

# On the Use of German Tanks - General order

(Chief of the General Staff of the Field Army). (Great Headquarters) 19/5 1918

## The cooperation between Infantry and Tanks.

I. The tanks have the same task as the infantry batteries, namely:

- a. to shell enemy Support Points, Machine Guns and Main Resistance Points.
- b. to support the infantry during enemy counterattacks.

II. The infantry's quick utilization of the effect the tanks have produced is one of the decisive factors for a successful outcome.

The position of the infantry, whether it should go in front, in line with or behind the tanks, depends on the tactical situation.

If the objective of the attack is close, the infantry and the tanks must move forward in conjunction with each other. If the target of the attack is far away, the (slow) speed of the tanks prevents them from keeping up with the infantry.

This transitory delay must not bring the footmen to a halt; it must continue to perform its duty with all possible speed without regard to the advancement of thought.

Should the infantry be stationed in front of a strong point, the tanks must immediately pass through the infantry lines and work forward to attack and destroy the point of resistance.

Positions that the Artillery has not been able to shell, e.g. Machine gun nests placed on rear-facing slopes or whose positions have not previously been determined (flanking placements that are suddenly encountered) must be put out of action by a rapid appearance of tanks. The infantry must follow immediately behind these, the tanks themselves cannot maintain a taken position.

As a defense against a counter-attack, the tanks must, at the same moment the counter-attack is launched, rush forward and engage the forces of the enemy which have succeeded in breaking through our lines. This is the best way to ensure the cooperation between tanks and the countermeasures taken by our infantry.

It is very important that Infantry and Tanks keep close contact and that their respective Commanders personally confer during the battle.

The crew of the tanks must, if their tank is put out of action, participate in the attack as an assault detachment, using their machine guns and carbines.

(sign) Ludendorff