

School Exercises for Combat Training in Reconnaissance

THE CREW OF THE INDIVIDUAL VEHICLE WITHIN THE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL

1939/1940

14 EXERCISES WITH CORRESPONDING SITUATION SKETCH MAPS

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FOREWORD

Our motorized and armored reconnaissance battalions can now look back upon a number of practical experiences, some of which were collected under dire circumstances. These are examined in this booklet by *Hauptmann* Fabeck in the form of examples that will make the training entrusted to young officers and noncommissioned officers easier. May the reconnaissance battalions learn from them that the best defense is an offense and that success in reconnaissance springs from audaciousness and a never flagging offensive spirit, coupled with reason and attentiveness and with technical and tactical proficiency.

G u d e r i a n
General der Panzertruppen

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INTRODUCTION

In *Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 470/3*, the following is stated in Paragraph 53: "...school exercises are suitable for creating a uniform foundation in a short period of time which give the patrol leaders and the crews trust and confidence..."

Paragraph 33 of *Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/8c* describes school exercises with similar words.

The following collection of exercises is intended to help trainers in setting up such school exercises. It is intended to give instructor personal of all ranks recommendations and examples for their practical execution.

In order no to endanger transparency, the exercises are limited uniformly to vehicles that are generally found in the motorized reconnaissance battalions.

Therefore, only armored cars [*Panzer-Spähwagen* or *Pz.-Sp. Wg.*], armored reconnaissance squads [*Panzer-Spähtrupp* or *Pz.-Spähtrupp*] and motorcycles will be discussed. Working analogously, however, the examples could also be used as a starting point and inspiration for setting up reconnaissance exercises with other vehicles.

The exercises contained in the following collection of missions are intended to instruct the crews of individual vehicles. The start points and missions are therefore always tailored to the individual vehicle. If the examples are to serve as the starting point for setting up exercises of a complete reconnaissance patrol, the situations and the missions can, in part, be simplified.

The Author

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A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the examples is to train the young soldiers of a **vehicle crew** to act in a unified manner. It is intended to advance by drill the

foundations of a tactically proper response and decision making early on by means of certain well-defined school exercises.

The skills already gained in **individual training** (*Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 470/3a*, Part B and *Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/8c*, Part B)—vehicle training; training as a

¹ Only Exercises 3, 4 and 10 have been translated for illustrative purposes.

ground scout by means of movement exercises and hearing perception; use of the map; training in reporting, such as the preparing, transmission and rendering of reports; and basic training in engineer tasks—are the necessary ABC's of the **individual soldier** and **prerequisite** for the seamless function of the **vehicle crew**.

The soldiers have to be able to master the tools given them: Vehicle, weapons, equipment, etc.

The necessity of executing the prescribed crew drills in the most exact and fastest manner possible must be continuously stressed as an instructional point while going through the tactical exercises.

It is important that the **terrain** that is to be used for the execution of the missions be reconnoitered in a timely manner by the chief instructor and the training personnel prior to the start of the exercises. The terrain features and the sketch maps used in the individual examples are to be considered to be purely illustrative. They are solely intended to be recommendations and a help in selecting suitable terrain.

The **enemy** has to be briefed on site in an exact manner with regard to what he has to do and which signal will be used to have him appear. These instructions can never be issued too thoroughly. They are of decisive importance for the success of the exercise. The actions of the enemy are always to be subordinated to the purposes of achieving the exercise goals.

The mission is to be rehearsed with the soldiers on a **sandtable** prior to its execution in the terrain where it will take place. The soldier must know precisely why he has to act in such and such a manner after the start of the incident. He needs to be or become firmly convinced of the properness of his countermeasures. When executing the example on the actual terrain, there can still be numerous mistakes, despite all that. This must be discussed immediately at the time and place of occurrence.

In a few of the **scenarios**, the **mission of the reconnaissance patrol** is not spelled out in detail, since the scenario does not concern the mission of the reconnaissance patrol. Instead, the scenario is concerned with the missions of the **individual vehicle within the framework of the reconnaissance patrol**. Only the **mission of the individual vehicle** is described in detail in order to prevent the recruit from confusing the missions of the reconnaissance patrol and the individual vehicle. The missions of the reconnaissance patrol are therefore only

discussed in each case as much as is needed to understand the over-all situation and allow the crew of the **individual vehicle** to act properly within context of the mission.

The information provided in the **scenario** and the **mission** is to use when conducting the exercise in **direct orders** and in giving the situation. The **issuance** of short and clear **orders** is to be encouraged in all situations with the soldiers. At the start of the mission stress is to be placed on **repeating the mission** by the armor commander. Furthermore, it is to be stressed that the **mission** must be executed unconditionally. The young soldier is to be trained from the very beginning that everything is to be subordinated to the absolute completion of the mission; if necessary, even one's own life. When it is no longer possible to execute the mission exactly, then efforts must be made as a minimum to continue within its context. To that end, the reconnaissance patrol order of paramount importance.

Decisive for the selection of terrain, scenario and mission is the **purpose of the exercise**.

During the **conduct of the exercises**, the **instructor** is to remain in the vicinity of the students. During the focal point of the exercise, an **assistant instructor** may be necessary to overwatch details.

It is fundamental that an **umpire** be at the location, who knows exactly what is going on.

It is not always imperative that the soldiers execute their individual tasks in the order given. The main thing is that everything occurs at the right time in accordance with the situation. It must be stressed that in the course of the **battle drills** that no action is forgotten, even those of seemingly minor importance, even if their execution appears to be of secondary importance or obvious for a soldier, who has already been trained. On the other hand, do not fall into mindless **templating**!

At the conclusion of the mission, every soldier must be informed on how he solved the problem and how he fulfilled the mission.

At the end of the exercise day, the enemy is to be heard, with an eye to whether something striking was observed with regard to the actions of the soldiers. This is then to be addressed at the **final briefing**. In addition, the local **situation** at the beginning and at the end of the mission is to be **evaluated** and what conclusions can be drawn from that for friendly actions. — Insight into the **decision-making capability** and ability to estimate the situation on the part of the soldiers can also be gained in missions

where the scouts and the drivers appear together and are occasionally asked during the after-action review, what should have been done if one man of the crew had been lost during the engagement.

