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FOREWORD

The object of this publication is a systematic review of current military literature, through cataloging articles of professional value, in selected military and naval periodicals, in the domestic and foreign field.

Articles from foreign periodicals are treated by translations of titles and digests of contents; material of particular importance is covered by more extensive translations in Section 3, "Abstracts of Foreign-language Articles."

Section 4, "Book Reviews," contains reviews of outstanding books, recently accessioned, which are of particular professional significance.

This material is published as a guide to modern military tendencies and to inspire vigorous thought on the subjects treated.

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Major C.A. Willoughby, Editor

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THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL PRESS

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One might think that a division of four regiments would be awkward. But small mobile divisions have no advantage if they lack adequate combat strength. Furthermore, a division of 4 regiments will be sufficiently mobile when a part of the trains are motorized, and the many animal elements are dispensed with.

RUSSIAN IDEAS ON THE USE OF MODERN TANKS

[Idées russes sur l'emploi des chars modernes. By Lieut.-Colonel Mendras. Revue d'Infanterie, December 1932.]

Abstracted by Major R.C. Smith

The Russian Army is keenly interested in the modern trend of armament, mechanization, motorization, aviation, chemicals. Its spokesmen feel that they see the future more clearly than do the armies of capitalistic nations. They believe they are precursors in military thought as well as in social experiments. Their magazine "Army and Revolution," October 1932, gives a summary of their thoughts on tanks.

Tanks offer a solution for the problem of a frontal attack when no flanks are available. They can break through the enemy's line; the infantry that follows mops up and occupies the captured position. A second use of tanks is to work around the enemy flanks or penetrate deep into his position, cut his communications and take his position in reverse. These missions are suitable for independent mechanized forces that include tanks, aviation, artillery, and infantry, followed in second echelon by motorized infantry.

Modern tanks, powerful combat aviation, and massed artillery permit the offensive to pass over any phase of "nibbling" attacks; the hostile position may now be crushed almost simultaneously throughout its depth. The chief problem that faces the assailant is one of organization, of the allotment of tasks to suitable units.

The principal means of attack are:

- (1) *Leading tanks* to operate with complete independence against artillery, reserves, and command posts.
- (2) *Infantry protective tanks* that will break through the enemy position and disorganize its fire; they will operate over a depth of some 2000 meters.
- (3) *Accompanying tanks* that attack with the infantry and protect it against enemy automatic weapons.
- (4) Long range artillery for counterbattery.

(5) Artillery of close support for intimate action with infantry and tanks.

(6) Antiaircraft artillery.

(7) Combat aviation, charged with attacking infantry and reserves and with protection of attacking units from the defender's aviation.

(8) Infantry to deliver the final blow, mop up the position, and take prisoners.

The most dangerous opponent for tanks is the antitank gun. Tanks from their very nature offer poor visibility to their crews. They find it hard to locate camouflaged guns. Mine fields are easy to prepare and are hard for tanks to overcome.

Leading tanks must be speedy, capable of crossing wide ditches, armored against automatic weapons and shell fragments. A battalion of these tanks can overpower two battalions of artillery and could cover a front of 3 to 4 kilometers. They will be corps weapons.

Protective tanks must operate in close liaison with infantry and with accompanying tanks for they must furnish protection against antitank weapons for the latter. Hence, those protective tanks will belong to the division. To protect an infantry regiment attacking on a front of 1000 to 2000 meters there should be at least a company of protective tanks of four platoons; one would expect to find on such a front 12 machine guns and 6 to 8 antitank weapons distributed in depth. All such weapons should be attacked simultaneously.

Accompanying tanks must be closely linked with the infantry. An infantry company attacking a strong point may come against one or two machine guns and two or three automatic rifles, already partly neutralized. Two platoons of accompanying tanks should therefore be given each front-line company. Second-line companies should have one accompanying tank platoon. The entire infantry regiment will need about a battalion of accompanying tanks.

A corps front of 6000 to 8000 meters will need:

2 bns. *leading tanks*

1 bn. *protective tanks*

3 bns. *accompanying tanks*

This is the guiding principle for aviation: *To produce maximum effect, put all planes in the air at the same time and concentrate the action both in space and in time. To attack an*

artillery battalion that is dispersed over about 10,000 sq. meters of area with bombs that have an effective area of burst of about 30 sq. meters, one must allot a squadron. A squadron will also suffice to bomb an infantry regiment in march.

The problem of assuring an intimate liaison between all these diverse units is difficult but most important. The relative speeds of the units govern the time at which they cross the line of departure. The initial movement should be as near simultaneous as possible to prevent the enemy from concentrating his fire on a few tanks. In a particular case, the hour for crossing the line was as follows:

Leading tanks.....	4:40
Protective tanks.....	4:45
Accompanying tanks.....	4:52
Infantry.....	4:55

This schedule has the disadvantage of jamming up the front areas and causing the infantry in its approach march to be passed by the various echelons of tanks but it is considered unavoidable.

The heavy artillery will lay preparation and counter-battery fires. It will engage any targets that expose themselves during the commencement of the tank advance. Some armored and motorized batteries should be furnished to accompany the leading and protective tanks.

The aviation should strike at the moment that the heavy artillery lifts its fires because of the approach of the assaulting units.

Leading tanks will have a single objective in the enemy rear areas; as soon as this objective has been attacked, they will return at once to an area that is protected by the infantry.

The infantry should have the following characteristics:

(1) All vehicles should be cross-country type and armored. Transportation should be provided for all personnel.

(2) In addition to ordinary units, the regiment should have a reconnaissance company of three platoons (armored cars, very light tanks, caterpillar cars), a medium armored car company, a chemical company, a battery of antitank guns on motorized mounts.

The battalion should be augmented by caterpillar machine-gun carriers, a company of light tanks and motorizedartil-

lery company containing antitank guns, bomb throwers, and antiaircraft guns.

(3) Combat trains should be motorized and armored of tank type. Field trains should be trucks of three axles.

(4) Artillery supporting the infantry must be armored and motorized.

Since artillery is called upon to support an attack that advances, not at a mile an hour but at six miles per hour, it must advance much more rapidly. Observation must be close to the batteries with a minimum of wire connection. It must be prepared to fire against an enemy approaching from any direction.

The French reviewer cautions that the ideas presented are admitted by the Russians to be very advanced and perhaps open to question. They do, however, give an indication of the lines along which the Red Army is thinking.

WITHDRAWAL

[Rückzug. Militär-Wochenblatt, 25 October 1932]

Abstracted by Major A. Vollmer

I

Frederick the Great said in his "Thoughts and Rules for War": ". . . of all military operations, withdrawals are the most difficult." He appends explicit directions for carrying out such a movement.

Present day military literature treats this difficult domain inadequately. The German Field Service Regulations deal with it in five pages against 40 for the attack. In the section "Regiment" of Part V of "Infantry Training" it does not appear at all.

For an army weak in equipment the study of withdrawal is especially necessary. On the outbreak of war a little peacetime army must cover the activities of preparedness against a numerically superior enemy. If in these early battles this army is not a master of withdrawal it can be destroyed before mobilization has been completed. But, during the further course of a campaign, as well, the withdrawal comes into use, for example, in order to carry out systematically operations on another sector of the front. The old time opprobrium connected with withdrawal is not easily overcome. But a soldier must have no other idea than that an ordered withdrawal is