating principles was described in the classroom and trainees were shown how this system hooked into the tank radio. [redacted] there was no practical work with the intercom. 50X1
70. During all of Phase II, trainees of the 1st Plat received no instruction on other means of communication. They were not required to learn code.

m. Political Training

71. Political training in Phase II was conducted by the platoon leader for two hours twice a week. Generally, this training covered the same material as that presented in Phase I except that basic introductory data on the mission and organization of the Soviet armed forces given as basic training refresher was no longer included. Instead, trainees progressed to more complex and involved subjects which included a description of the work of the last general assembly of the Supreme Soviet and speeches by various Communist leaders.

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D. Second Phase of Training in the 1st Plat, 1st Co, 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn

General

72. [redacted] 50X1

Training Subjects

a. Close-Order Drill

73. The platoon continued with close-order drill during the remaining part of the course although the amount of time spent in this training decreased considerably. The major part of the training consisted of learning how to handle squads and platoons on the drill field. Thus, the trainees were being groomed to become future NCOs.

b. Physical Training

74. PT continued to utilize the same amount of time per week as before, i.e., six hours. However, gymnastic exercises became more complex.

c. Technical Training

75. Technical (automotive) classes became more frequent and the time allocated to this subject was greatly increased. There was greater emphasis for practical work in actual tank repair and maintenance and

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more time was spent in the cutaway tank class. [redacted] 50X1
 [redacted] the students stopped using manuals because at that 50X1
 time there were no up-to-date manuals for this type of training. 50X1
 The tank technical officer of the company dictated the instruction, 50X1
 from his own background and experience, to the students who recorded 50X1
 it in their notebooks. [redacted] 50X1

d. Driver Training

76. [redacted] the major portion of the trainees 50X1
 still had an additional nine hours of individual tank driver train- 50X1
 ing to perform. The driving became more complex and the trainees 50X1
 were required to operate the tank at top speeds in high gear, driving 50X1
 with closed hatches cross-country and on open roadways. In this 50X1
 phase of the training, there was a problem because many of the trainees 50X1
 suffered from claustrophobia and motion sickness. The final phases 50X1
 of driver training involved driving tanks over obstacles and driving 50X1
 at night under blackout conditions. [redacted]

e. Tank Weapons Training

77. The trainees in the 1st Plat continued with tank weapons training. 50X1
 They practiced dry firing and sighting by turning the tank turret. 50X1
 They also had more actual range firing, and [redacted] the platoon 50X1
 fired a course at the Bruck training grounds; [redacted] 50X1
 [redacted] In this course, the trainees 50X1
 fired nine rounds with MGs from the tank on three different types of 50X1
 silhouettes. They were first required to fire at a moving full-sized 50X1
 tank silhouette about 900 m away and then switch their fire to a 50X1
 silhouette of an MG and crew about 400 m away. With their remaining 50X1
 rounds they were to hit moving personnel silhouettes at a range of 50X1
 100 to 200 m. The men who failed to score at least one hit on each 50X1
 target were required to repeat the course.

78. [redacted] the platoon was taken to the Allentsteig (N 48-41, 50X1
 E 15-19) training area for one month. During that time, they fired 50X1
 twice from T34/85s. On the first occasion, 45 mm sub-caliber guns 50X1
 were inserted into the breech of the 85 mm gun and the trainees each 50X1
 fired a maximum of three sub-caliber rounds from the halt at life- 50X1
 size tank-silhouette targets, moving at an unknown speed, at ranges 50X1
 of 1,200 to 1,800 m.

79. The second time, each man fired a maximum of three 85 mm rounds 50X1
 on the same target. [redacted] 50X1
 [redacted] those trainees who scored a hit on 50X1
 the first round received a passing score without using the other 50X1
 two rounds. There was no other firing from tank guns for 1st Plat 50X1
 trainees during their course.

80. [redacted] most of the firing was very poor because of the 50X1
 small number of rounds allocated for this training. Trainees appeared 50X1
 to be afraid of their weapons and were reluctant to use the electric 50X1
 firing mechanism. In most cases, they hand-loaded the MGs and quite 50X1
 often in their excitement released the electric firing mechanism and 50X1
 jammed their fingers. There were a considerable number of accidents 50X1
 resulting from nervousness and lack of familiarity with the weapons.

f. Tank Tactics

81. Tank tactics training became more complex and detailed after source 50X1
 left the platoon. Trainees received more training with maps including 50X1
 tank tactics problems to solve on the maps. Although the trainees 50X1

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spent one month in Allentsteig training area, they did not engage in any maneuvers. All outdoor tactical exercises took place in the garrison and in the Bruck training area.