The **paragraphs of the manuals** that are keyed to the individual exercises should be pointed out during the after-action review. In the missions, not only are the paragraphs of the manuals concerning the vehicle used in the mission listed (under r), but the manuals and paragraphs of other possible vehicles that may be used are also listed in order to assist the trainers.

Usually, it is good if the soldiers, who are to undergo the same mission later on, are **spectators** at the location of the events and view the course of the exercise. Their attention must be drawn to the mistakes of their comrades by the exercise controller or assistant personnel, and they should also alert each other of mistakes they see. If the same fundamental mistakes keep resurfacing despite all that, then it is practical to demonstrate the mission once by the instructor personnel.

The exercise controller has to decide occasionally, who may be permitted to watch. For those soldiers, who have already completed the mission, there is no useful purpose served having them view the events.

It is recommended that the mission be repeated at the same location in the terrain in one of its **modified forms**. The differences in the course of the exercises are to be pointed out ahead of time during a period of instruction. During the repetition, personnel who are not directly involved should be allowed to view it.

Once all of the modified examples have been practiced by all of the personnel, then the basic exercise should be repeated, but on different terrain and without having any viewers present and without having instructed them earlier on what will transpire. This repetition serves to test the **level of training** of the individual soldiers.

When **time is constrained**, it is advisable to initially only conduct individual basic missions in an exacting fashion as opposed to a superficial treatment of all of the examples. It is better for the soldier to feel confident in just a few areas than to not feel confident in all of them.

The **type of vehicle** used in the examples is the light armored car. If the missions are to be executed with other types of vehicles, then the preparation and execution of the exercises is to be tailored to the changed circumstances—especially with regard to the changed weaponry and the

issuance of orders. In the case of vehicles with more than a two-man crew, ensure that an already trained armor leader (exercise controller or assistant personnel) rides along in the vehicle. This armored leader must know exactly how the exercise will run. Whenever it becomes necessary in the course of the mission, he must be able to issue orders and commands without hesitation, so that the scout and the driver act properly. These orders must be limited to the bare minimum necessary. To foster decision-making abilities and self-sufficiency of the individual crewmembers, the additional armor leader must leave anytime, when the mission can be accomplished without any problems in the context of the exercise purpose without his presence.

If the appearance of the **reconnaissance patrol leader** is necessary in the missions, the exercise controller must decide ahead of time, whether the reconnaissance patrol leader and his vehicle are actually to be portrayed. It will frequently suffice if the exercise controller portrays the patrol leader and rides along on the vehicles in which the exercise is being conducted.

It should also be attempted to select a few of the missions that have already been conducted during the day as exercises for **night training**, without making large changes to the structure of the example. By doing that, one can quickly demonstrate to the soldiers the considerable difference in actions taken during the day and the night.

The missions can also be used for **more senior soldiers**, who have already be trained, as **repetitive drills** or as **advanced exercises**. In such cases, the degree of preparatory discussion is based on the degree of training of all of the participants. In most cases, it will be necessary to allow these types of exercises to run in an open and non-predetermined manner, in contrast to the battle-drill school exercises of the recruits. Nonetheless, it must be ensured that the desired individual exercise purposes are achieved. This is achieved by the structure of the scenario and the mission.

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B. THE MISSIONS

(The sketch maps are not drawn to scale and must be considered illustrative only.)

3. MEETING ENGAGEMENT WITH LIGHT ENEMY ARMORED CAR (EXERCISE PURPOSE: ATTACK ON THE ENEMY VEHICLE)

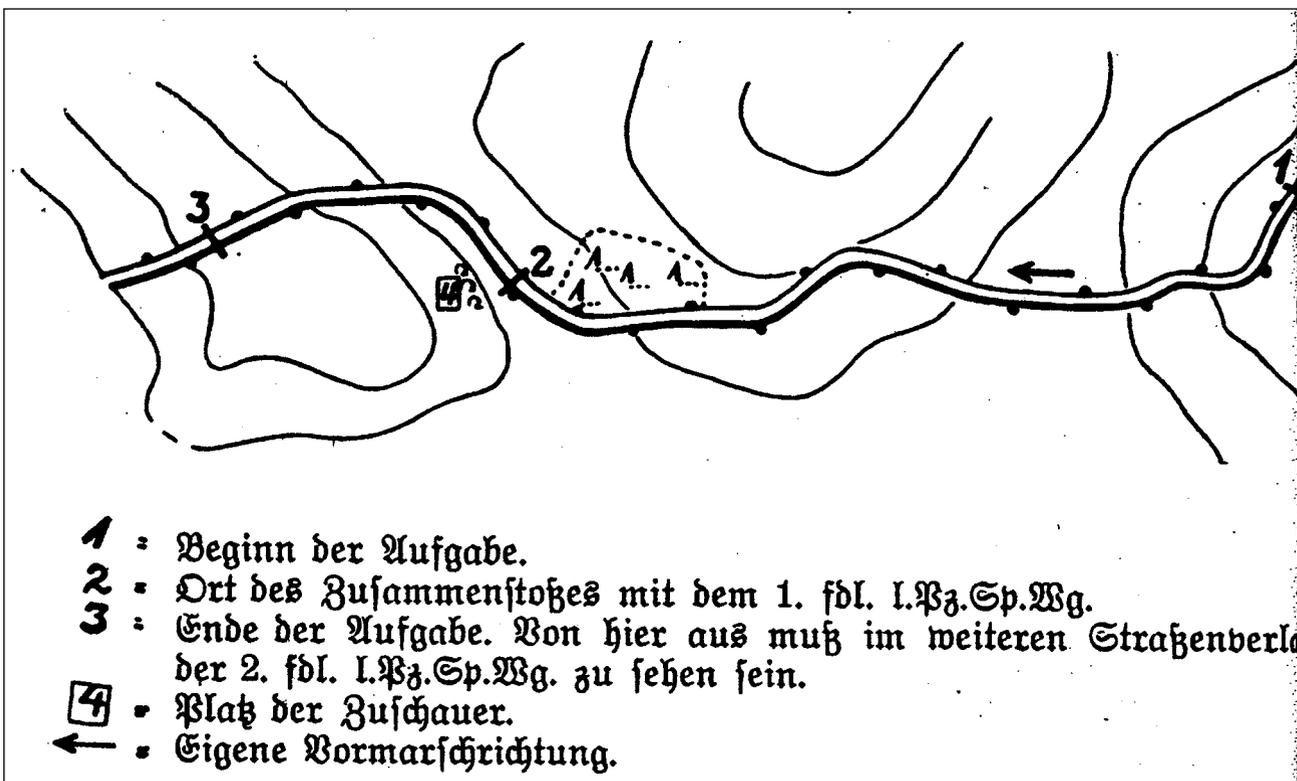
- 3. Meeting engagement with light enemy armored car
 - a) **Exercise Purpose:** Attack on the enemy vehicle.
 - b) **Type of Vehicle:** One light armored car with armor-defeating weapon.
 - c) **Employment of the vehicle as:** Lead vehicle of the light armored car section
 - d) **Terrain:** Windy road with limited visibility in hilly terrain
 - e) **Opposing force:** 2 light armored cars
 - f) **Scenario:** The reconnaissance patrol is moving on the road in enemy territory in an area that is threatened by

