

The attack order for the 13th Tank Detachment, 31 May 1918

13. Bavarian Tank Detachment In the Field 31/5 1918

Attack Order

1. Enemy Dispositions - see the given Maps.
2. 7. and 1. Arms pursue the beaten enemy towards the Marne. The forces still holding Reims must be bypassed by an attack from the W. and E.
3. 13. Tank Detachment must operate together with 463. Reg. (238. Div.). 1st Detachment is to the right of it, 14th Detachment to the left.
4. Artillery preparation will begin on June 1 at 2.30 Form. Fort de la Pompelle is to be bombarded until 5 Form.
5. The detachment must help 463. Reg. to take the enemy's positions between the road Reims - St. Helare and the Veslefloden.
6. The tanks must leave their starting positions at 3.10 Form. and cross the enemy's front line at 4.40 Form. The order of battle of the tanks from right to left should be: Lieutenants Korb, Fuchsbauer, Romkopf, Ludwig and Buchardt.

When the enemy's front line has been passed, the advance must take place with the Directorate on the Fort de la Pompelle and the terrain S. of the Fort. The tank "Korb" must be the first to push forward straight to the enemy trench in the vicinity of the canal. The place where it must break through will be approximately at point W1 (Kote 2018). Here, the support point on the northern outskirts of St. Leonard is first destroyed. Then the trench running along the canal and the trench near the Sillery - Reims road must be cleared in an easterly direction, roughly on a level line with Fort de la Pompelle. If the crew in the support point W. of Fort de la Pompelle at this time still holds the position, they must be attacked from the south.

The tanks Romkopf, Fuchsbauer, Ludwig, and Burchardt are to push forward right up to the enemy trench, which is connected with the support point W. of Fort de la Pompelle, are to clear the trenches between this trench and the main road, that in an easterly direction, and are to destroy the crew in it the above-mentioned Support Point.

The approximate place where they will break through: Immediately W. of Point T1 (Elevation 2118).

If change were to occur in the tactical situation, the Commanders must act as prescribed in Points 5 and 6 (3rd Section).

7. When the task listed in point 6 has been completed, if the situation still requires it, the trench system W. of Fort de la Pompelle must be attacked.
8. The detachment's task is solved when the infantry have reached the Vesle river.
9. Gathering place: Forest N. of the Battery Command Station (1722).

10. From 5 Form. Will there be a station set up to receive light signals on Noldahøjen (1920). Light guns will be used.
11. A detachment of Stormbataillon Nr. 1 will be attached to each Tank: Details will be released later.
12. Reporting station for the Tank Detachment is in Bois des Turcos (1919). The exact designation on the map will be published later.
13. During the attack, all tanks must report by signal: a. When the enemy's front line is crossed b. When they have reached half way to the objective c. When they have reached the objective d. Any significant event.
14. Every tank must have 2 carrier pigeons, which must be used to report the target reached by each individual tank.
15. Dressing place: 463. Reg.'s Dressing place can be used. Its location will be given up later.
16. The petrol van must be at 5.30 Form. At the southern edge of Nogent.
17. The field kitchen with hot dinner must be from 9 Form. be at the Detachment's assembly point. Feldsvebel Mueller is in command.
18. The ammunition column must be on Prinzenweg at the height of Noldahøjen. Its arrival must be signaled to the Detachment Meldecentral.
19. I am at the Detachment's reporting station.

(sign) Wilhelm

Lieutenant, Detachment Commander

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Addendum to Attack Order

1. In Point 6 (3. Section):

Instead of "Tanken Korb and Fuchsbauer" read "Tanken Korb".

To the last section:

"The tank Ludwig must push forward over Point G1 - L1 (2019) to Point T1 (2118) must destroy the machine gun nests in this terrain and return to the starting point. At this point the group will give way to renewed water supply. As soon as all is clear again, it is reported immediately."

2. In Item 11:

"The accompanying infantry will be at 1 a.m. at the place where the trench that runs from the Noldahøjen intersects the Prinzenweg. Lieutenant Larsen gathers the people at this place and leads them to

The tanks to receive orders from the Tank Commanders."

3. In Item 12:

The reporting center is on Noldahøjen right next to the 463rd Reg.'s Command Station.

4. In Item 15:

463. Reg.'s dressing room is at Point 101 in 1920.

(sign) Wilhelm

Lieutenant, Detachment Commander

Extract from the 238th Division's Attack Order for the 463rd Infantry Regiment.

"The infantry and the tanks shall advance independently of each other. No special instructions shall be issued with regard to the cooperation with the tanks. The regiment shall use these to destroy flanking forces. During the advance with the tanks, the infantry shall, due to the bursts of artillery projectiles directed towards the Tanks, keep a distance of approximately 150 m between themselves and the Tanks.

The mode of cooperation between the two arms will depend on the combat situation."

Map of the attack order for the 13th Tank Detachment at Fort de la Pompelle