82. Quite often, trainees were broken up into tank crews and underwent simulated tactical problems on foot. They marched around in groups of five simulating a tank. During this phase, only one or two actual tanks were available to the platoon; therefore, five men were assigned to each of these and the rest remained on foot simulating tanks. Some-
50X1 times at night, they wore gas masks. [redacted] none of the men actually wore this gas masks properly during this training; they often disconnected the tank hose and breathed freely; some trainees did not even put on their gas masks. The above training was performed in units up to platoon level.

g. Map Reading

83. The 1st Plat continued with map reading [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] the trainees did not do
50X1 any map drawing but were instructed in the construction of fire zone
50X1 sketches. They did a certain amount of work with compasses and made a few compass marches on given azimuths.

h. CW Training

84. Emphasis on CW instruction decreased [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]

50X1 i. Study of Basic Manuals

85. [redacted] platoon
continued to study the four basic manuals described previously. These manuals were used until the end of the course. The same phases of the manuals were covered with greater emphasis placed on the duties of a tank commander.

j. Political Training

86. Political training continued on the same themes and subjects as before with no changes. Some of the subjects were even repeated.

k. Engineer Training

87. Engineer training continued until the end of the course. The trainees had practical exercises in building tank obstacles and classroom instruction in solving problems such as, whether or not a given bridge was capable of supporting a given tank, whether a given tank could cross a certain obstacle, and what work was needed to negotiate a given type of difficult terrain with armor. There was also quite a bit of emphasis on tank camouflage with practical work outdoors.

l. Radio and Intercom Training

88. Radio and intercom training developed to the point where the trainees began outdoor practical work first with non-mounted radios and then with tank-mounted sets. In this training, the trainees practiced establishing radio contact between moving tanks and with a fixed command radio set. This training was tied into the practice of platoon-level tank maneuvers and driving instruction and the use of the tank intercom system.

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Post-Phase II Training Examinations

89. After the completion of the course in the latter part of October, the trainees underwent an examination period which lasted about a week. Subject matter covered throughout the course was used and the testing phases were in two parts:
90. While part one covered subjects in which passing was mandatory for graduation, part two covered subjects of secondary importance. However, in part one, failure in a required subject left the trainee two choices - re-examination or transfer from the battalion without graduation and promotion. Failure in a secondary subject in part two required re-examination but even a second failure here had no effect on the final assignment.
91. Required subjects were: tank driving for which a driver's permit was awarded, tank gunnery with all weapons, tank weapons, materiel, radio operation, tank tactics, the four previously-mentioned manuals, political instruction information, and map reading. Secondary subjects were: PT, close-order drill, technical (automotive) training, and tank materiel. Source did not believe that the 1st Plat was tested in CW or engineer instruction.
92. Officers from division headquarters and the regiments came to the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn during examination week as observers and inspectors. Source stated that it was of interest that the gunnery examination consisted merely of checking the scores received on the range earlier in the course. In the tank weapons ordnance examination, the personnel were tested on the speed with which they disassembled and assembled the weapons. In map reading, each trainee had to make a foot compass march. In the test on manuals, each man was given a specific situation which he had to solve by applying the rules set forth in the manuals. In radio, each man was required to operate a set and briefly describe its construction. [redacted] there was an examination on tank tactics [redacted]. The political examination was based not so much on a man's knowledge but on how well he could express himself.
93. Before leaving the battalion [redacted] the trainees were promoted to the grade of junior sergeant by a division general order. [redacted] all trainees who had finished Phase One were on the promotion order with the exception of two who had been found drunk two days before the order was published.

Graduation and Assignment of Personnel

94. Graduates of the 1st Plat of the 1st Co were assigned to the various regiments of the division as tank commanders with a tank and a crew. The graduates, after serving various periods of time in their new units, were eligible for promotion to grades ranging up to master sergeant. Those graduates assigned to one of the companies in the 15th Gds Tk Regt which source could no longer recall were told by their company CO to forget all that they had learned in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn and to "start from scratch". The company CO also informed the graduates that if they desired to get along in his company they should get along with their comrades and keep company gossip (garbage) in the company.