the enemy. Up to this point, there have been no encounters with the enemy. Enemy contact (reconnaissance patrols) is possible at any time, however. The bound of the reconnaissance patrol goes to the next observation point. (If possible, show in the terrain.) Speed is of the essence.

g) **Mission:** The light armored car is to move to the designated observation point as the lead vehicle and wait there for the rest of the patrol to close up.

h) **Start of the Mission:** Displaced as far as possible from the site of the contact so that the vehicle has to pass several curves and blind spots in the road before it encounters the enemy.

i) **Sequence of Events:** While moving, the advancing vehicle unexpectedly encounters a light enemy armored car approaching it from about 100 meters away. The vehicle attacks the enemy armored car without hesitation,



EXERCISE 3

Legend:

- 1 = Start of the mission
- 2 = Location of the encounter with the first light enemy armored car

3 = End of the mission. From that location, the second enemy light armored car must be able to be observed at a distance.

- 4 = Location of the observers
- ← = Friendly direction of march

approaches the enemy with increased speed and covers the enemy with fire. The enemy vehicle that has been eliminated is passed, and the vehicle stops at the next good observation point and screens.

k) Actions of the Scout:

1. After the mission is received, command to the driver: "Prepare for combat." The order is executed.

2. Orders to the driver as to how he should advance.

3. Start up the engine upon the command: "*Marsch!*"

4. When the enemy armored car is identified, orders and call to the driver: "Full speed!" — "Past the enemy!" — "I'm engaging!"

5. Immediate opening of fire on the enemy armored car. Take up a correct sight picture. Select the proper sight.

6. When even with the knocked-out enemy armored car, order or command to the driver to move past immediately.

7. Quick look at the enemy vehicle to determine whether the crew has been put out of action.

8. Immediate command to the driver where he should move.

9. Command: "*Marsch!*"

10. Have the vehicle stop at the designated point.

11. Give hand-and-arm signal to the reconnaissance-patrol leader that another enemy armored vehicle has been sighted.

l) Actions of the Driver:

1. Execution of all of the commands and orders of the vehicle commander.

2. In case the scout has not seen the approaching vehicle, alert to the vehicle commander.

3. Move tactically properly the entire route. Select the side of the road with the best cover. Move through curves and bends in the road tactically. Maintain a proper speed.

m) **Observe the following during the drill:** The position of the encounter should be selected in such a manner that it is located in a depression that requires the friendly vehicle to continue moving along the road another 100-200 meters after the engagement in order to be able to observe the further course of the road and screen as long as it takes for the remainder of the reconnaissance patrol, which has arrived in the meantime, to search the knocked-

out enemy armored vehicle. The second enemy light armored car must be able to be observed at some distance from the bound to the screening position. The second vehicle of the enemy reconnaissance patrol has to halt at the designated point during the mission in such a manner that it cannot intervene in the engagement. The observation and screening halt cannot be allowed to be mistaken for the observation point located much further away (as mentioned under f) Visual contact between the exercise controller and the enemy must be viable so that it can be ensured that the two vehicles do, in fact, encounter one another. To that end, the enemy armored vehicle has to wait with a running engine so as to be able to approach quickly and in a timely manner. Each participant is to be asked at the conclusion of the mission what his estimate of the situation is and what his decision is.

n) **Special Notes for the Enemy:** Do not open fire until the lead vehicle has opened fire. The enemy is supposed to indicate by his actions that he has been surprised. Before the armored car that is undergoing the exercise has reached the area of the enemy vehicle, the enemy vehicle is to halt on the edge of the road (tree or ditch). When the reconnaissance patrol vehicle arrives, the enemy crew is to pretend to be combat ineffective or dead so that the lead vehicle can immediately continue to move on.

o) **Location of the Viewers:** Locate in such a manner that they can observe the encounter without alerting the crew of the approaching lead vehicle.

p) **Special Notes for the Viewers:** Alert the viewers at the start of the commencement of fires and the assumption of a higher rate of speed. Compare this among the individual soldiers. Point out the efforts of the enemy to avoid observation.

q) **Special Points for the After-Action Review:** Emphasize the necessity of still moving **rapidly** even in areas threatened by the enemy, since the average speed sinks considerably as a result of the halting at the individual observation points. Point out that in the case of a meeting engagement, the bolder and more audacious soldier will usually be the victor. Discuss the advantages of a hard-pressed attack even in the case of friendly inferiority in weaponry. Clarify the question of the aiming point when firing. It is preferable to fire short than over. Question the soldiers on their assessment of the situation. Especially concerning the time directly following the encounter. Describe the danger of the appearance of additional enemy armored vehicles

and the conclusions that are to be drawn as a result. It must be mentioned that the crew of a **reporting** vehicle has to search the knocked-out vehicle and the dead crew for papers etc. after an encounter with an enemy armored car, inasmuch as this can occur without endangering the friendly vehicle as the result of newly arriving enemy. In the mission illustrated above, however, that is the responsibility of the reconnaissance patrol leader.

r) **Appropriate Paragraphs from Manuals:**

- Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 470/3a* = 39, 42, 43, 62, 73, 77, 103 (1st and 2nd sentences), 104, Annexes 1 and 2
- Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5b* = 13, 27, 29
- Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5c* = 12, 25, 26
- Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5d* = 12, 25, 26
- Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5e* = 12, 25, 27
- Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5f* = 13, 28, 30
- Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/8c* = 20, 23, 24, 51, 53, 68, 69, Annexes 2 and 3

s) **Modification Options for the Mission:** Numerous modifications are possible by selecting a different type of vehicle, by organizing the reconnaissance patrol differently, by seeking out different types of terrain or just different places in the road and by differing actions on the part of the enemy, e.g., the second enemy armored vehicles follows more closely. For example, the enemy can also move out in the direction of the lead vehicle while firing. He can attempt to escape by setting of a smoke grenade and turning around. Furthermore, he can halt first and then fire. After the enemy stops at the side of the road, the enemy crew also does not have to be combat ineffective. It can continue to fire or it can attempt to flee from its disabled vehicle.

It is recommended that especially instructive modifications be conducted numerous times, even if it has to be done at the same place due to a lack of time and solely as a demonstration for viewers. The basic mission is also to be performed once **at night**. To that end, observe *Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 470/3a*, paragraphs 81 and 104 (last portion), as well as *Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/8c*, paragraph 56.

An important modification consists of selecting a heavy armored car for the enemy instead of a light armored car. In that case, it must be ensured that the encounter takes place at very close range. The importance of a rapid movement and heavy fire must be emphasized. In that situation, the vehicle needs to turn off the road as soon as possible when it gets past the superior enemy armored vehicle and has broken through. The vehicle may not stop next to the

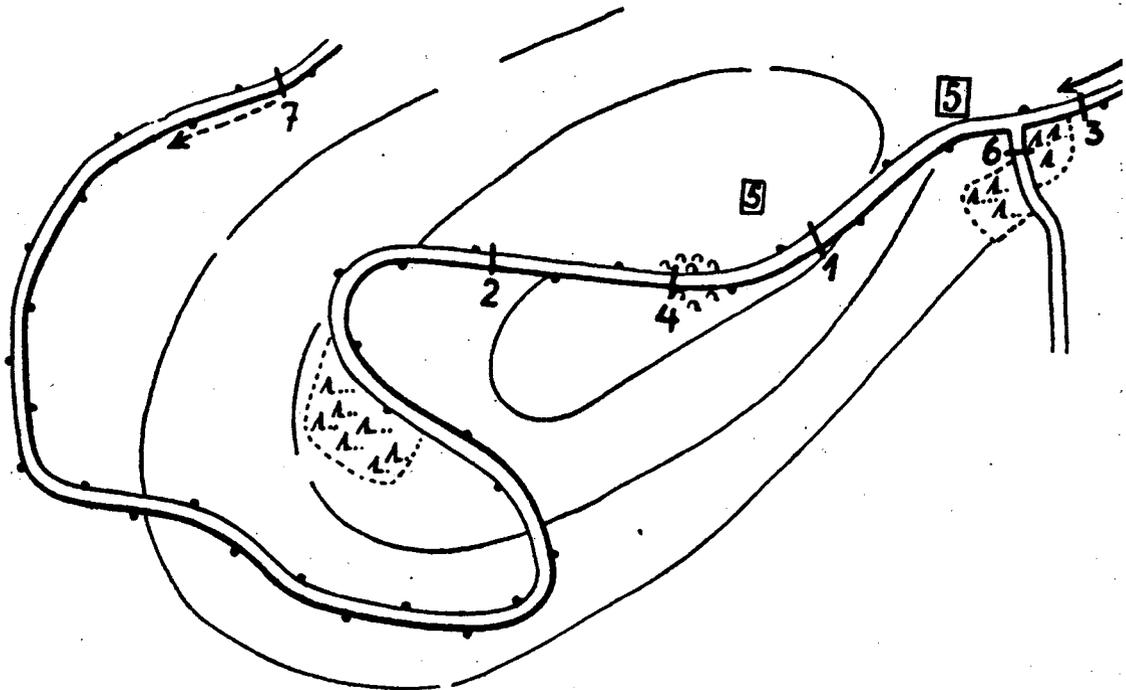
enemy vehicle, because it must be assumed that additional superior enemy armored vehicles will arrive immediately. Whether the enemy heavy armored car will be declared out of action by the light armored vehicle in this modified situation depends on the weaponry on the light armored car and from the actions of its crew. The location for this example is to be selected in such a manner that a covered side path leads off from the site of the encounter into which the light armored car can turn. After the vehicle has turned off, the scout must attempt to warn the reconnaissance patrol leader, who was following along the main road, by means of signals or through firing. In most cases, it will be too late to do that or impossible because of the terrain. That point must become a part of the review.

For the enemy, it is imperative to allow the aggressively attacking lead vehicle to pass (purpose of the exercise), even though it is the stronger vehicle. Only in the case of hesitant actions on the part of the light armored car is the enemy allowed to book a partial success (taking the exercise purpose into consideration), which has the scout in the light armored car suffer a grazing wound to the head. In this exercise, the second enemy heavy armored car must be able to be identified at some distance on the main road at the moment that the exercise lead vehicle has moved near the side path.