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E. Other Training in the 55th Sep Tk Tng BnTraining in the 2d - 5th Platoons, 1st Tng Co

95. The training mission for the remainder of the 1st Co closely paralleled that previously described in the 1st Plat. Although the trainees of the other platoons were not trained specifically to be tank commanders, all were expected to be able to replace a tank commander by the time they had completed their course of instruction. The training of the other four platoons of the 1st Co was broken down as follows: The 2d Plat trained Heavy tank and SP gunners, the 3d and 4th Platoons trained medium tank and SP gunners, and the 5th Plat trained future reserve officers.
96. Phase Two training differed in each platoon which had a different training mission. All had the same amount of instruction as the 1st Plat except the 5th Plat. The entire battalion began the training cycle and graduated as trainees on the same dates except for the 5th Plat of the 1st Co. In all the platoons of the company, Phase One was identical and consisted of a basic training refresher course.
- a. Training in the 2d Plat
97. The 2d Plat of the 1st Co had the same type of training in map reading, CW, engineering, study of the four basic manuals, and political studies as the 1st Plat (previously described). However, there were differences in other subjects, such as close-order drill, PT, and technical (automotive) training, all of which were less emphasized. Instruction in driving armored vehicles was very insignificant with only 45 minutes given to each trainee. Radio communication and tactics were presented only as familiarization courses and had very little time devoted to them. The 2d Plat trained with JS-2 and JS-3 heavy tanks, with model A19 122 mm gun and with the model D25S 122 mm gun. They also worked with the 122 mm SP mounting, both A19 and D25S models. The trainees of the 2d Plat were also required to learn operating principles and trained on the 7.62 mm DT and DTM MGs. Their main automatic weapon was the 12.7 mm DShK MG.
98. The major portion of training in the 2d Plat was devoted to gunnery training with the above-listed weapons. Trainees fired the DShK MG and the 122 mm guns. [redacted] they used the same courses and the same number of rounds as the 1st Plat. [redacted] for economy this platoon used wooden shells called Balvanki instead of regular ammunition. The shells were carved from wood, fitted into a regular shell casing, and then fired. 6
99. The only manual studied by the 2d Plat which the 1st Plat did not was the Manual for Gun Commander. This book contained most of the detailed information that the trainees of this platoon were required to learn concerning their specialty.
100. At graduation, all 20 platoon trainees were assigned to the 106th Gds Hvy Tk and SP Regt [redacted] He believed that this was due to the Plat CO who was not a pleasant individual but always imparted sufficiently good knowledge to the trainees to qualify them for passing the examinations.

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b. Training in the 3d and 4th Plats

101. The 3d and 4th Plats of the 1st Co trained medium tank and SP gunners. [redacted] the 3d Plat emphasized the 100 mm SP while the 50X1 4th Plat emphasized the T-34 tank. The training followed very closely that of the 2d Plat of the 1st Co and differed mainly in vehicles and weapons. The 3d Plat fired the 100 mm gun while the 4th Plat fired 50X1 the 85 mm gun. For automatic weapons the men mainly trained on and fired the DT and DTM MGs. [redacted] the ranges and courses were identical to those fired by the 1st Plat.

c. Training in the 5th Plat

(1) Organization

50X1 Trainees of the 5th Plat of the 1st Co were selected to train as future reserve officers. [redacted] the Reserve Officers' Candidate Training Platoon had not 50X1 been a part of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn but had been a part of the 15th Gds Med Tk Regt. Trainees in the 5th Plat were first 50X1 selected from all of the units of the division and sent to the 15th Gds Med Tk Regt where they started training [redacted] 50X1 It was soon discovered that the 15th Regt was lacking in training facilities and equipment to adequately train these 50X1 personnel, and [redacted] the platoon was attached to the 50X1 battalion for training only. The platoon CO and cadre NCOs remained assigned to the tank regiment but were attached for 50X1 duty to the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn. They received their pay, administrative, and logistical support from their parent unit. 50X1 When the trainees were graduating [redacted] this platoon was completely assigned to and became a part of the T/O of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn.

(2) Personnel and Prerequisites

The trainees selected to study this course to become future reserve officers were all personnel from the division who were privates, conscripts, and who had completed a secondary school education comprising 10 or 11 years of formal schooling in either academic or technical studies; the personnel were selected because of their education and did not volunteer for the course. Source knew of only one individual in the division, the Chief Clerk of the division staff, who had a secondary education who was not in the course. Some of the trainees of the 5th Plat had previously graduated from training platoons of the battalion.