4. MEETING ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY HEAVY ARMORED CAR (EXERCISE PURPOSE: WITHDRAWAL IN THE FACE OF A SUPERIOR ENEMY)

4. Meeting engagement with enemy heavy armored car
 - a) **Exercise Purpose:** Withdrawal in the face of a superior enemy
 - b) **Type of Vehicle:** One light armored car
 - c) **Employment of the vehicle as:** Individual vehicle of the light armored car section of at least three vehicles, which has a special mission
 - d) **Terrain:** Windy road with good visibility and concealment opportunities along a side road
 - e) **Opposing force:** 2 to 3 armored cars, with at least the first vehicle being a heavy armored car
 - f) **Scenario:** The reconnaissance patrol is in friendly territory that is threatened by the enemy. When the lead



- 1 = Beginn der Aufgabe.
 2 = Punkt, von dem aus der fdl. Pz.-Spähtrupp bei 7 auf weite Entfernung erkannt wird.
 3 = Punkt, bis zu dem das Fahrzeug zurückfahren muß, um dort dem Spähtruppführer den erkannten Feind zu melden.
 4 = Platz der Sicherung zum Schutz für den abbiegenden eigenen Spähtrupp.
 5 = Plätze der Zuschauer.
 6 = Ende der Aufgabe.
 7 = Platz des Feindes, an dem er zuerst erkannt wird.
 ← = Vormarschrichtung des Spähtrupps.
 ←(dotted) = Vormarschrichtung des Feindes.

EXERCISE 4

Legend:

- 1 = Start of the mission
 2 = Point at which the enemy armored reconnaissance patrol at 7 (at some distance) is identified
 3 = Point to which the vehicle must move back in order to report the identified enemy to the reconnaissance patrol leader

- 4 = Location for screening the friendly reconnaissance section, which is turning away
 5 = Locations of the viewers
 6 = End of the mission
 7 = Location of the enemy at the point where he is first identified
 ← = Friendly direction of march
 ←(dotted) = Enemy direction of march

Scouts Out!

vehicle reaches point 1 (exercise start point), it is stopped by the reconnaissance-patrol leader, who is moving second in line, because the last vehicle of the reconnaissance patrol has signaled it has mechanical problems and is halting. The reconnaissance-patrol leader wants to return to the disabled vehicle to see what is wrong.

g) **Mission:** The light armored car is directed to move forward to the large S-curve (describe or show in more detail) and screen the remainder of the reconnaissance patrol.

h) **Start of the Mission:** Approximately 500 meters from the locations from which the enemy can be identified

i) **Sequence of Events:** After clearing for action, the vehicle moves out. Just before reaching the S-curve, 2 enemy heavy armored cars can be seen at some distance. They are approaching the vehicle on the road, moving somewhat slowly. The light armored car turns around, moves quickly back to the reconnaissance-patrol leader, reports and receives orders to screen on the road until the disabled trail vehicle, which is being towed into the woods, has turned off onto the side road. The vehicle then links up with the reconnaissance patrol as rear security.

k) **Actions of the Scout:**

1. Relay the mission to the driver.
2. Command to the driver: "prepare for combat." Command is executed.
3. Orders to the driver as to how he should advance.
4. Command: "*Marsch!*"
5. When the enemy vehicles are identified, call to the driver: "Straight ahead (half left, half right): Enemy tanks!"
6. Command to the driver: "Halt!"
7. Order to the driver: "Back up! — *Marsch!*" — "Turn around!" — "Move back as fast as possible to the reconnaissance-patrol leader!"
8. Traverse weapons in the direction of the enemy. Remain trained on them.
9. Hold a red flag in the direction of the enemy.
10. Report shortly and succinctly when reaching the reconnaissance-patrol leader: "There...2 enemy heavy armored cars marching in this direction. Distance still approximately 3 kilometers. Enemy has not yet identified me. Enemy moving slowly."
11. After receiving the screening order from the reconnaissance-patrol leader, orders to the driver to quickly reach the designated screening location. Execution.

12. Assignment of observation zones. (Driver keeps the side road under observation.)

13. Determine the distance to open fire.

14. Set sights. Keep training weapons.

15. Open fire when the enemy appears.

16. When the last vehicle of the reconnaissance patrol has turned off, orders to the driver: "Follow the reconnaissance patrol!" — "*Marsch!*"

17. Continue to screen in the direction of the enemy.

l) **Actions of the Driver:**

1. Execution of all of the commands and orders of the vehicle commander.
2. Move tactically properly (interior curves).
3. If the driver identifies the enemy first, alert to the scout.
4. Properly select a position to be able to turn around quickly. Proper selection of gears.
5. Stop in time next to the leader's vehicle.
6. When receiving orders from the leader, already start considering the best approach routes to the designated screening position.
7. Skillfully position vehicle so that it can quickly get away and turn off into the side road.
8. Alerting of the vehicle commander when the last vehicle has turned off. At the same time, start to engage the clutch to depart.
9. Keep the engine running the entire time.
10. Do not move out until ordered by the vehicle commander.

m) **Observe the following during the drill:** The location, from which the enemy reconnaissance patrol is to be observed, must offer good observation of the continued course of the road and is not to offer good cover or concealment. It is better if it is higher than the continued run of the road. The continued run of the road should also offer little opportunity for concealment. The road should run in broad, easily observable curves, so that the enemy reconnaissance patrol can be seen in one of the bends from a great distance.

The remaining vehicles of the reconnaissance patrol need to be represented. The interval and march speed of these vehicles must be suited to the terrain and the mission. Avoid having the disabled vehicle already past the side road that is to be used for turning off before the returning

vehicle has reached the command vehicle in the vicinity of the disabled vehicle.

When the returning vehicle arrives, the command vehicle will be in the process of positioning itself in front of the disabled vehicle to tow it. Based on the report of the returning vehicle, the reconnaissance-patrol leader will issue orders (previously discussed in detail) to evacuate [the disabled vehicle] into the woods and for the other vehicle to screen [the action]. The remainder of the reconnaissance patrol should disappear into the woods soon after the screening vehicle has departed, so that the decision to break off the screening mission before it gets involved in an engagement is made easier (purpose of the exercise).

As far as possible, the leader of the exercise portrays the reconnaissance-patrol leader, so that the reconnaissance-patrol leader's orders for turning off and screening are given in a manner consistent with the mission.

The location, where the returning lead vehicle has to screen the reconnaissance patrol that is turning off, should not be too far from the side road, so that the screening vehicle also gets away and maintains eye contact with the departing patrol. It must be possible from that position to open fire at great distance on the approaching enemy force. On the other hand, the screening position must be situated in such a manner that the reconnaissance patrol turning off into the side road cannot get involved in a firefight along with the screening vehicle.

n) **Special Notes for the Enemy:** The enemy force must only be identified the first time from such a distance that it is not possible on the part of the exercise vehicle to open fire. If the enemy force receives fire later on from the screening vehicle (Point 4 on the sketch map), then it is to delay its continued advance to such an extent that the screening vehicle can still pull back in a timely manner and turn into the woods. If the enemy notices that the screening vehicle has withdrawn, then he can pick up the tempo. Whether the enemy armor follows the vehicle into the side road or continues to move straight along the main road depends on the actions of the exercise vehicle, the terrain and the intent of the exercise controller. The exercise purpose of this mission is best met when the entire reconnaissance patrol, including the screening vehicle, reaches the cover of the woods without becoming engaged by the time the enemy has emerged from the vegetation at Point 4. In that case, the enemy force should not follow along the side road.

The approaching enemy must move with a purpose but slowly enough that he does not encounter the [exercise] vehicle until it has occupied its screening position. The enemy can only fire at the screening vehicle first.

o) **Location of the Viewers:** In the vicinity of the side road, so that they can see the report of the returning vehicle and its subsequent actions. For the viewers, it is good if the start point of the mission is not too far from the side road. That way, it may be possible for the viewers to also see the start of the mission.

p) **Special Notes for the Viewers:** The attention of the viewers is to be drawn to the way the report is rendered and the execution of the screening mission. Their attention is to be drawn to the important question of when to open fire and to be drilled on the topic. They should determine the proper firing distances. The opening of fire from the screening position is to be determined by how far the vehicles have already turned off when the enemy appears.

q) **Special Points for the After-Action Review:** The original mission is to be discussed and explained why temporary deviance from it is sometimes justified. (Moving back by the lead vehicle and report to the reconnaissance-patrol leader instead of screening from the S-curve.) Emphasize the necessity of making a rapid decision so that the reconnaissance patrol can turn away without being disrupted and continue its actual mission. With regard to the question of when to open fire from the screening position, say that the best thing would be if the entire reconnaissance patrol could turn off before the enemy arrived without the screening vehicle having to fire. If the enemy arrives sooner, however, then he has to be blinded by continuous fire at the furthest possible distance so that the rest of the reconnaissance patrol can turn off without being ruffled.

r) **Appropriate Paragraphs from Manuals:**

Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 470/3a = 39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 57, 63, 69, 72, Annexes 1 and 2

Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5b = 13, 17, 29, 36

Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5c = 12, 25, 26, 32

Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5d = 12, 25, 26, 31

Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5e = 12, 25, 27, 30

Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/5f = 13, 28, 30, 37

Heeres-Dienstvorschrift 299/8c = 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 38, 39, 40, 46, 53, Annexes 2 and 3

s) **Modification Options for the Mission:** Look for a road with somewhat limited visibility. The enemy is already a bit closer, identifying the light armored car first

and engaging it. One time, when he halts; another time, when he approaches rapidly, firing. The scout in the light armored car must reply heavily with fire. Toss smoke grenades. If one cannot advance any further with the vehicle, dismount with maps, machine gun and submachine guns and disappear into the next available concealment. Based on the situation, engage the enemy crew that has dismounted. There are a number of variants based on the terrain, the closeness of the enemy and the approach speed. In the process, however, it is important not to lose sight of the intended exercise purpose (withdrawal). This exercise purpose can also be played against an inferior enemy. In that case, however, it is necessary to order a withdrawal in the event the enemy appears. The main point of such an exercise is then most certainly in the execution of the mission. This variant may only be selected, however, when a mission had previously been portrayed when the importance of offensive measures has been hammered in (even, under certain circumstances, of a superior enemy).

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10. ACTIONS TAKEN BY A SCREENING VEHICLE DURING AN ENEMY ARMORED ATTACK (EXERCISE PURPOSE: DEFENDING FROM THE SCREENING POSITION)

10. Actions taken by a screening vehicle during an enemy armored attack (This exercise is planned as an extension of exercise 9)

- a) **Exercise Purpose:** Defending from the screening position
- b) **Type of Vehicle:** One light armored car
- c) **Employment of the vehicle as:** Individual vehicle with a screening mission
- d) **Terrain:** Secondary trail, which turns off from the main road or trail in such a manner that the secondary trail continues to run in approximately the same direction of the main road, while the main road turns off into another direction. At some distance from the fork along the secondary trail, there is a patch of woods or trees. On the trail's entry point into the woods and its immediate surroundings, there is underbrush and vegetation. This position must offer differing options for the taking of a screening position

and offer differing opportunities for observing the road. — (The same terrain as in Exercise 9.)

- e) **Opposing force:**
 - Scenario 1: One heavy armored car
 - Scenario 2: One heavy armored car
 - Scenario 3: One light armored car without cannon
 - Scenario 4: One light armored car without cannon
- f) **Scenario:** The reconnaissance patrol to which the individual vehicle belongs is in enemy territory with possible enemy in the area of operations. A quarter of an hour previously, the patrol had an engagement with an enemy reconnaissance patrol. The enemy was defeated. The friendly reconnaissance patrol has hidden itself in a patch of woods so as to repair a vehicle that was damaged in the engagement and was evacuated there.
- g) **Mission:** The vehicle is already located in the screening position. In all other respects, the mission is the same as in Exercise 9.²
- h) **Start of the Mission:** In the screening position.
- i) **Sequence of Events:**

Scenario 1: The heavy armored car approaches, stops in front of the obstacle, moves back somewhat and dismounts a man who stealthily approaches the obstacle. The screening vehicle engages the soldier. If the fire is opened very early on, then the soldier runs back to the armored vehicle. If fire is not opened until the man searches the obstacle, then he is killed. In both cases, the enemy armored car moves away.