50X1 The first group that started in the battalion [redacted] 50X1 trained only [redacted] a total of seven months, although they had ostensibly trained from 1 January. This training was virtually repeated in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn.

50X1 The second group to train in the 5th Plat started [redacted] 50X1 [redacted] the personnel selected for the third group arrived in the 50X1 battalion and temporarily made up a sixth platoon of the 50X1 1st Co. During the first three months, they performed fatigue details and went through some of the phases of the first 50X1 period of training. [redacted] after the second group had graduated, the third group began its training. At the 50X1 time [redacted] there was every indication that 50X1 this group's course of study would last at least 12 months.

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All of the 5th Plat trainees of the first group graduated as sergeants; the second group graduated as junior sergeants. Source did not know what rank the last group, still in session at the time of his defection, would receive at graduation.

At graduation, these trainees were assigned as platoon sergeants throughout the units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div. The officers who commanded the platoons were instructed to give these graduates every opportunity to acquire experience. After one year of service following graduation from the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn course, the graduates were required to take a government examination for a commission. Those who passed the examination were commissioned junior lieutenants in the reserve and were demobilized. [redacted] these individuals received commissions in the tank and mechanized arm but he was not sure of this. Those who failed to pass the examination continued to serve out their normal three-year tour and were demobilized in the rank they held at that time. [redacted] there were incidents of personnel who claimed they had purposely failed the examination to avoid a commission in the reserve based on the fact that reserve officers were subject to recall to active duty at any time.

(3) Privileges Granted to 5th Plat Trainees

There were certain privileges authorized to the trainees of the 5th Plat that other trainees did not receive. They had KP duty only as punishment and stood guard duty only once a month; other trainees stood guard duty every nine days. There were no distinguishing badges or items on the uniform worn by these trainees.

(4) Scope of Course

The training course-of-study in the 5th Plat was harder than that in the other platoon. There was greater emphasis on radio and intercom training and trainees were required to memorize the authentication symbols system in code. In CW, engineer training, close-order drill, PT, and gunnery, the training was similar in scope to that of the 1st Plat.

[redacted] these trainees also studied the Sergeants' and Soldiers' Defense Handbook Against Atomic Attack and [redacted] it was expected that the subject would shortly become a regular part of training. Training on atomic defense in the platoon consisted of the following:

The pamphlet, Notes to the Sergeant and the Private on Defense Against Atomic Weapons was available to all sergeants who were expected to be familiar with the contents. The squad leader was expected to pass this type of information to the members of his squad during squad training sessions which were the responsibility of each squad leader. As a result, all personnel were acquainted with the contents of the pamphlet.

[redacted] the Sergeants' and Soldiers' Handbook probably comprised most of the subject matter in this instruction.

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The 5th Plat received more hours of technical (automotive) training and weapons training than any other platoon of the 1st Co.

Tactics was also more detailed for this platoon than for any other in the battalion. Occasionally, the battalion CO personally taught the classes and almost all of the lesson plans in this subject were written by him and often presented from secret text of the Field Service Regulations (Polevoy Ustav). The C/S of the battalion occasionally gave instruction on the manuals. Map reading and driving were also given more emphasis in the 5th Plat than other platoons of the 1st Co; political studies were one of the heaviest courses for this platoon and it received more instruction on this subject than any other unit of the battalion. EM studied the history of the Communist Party and often knew the subject better than the instructors. [redacted] most of the trainees of the 5th Plat had no trouble in graduating from the course. [redacted]

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Training in the 2d Tng Co

102. The 1st Plat of the 2d Co trained heavy tank and SP gun mechanic-drivers. The 2d, 3d, and 4th Plats trained mechanic-drivers for medium tanks and SP guns. The 5th Plat trained radio operator-machine gunners. The training programs of the five platoons of this company differed from those of 1st Company platoons in that there was more technical and mechanical training. The trainees of the 2d company were required to learn more about the maintenance and repair of equipment than about theory. None of the platoons of the 2d Co fired any of the tank or SP guns. Their weapons firing in the second period of training was only with MGs.

a. Training in the 1st Plat

103. During the second phase, the 1st Plat of the 2d Co emphasized training on the JS-2 and JS-3 heavy tanks and the 122 mm SP guns. Mechanical and driving training comprised the bulk of the course. Seventeen hours were allocated to driver training for each trainee during the course. [redacted]

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[redacted] Radio communication received considerable emphasis and the trainees were required to be proficient in operating all

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the tank and SP radios mentioned previously. Gunnery materiel, as such, was a minor subject while tank, SP guns, and MGs had a considerable, but unknown, number of hours devoted to their study. The only weapons that this platoon fired in Phase Two of instruction was the DS&K MG. It was fired twice by each trainee on the same ranges and courses (described previously) for MG fire. Most of the texts and manuals which covered instructions for this platoon were classified "secret" and source could not describe or name any of them. Students had no access to the manuals but the instructor dictated pertinent information which the trainees wrote in notebooks. In addition to the secret manuals, the trainees studied the four basic manuals (previously described for the platoons of the 1st Co) and the unclassified manuals, 122-mm Tank Gun and Brief Supplement Guide to the Manual "122 mm Tank Gun". None of the texts was issued to the trainees of this platoon. Political studies paralleled those of the first four platoons of the 1st Co. It will be recalled that the 5th Plat of the 1st Co had much more intensified political indoctrination. Close-order drill was emphasized to the same extent as in the 2d, 3d, and 4th Plats of the 1st Co. PT, on the other hand, was emphasized to the same level as in the 1st Plat of the 1st Co.

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engineer training and map reading were presented but did not know to what extent. At graduation, the trainees of this platoon were all assigned to the 106th Hvy Tk and SP Regt.

b. Training in the 2d, 3d, and 4th Plats

104. The 2d, 3d, and 4th Plats of the 2d Co had the identical training as the 1st Plat with the exception that they trained in the T-34 medium tank and the 100 mm SP gun. Thus, they fired different MGs than the 1st Plat, i.e., the DT and DTM.

c. Training in the 5th Plat

105. The 5th Plat of the 2d Tng Co trained radio operator-machine gunners for all types of tanks and SP guns used in the 13th Gds Mecz Div. Radio was the primary subject for this platoon and trainees learned to send and receive Morse code well enough to qualify for a third-class radio operator's license (20 words per minute). For this training, they had special classrooms with code keys and other training aids necessary to train Morse operators. The principal radio sets taught to the trainees of this platoon were the 10-RT and 10-RK-26. The 9-RM radio was also taught and the trainees familiarized themselves with many other sets of the Soviet Army.

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Trainees were given considerable weapons instruction on the MGs used in the heavy and medium tanks and SPs. However, only the DT and DTM MGs were fired twice during the course on the same range and by the other platoons. All other training except mechanical and driving training was the same as the other platoons of the 2d Co.

Training of Battalion Cadre and Officers

a. Officer Training

106. Officers in the battalion had training sessions in a special officers' study room located next to the secret documents room of the battalion; the entrance to the latter was only through the officers' study room. Normally, the officers had two types of training sessions:

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(1) Special

About once a week, there was a two-hour special training session which was always announced in a published order. The battalion instructors were battalion officers who had some degree of specialization in the subject each taught. The notebooks used by the officers in this study were classified and turned into the secret documents room for storage after class. Among the subjects presented were: engineer training, atomic defense, and tactics.

(2) Political

A political training session was given once a week and covered more advanced subjects, such as, "History of the Communist Party", "Economic Problems of the USSR", and others. [redacted]

A large schematic drawing illustrating the normal tactical dispositions of a US Army infantry division in the defense was hung on a wall. This drawing showed the disposition of rifle regiments and supporting units, communication lines, fields and depths of fire for weapons, supply routes, etc.

(3) Seminars

In addition to the training in the battalion, officers, particularly the staff officers, attended seminars at the Div Hq at least once a year. Occasionally, certain battalion officers were required to attend maneuvers engaged in by other units of the division. On one occasion, there were quite a few officers from all over the division who came to [redacted] to take tank driving tests. The instructors and inspectors were the mechanic drivers of the battalion's tank supply company. The period of testing lasted about three days.

b. Cadre Training

107. The cadre of the battalion had very limited training. This training was described [redacted] as follows:

As regular training, the enlisted cadre of the battalion had only occasional PT and two hours weekly for political studies. In addition, different specialists attended division seminars when required by the Div Hq. The radio-master, a sergeant of the TK Supply Co, went to the Div Sig Bn once a year for a month-long seminar for radiomasters. [redacted]