Scenario 2: The enemy heavy armored car halts right in front of the dummy obstacle. It then makes an effort to move on over or through it. In the process, it receives fire from the screening vehicle. It then halts and moves back, firing a burst at the screening vehicle. The screening vehicle is hit and burns. The driver is dead. The scout jumps out and defends from alternate positions on the ground.

Scenario 3: The enemy light armored car is engaged by the screening vehicle, when it reaches the obstacle. The enemy armored vehicle thereupon withdraws.

² Editor's Note: "The vehicle crew is directed to establish a screening position in the vicinity of the edge of the woods and prevent the enemy from disturbing the reconnaissance patrol, which is working in a concealed position. The screening is to last approximately 2 hours. The end of the screening mission will be ordered."

Scenario 4: The enemy light armored car acts analogously to the heavy armored car in Scenario 2: In crossing the dummy obstacle, however, it is immobilized by fire from the screening vehicle and remains stationary. The dismounting crew is killed by more fire from the screening vehicle.

k) **Actions of the Scout:**

Scenario 1: 1. When the enemy armored vehicle approaches, call to the driver: "Armored vehicle straight

ahead. Observe whether more are coming. I'm engaging if the enemy dismounts at the obstacle."

2. Lock and load; train weapons on the approaching armored vehicle.

3. If the armored vehicle stops again after backing up and dismounts a man, call to the driver: "I'm engaging the dismounted soldier; observe the armored vehicle."

4. Burst of fire on the dismounted man.

5. When the enemy armored vehicle has moved back,

either an order to the driver to search the dead man or take a report to the reconnaissance-patrol leader. That depends on the distance to the dead man, the current location of the enemy armored vehicle and the distance to the friendly reconnaissance-patrol leader.

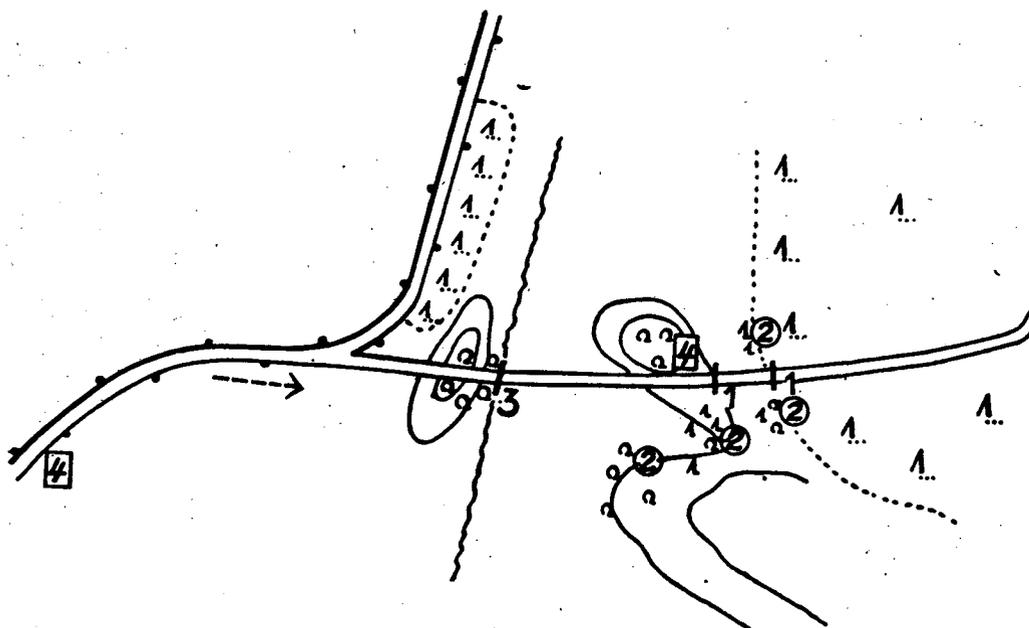
Scenario 2:

1 and 2 analogous to Scenario 1, 1 and 2.

3. Open fire on the enemy armored vehicle when it attempts to move through the obstacle.

4. If the friendly vehicle is hit and starts to burn, toss out ammunition canisters or new magazines, if possible, also hand grenades and smoke grenades. Yank the machine gun out of its mount and jump out with it.

5. Go into position on the ground at some distance from the vehicle.



1 = Beginn der Aufgabe, zugleich Sicherungsstellungen mit Sperre.

② = Wechselstellungen für den M.G.-Schützen.

3 = Scheinsperre.

④ = Mögliche Plätze für Zuschauer.

-->: Bormarschrichtung der fdl. Pz.Sp.Bg.

EXERCISE 10

Legend:

1 = Start of the mission, including screening positions with obstacle

2 = Alternate positions for the machine gunner

3 = Dummy obstacle

4 = Possible positions for viewers

→(dotted) = Direction of march of the enemy armored car

6. Attempt to blind the approaching enemy vehicle by means of smoke grenades and machine-gun fire and, when it gets closer, engage it with hand grenades.

Scenarios 3 and 4: Analogous to Scenario 1.

l) **Actions of the Driver:**

Scenarios 1-4: 1. Execute the orders of the scout.