[redacted] These seminars, lasting one day each, were held in the Div Hq Club and were attended by about 20 unit librarians. The seminars were generally held at the end of the year and the librarians were lectured to by a major, RUDAKOV (fnu), who was a member of the Div Political Section. The instruction covered literature supply procedures, property accounting and inventory for libraries, and the selection of reading material for political studies. The Ration and Forage Supply (PFS-Produkto Furazhnoye Snabzheniye) Clerk also went to the Div Hq twice a year for periods of one week to ten days for assemblies of PFS clerks of the division. The chief clerk of the Bn Staff went to a Chief Clerks' assembly at Div Hq. once a year for three days.

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108. Once or twice a year, a seminar was held in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn for all mechanic-driver instructors of the division. This seminar was held in the tank supply company of the battalion and lasted for one month. The instructors were made up of battalion officers and officers from other units of the division. The subjects were driving and the proper utilization of tanks and SP guns. For the period of the seminar, a separate composite company was formed and the senior EM was appointed as acting first sergeant. The manuals used in this instruction were all unclassified. [redacted] They were Guide to Exploitation of the Tank T-34 and Tank. The battalion's tanks and SP guns were used for demonstration purposes.
109. Occasionally, the battalion CO or the C/S called all battalion NCOs together and talked to them on such subjects as personal appearance and discipline. A discussion of future T/O&E changes for the battalion and instruction on defense against atomic weapons were each held once. 9, 8 [redacted] each [redacted].
110. PT appeared to have no systematic planned schedule and occurred only rarely. Usually, PT was held when the battalion CO or the C/S found that the cadre EM were delinquent in rising in the morning or when some other disciplinary matter was involved. Political instruction was presented in two-hour periods twice a week.
111. Training company cadremen had no time for a training program other than the special meetings. At these times they acted as instructors and assistants in the trainee program.

F. Miscellaneous Training Data on the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn

Training Schedules in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn

112. Training schedules in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn were governed by an unknown series of directives which originated from the 13th Gds Mech Div or from CGF Hq. Each week, the Bn C/S indicated by written directive the total number of hours to be devoted to each subject in the training companies for that week. Upon the receipt of this order, each of the two training company COs was responsible for preparing a written weekly training schedule. The schedule was then presented to the C/S who signed it indicating his approval. The schedule drafted in the companies showed the day, hour, subject, location, and instructor for each topic in each platoon. The schedule was posted on the company bulletin board and each individual was responsible for complying with it. Both trainees and instructors were expected to prepare themselves for the classes and the instructors were required to prepare a lesson plan.
113. Every morning after breakfast, there was a company formation and at that time the company CO checked the lesson plans for the day. On Tuesdays, there was a battalion formation held by the battalion C/S for the entire battalion. On this day, he spot-checked lesson plans of the instructors for the day.
114. The average training day in the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn was as follows:
- 0500 (Austrian time) Reveille with five minutes allotted for dressing.
 0505-0530 PT.
 0535-0555 Personal hygiene.
 0555-0610 Morning inspection and muster by the company first sergeant.
 0610-0630 Breakfast. Troops were marched to and from the mess hall by the company first sergeant or his appointed representative.

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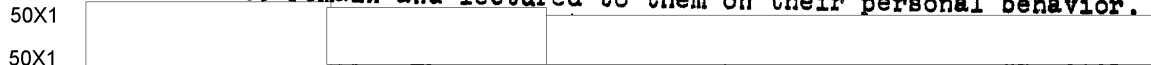
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- 0630-0640 Smoking period at the special company smoke stand.
- 0640-0650 Morning formation. Lesson plans and Co (disciplinary) administrative matters were checked. Men were marched from this formation by the platoon leader.
- 0650-1250 Classroom instruction. Fifty minutes of study and a 10-minute break which included the time required to move to a new classroom.
- 1250-1310 Wash-up.
- 1310-1350 Noon meal. The men marched to the mess hall in company formation.
- 1350-1520 Rest period. Most men slept in their barracks during this time.
- 1520-1530 Reassembly and return to classes. Troops were marched by platoon leaders from barracks.
- 1530-1630 Classroom instruction for 50 minutes and a 10-minute break.
- 1630-1830 Study period and lesson preparation.
- 1830-1900 Weapons cleaning in the company area.
- 1900-1920 Evening meal. Troops were marched in company formation to and from the mess.
- 1920-2130 Free time when troops had to remain in the battalion area.
- 2130-2200 Evening muster and evening walk. Company formation on all days except Tuesdays, when there was a battalion formation. This time was devoted to roll call, announcement of details, and the reading of company orders. Company commanders lectured on personal behavior and then read orders from higher headquarters, i.e., battalion, division, and CGF. The evening walk consisted of the companies passing in review before the battalion commander two times. The first time, they passed by singing songs while the second time they passed by at attention in parade step. The songs were generally ones such as, "Dear Commanders and Officers, Permit Us To Remain".
- 2200 Taps. Personnel were marched to the barracks in formation by the first sergeant.

115. After the evening walk, the battalion CO usually asked all the officers to remain and lectured to them on their personal behavior.



es. They generally followed this vein: first, the CO would select a lieutenant and chastise him for having arrived in camp the night before at 0100 hours in an Austrian taxi. He would say to the lieutenant, "I would prefer that you struck me rather than tell me a lie. You told me that you were back on time and I personally saw you arrive in this taxi - - an Austrian taxi at that. It is commendable that you did return at your own expense and had the presence of mind to use a taxi but I cannot tolerate a liar." After the CO had finished with the lieutenants, he excused them and started in on the captains. Finally, only the CO, C/S, and Political Officer were left. Then, they went back to their quarters arm-in-arm loudly discussing the poor qualities of the present-day Soviet Army junior officers.

116. Tuesday was considered by the men of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn to be the worst day of the week. On this day after breakfast, the morning inspection was conducted by the battalion CO. Tuesday was also the day when the men wore gas masks for six hours during their normal training. Finally, it was the meatless day and the day that was devoted to political study. It was also the day when evening roll call was in battalion formation.

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Training Aids Section

117. In the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn, there was a special training-aid section prescribed by the battalion T/O&E. There were three training-aid clerks (laboranty) who maintained a special training-aid supply room and the training aids used in all the classrooms. They were also the keepers of the keys to all classrooms and supervised the clean-up personnel from the training companies assigned to policing the classrooms. They supervised the storage, maintenance, and utilization of all training aids used by the battalion. Some of the training aids that [redacted] demonstration weapons 50X1 in the classrooms, 100 mm, 122 mm, 85 mm, and 76 mm tank and SP guns, and the DShK, DT, and DTM MGs, demonstration small arms (carbines, PPSH SMGs, TT pistols, Nagant revolvers), gun sights, sighting and aiming training aids (triangulation stands for use with small arms, electrically operated mechanisms utilizing chalk and pencils for tank sighting training), training hand grenades and shells, and various posters used for driving, firing, and ordnance instruction.

G. Additional Training Data

Summer Training and Maneuvers

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a. When the U/1 mortar regiment moved out for summer training in summer 1953 and 1954, the unit completely evacuated its area and left only a guard platoon behind. All equipment and every movable object was taken with them - even loose lumber. Their barracks in Goetzendorf were boarded up and only one building was left open to house the guards. The only weapons and equipment left in the home station were those necessary to support the guard platoon. [redacted]

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[redacted] the full T/E allotment of equipment accompanied the unit to summer camp.

b. The mortar regiment moved out in its organic trucks. This unit had recently been equipped with ZIS-151s in sufficient quantity to move the entire regiment. [redacted] Approximately one platoon (30 men) was loaded in a truck and there were about 40 trucks to the convoy. [redacted] the trip to the Allentsteig training area took the unit about three hours. [redacted]

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c. [redacted] the Allentsteig training area [redacted] consisted of four troop areas. The units of the division were divided into the four areas as follows: the 106th Gds Hvy Tk & SP Regt occupied one, the Div Hq and the medical battalion occupied another, the 46th Gds Mecz Regt and the U/1

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50X1 mortar regiment were in the third and the 106th Gds Recon Bn in the fourth. All of the areas except the one which housed the Div Hq consisted of long, low, pre-war German barracks in bad need of repair. They were built of wood which was rotting; most of the windows were broken and the roofs leaked. [redacted] the buildings had never been repaired since the Soviets began using them. The Div Hq was housed in brick buildings. These buildings were also in a poor condition but because they were brick had stood up better. In addition to the medical battalion, the Div Hq had a field bank, division bakery (PAKH) (?), and other facilities normally found in the Div Hq in garrison. Each area had its own mess hall with kitchen equipment brought from the home station. The mess halls were set up in a building which also had a theater for movies and unit libraries. [redacted] believe that there were any gymnasium, sport, or swimming facilities in the summer camp but had seen a unit bathhouse set up in the 106th Recon Bn area.