2. Continuously report observations to the scout.

m) **Observe the following during the drill:** Prior to the start of the exercise, all of the conditions of Exercise 9 must be met. While the focal point of the exercise there was the establishment of the position, the emphasis here is in the proper actions to take once it is completed. The better the siting, establishing and camouflaging of the position, the more successfully this exercise can be conducted. Especially important in this exercise is the coordination between the exercise control, which must be located with the screening vehicle, and the enemy forces. It is important that precise signals are arranged for the stopping, approach, dismounting, firing and negotiation of the obstacle, since it may be necessary to control the actions of the enemy based on the actions of the scout in the screening vehicle, if the purpose of the exercise is to be completely achieved in the individual scenarios. Assign umpires! Whether every scout will go through all four scenarios or only one depends on the amount of time available and the degree of training of the soldiers. In Scenario 1, care must be taken that the scout does not fire on the enemy vehicle as it initially backs up so as not to betray its position prematurely. To test the decision-making abilities and nerves of the scout, it is good to leave it up to him as to when to open fire on the dismounted enemy in Scenario 1.

n) **Special Notes for the Enemy:** In Scenario 2, fire may not be opened until the screening vehicle has first opened fire. The enemy armored vehicle is to stop at the obstacle initially, so as to draw out the defensive fire of the screening vehicle. If the screening vehicle does not fire, then the enemy armored vehicle will attempt to move through the obstacle. If the screening force then fires, then the enemy armored vehicle, for its part, is to pull back slowly, firing at the same time. This is to show the young soldier that even a superior enemy vehicle has to stop to consider whether to continue approaching even an inferior vehicle when the vehicle is well camouflaged and is manned by a scout who fires at the right moment. In addition, the pulling back of the armored vehicle allows the scout some time

to consider and act, if he is informed that the vehicle has caught on fire. Depending on the actions of the scout, the exercise controller will signal the enemy armored vehicle to either move forward, negotiate the obstacle or knock out the scout.

o) **Location of the Viewers:** Offset somewhat to the side but in such a manner that both the enemy and friendly forces can be observed.

p) **Special Notes for the Viewers:** Discuss the right and wrong times to open fire each time. Emphasize the blinding effect of a machine-gun burst against an enemy force, even a superior one. It must be pointed out to the viewers that that not all is lost after the vehicle has been set alight, if an energetic and tactically sound ground defense is offered. In conjunction with that, mention the importance of determining an alternate position for the dismounted crew in advance.

q) **Special Points for the After-Action Review:** Emphasize the selection of the proper time for opening fire. Point out to the soldiers the necessity of defending on the ground, if the vehicle has become combat ineffective. Explain how the individual soldier can still be successful in such an instance in defending against the enemy or at least holding him up, if he acts in a deliberate manner. Perhaps those few moments will be decisive for the further progress of the reconnaissance patrol or it bringing help. The soldier should learn from his mission—especially in Scenario 2—that “screening” in this mission means **defending** to the last drop of blood. Even if he may die in the process and suffers a soldier’s fate. By doing so, the approaching enemy may have to contend with him first, allowing perhaps the rest of the reconnaissance patrol to get ready, escape or complete its mission. In some circumstances, that could not have been possible without the sacrifice of the crew of the screening vehicle and its utmost devotion to duty. If the scout does not continue to fight on the ground after his vehicle has been set alight and instead pulls back, then he has not done his duty.

Mention that the driver must observe the surrounding area like a hawk when the scout is engaging the enemy so as to prevent being overrun by other enemy armored vehicles that might be attempting to flank. The soldiers must be alerted to the fact that searching the fallen enemy soldier (by the driver) is only permissible, when it is clearly seen that there is no threat of a surprise by the enemy at that moment.

It is more important that the reconnaissance-patrol leader discovers what is happening with his screening force. He will personally search the enemy dead. They cannot run away, after all.

A discussion point with the soldiers is also what must be taken when leaving the burning vehicle (Scenario 2). That will be different, based on the situation and the type of vehicle. To be considered: machine guns, ammunition, sub-machine guns, pistols, hand grenades and smoke grenades.

Finally, it should be mentioned that there will probably also be situations in which the screening force does not have to allow itself to be killed. Instead, it can pull back in a delaying action. For example, when it is screening a short rest. In such an instance, however, the screening force must receive express orders as to whether, where and when it may pull back. If the screening force has not been given any orders concerning withdrawal, then that is tantamount to deliberately defending in place. For that reason, every screening force should not hesitate to ask if there are any doubts: “What should I do if attacked by superior enemy forces?”

r) **Appropriate Paragraphs from Manuals:** [Deleted]

s) **Modification Options for the Mission:** The mission (Scenario 2) can be made more difficult by having the enemy armored vehicle move right through the light or dummy obstacle instead of moving back, with the result that the scout barely has time to go into position on the ground after his vehicle is set alight. Exercises 9 and 10 can be combined by having the enemy appear while the screening vehicle is occupying its position. In that case, the importance of setting up the dummy obstacle first to cover the work takes on its full meaning. That type of mission can only be done after Exercise 9—best after Exercise 10—has already been done once. That type of combined exercise is more suitable for a free-form exercise than a school drill.

One modification to Exercise 10, as well as to the preceding Exercise 9, consists of changing the situation or the mission or seeking out a different type of terrain so that the screening vehicle cannot get close enough to the edge of the woods with the vehicle to give it cover, if the scout is to have a field of fire. As a result, the scout is forced to dismount and establish a screening position on the ground or climb a tree. The main purpose of the exercise is then to use the terrain properly for firing positions. Questions such as how far the vehicle should be sent back, whether

the driver should remain with the vehicle or also be employed up front with a submachine gun as a 2-man outpost or whether the establishment of an obstacle or dummy obstacle is useful or unnecessary, in case the expected enemy is not motorized but rather a horse-mounted or infantry force, are also beneficial points of discussion.

All of the exercises in 9 and 10 can also be set up so that the exercise can be done in another section of terrain—once the situation and mission has been changed—against an enemy already in position. Perhaps in a way that a creek or a river with a ford runs between the opponents. Based on the situation, it is to be assumed that the enemy will attempt to negotiate the obstacle. The mission of the vehicle’s crew is then to go into position to screen or observe on the near bank in such a manner that an enemy force on the far side will not observe it. It is immaterial whether one has the enemy already in position or allows him to approach along the far bank in the course of the exercise. In both cases, the crew going into position must operate furtively and not betray its position. In the process, there is no need for establishing an obstacle in front of the position. In addition, the crew has to dismount since it cannot move forward due to the engine noise.

In a modified form, Exercises 9 and 10 also lend themselves as examples of operations by a motorcyclist or a motorcycle/sidecar combination in place of a light armored car.