50X1

50X1 d. At Allentsteig, [redacted] at the end of the summer training, the entire division contingent was combined in some type of two-week maneuver within the area. 10

50X1 e. [redacted] bread was baked by the division bakery; [redacted] all other supplies came to the training area by railroad. 50X1 [redacted] the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn, which did not accompany 50X1 the parent division to summer encampment had to pick up its 50X1 rations from the division at Allentsteig.

50X1 f. The Allentsteig training area was not fenced in but the same 50X1 restrictions applied to the personnel in the summer camp as to 50X1 those in the home garrison. [redacted] some EM did sneak 50X1 away to purchase liquor in the villages near the area. [redacted] 50X1 [redacted] the afternoon rest 50X1 period was eliminated and that taps came 1½ hours earlier, at 50X1 2030 hours.

Other Data

120.

50X1

50X1

50X1

121.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

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50X1

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50X1



1.

2.

3.

50X1

50X1

50X1

Comment: [redacted] the 1946 edition of this book was used. After [redacted] the 1951 and 1952 editions of these manuals were received.

6.

50X1

Comment: [redacted] insisted that he had seen these shells, although it was pointed out to him that these guns used fixed ammunition and the shells' weight would present ballistic problems. He had no further information.

50X1

Cf. [redacted] paragraph 35, for information from [redacted] commissioning of EM after they have passed a governmental examination.

50X1

50X1

Cf. [redacted] for further details of this handbook and lectures.

50X1

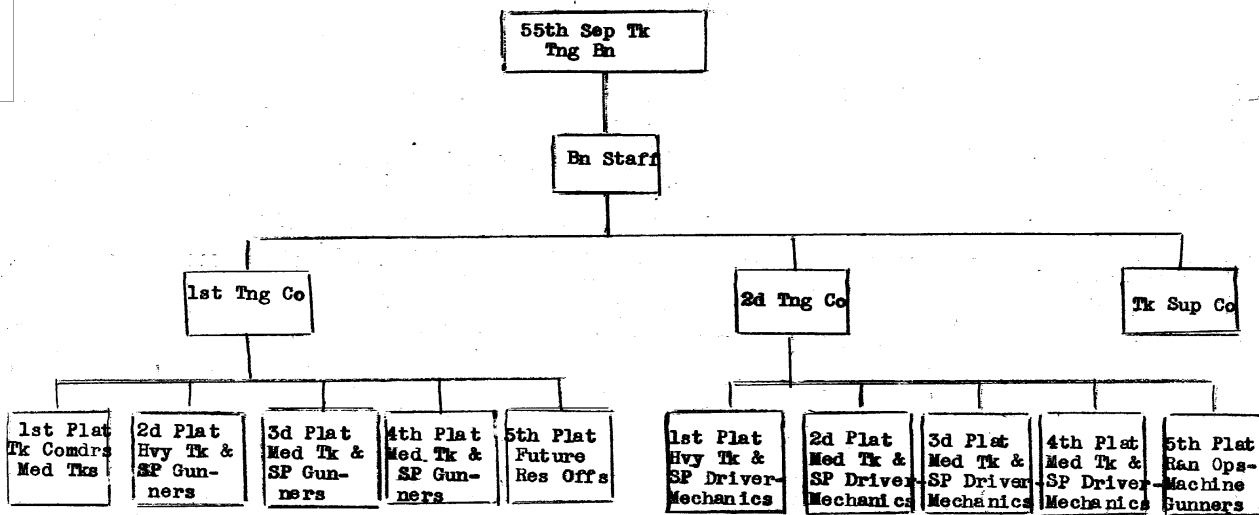
Cf. [redacted] paragraph 5, for further information regarding proposed changes of the T/O&E of source's battalion.

50X1

Cf. [redacted] paragraph 8, for source's information about these maneuvers.

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Estimate of the T/O of the 55th Sep Tk Tng Bn, depicting the Bn cadre and Tng sub-units.



Date of Info: Jun 54
Basis of Info: Personal Observation