

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 4 April 1951

SUBJECT German Experts' Analysis of the  
Alleged Soviet "Turtle Tank"

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

Annex: 1 sketch

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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

was shown the report on the so-called Soviet "Turtle Tank". They submit the following analysis:

1. It appears most likely that the drawing does not represent a completely new tank but depicts an improved version of the Soviet vehicle commonly referred to in the German Army as the "Turtle Tank" which was first identified on the Volkhov in northern Russia in 1943. The postwar series of this tank is known to have the following characteristics:

Armor:	front 80 mm	sides 50 mm	rear 30 mm	bottom 20 mm
Weight:	approx. 30-35 tons (metric)		Length:	approx. 7 m
Width:	approx. 3 m		Height:	approx. 2 m
Hull:	welded steel		Speed:	approx. 25 km per hour
Weapons:	one 88 mm, L56 type gun and one to two machine guns			
Crew:	five men		Engine:	600 HP; gasoline engine U.S. manufacture
Drive:	two sets of chains; one for cross country, one for rail travel.			

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2. [REDACTED] consider it entirely possible that the known tank described in paragraph 1 could have been improved as follows:

- a. Substitution of a 800 HP engine, which would allow speeds up to 50 km per hour.
- b. Substitution of L70 type (Royal Tiger) gun for the L56.

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- d. Addition of a rear gun.
- e. Covering the entire vehicle with a 1/2-1 inch protective coating which would obliterate all seams and render the vehicle invulnerable to limpet charges and flat trajectory fire on all but its vertical surfaces.

25X1X 3. [REDACTED] consider it unlikely that an entirely new steel alloy is available. In their opinion, the Soviet laboratories have been too honeycombed with German scientists since 1945 to permit such a unique development to remain secret. Rau (fnu), one of the steel experts of the former German Army Ordnance Division, returned a year ago from a forced, four-year sojourn in the USSR. He would certainly have known and reported such a discovery.

4. An improved version of the "Turtle Tank" as described in paragraph 2, would very likely be able to withstand attack by armor-piercing shells, fired at close range. The flat trajectory would cause the shells to ricochet. The same would be true of high-explosive shells with delayed action fuses. Limpet charges would drop off before they had time to explode. Shape charges, however, which do not blast but, so to speak, weld holes in the armor, would be effective. The protective coating does not provide protection against shape charges. The statement that 105 mm and 180 mm shells showed no effect, is considered nonsense by the German experts. Even 88 mm shells fired from L56 type guns at 1,000 yards would be effective against the treads, the guns, and slits. The part of the report referring to the tank's invulnerability to gun fire, as well as the statement that the pilot model of a completely new tank was demonstrated to the German para-military police was considered highly dubious by the Germans. It would constitute a complete departure from known Soviet policies. However, the Germans consider it entirely possible that the demonstration as reported was a deliberate bluff to impress the audience with the superiority of Soviet arms. They claim that similar methods were employed during the Nazi regime by the German Army. They believe that the U.S. and German tanks were attacked with live ammunition while training shells were fired at the Soviet tank. (This would explain the consternation of the Russian crew over the effect of the Skoda gun).

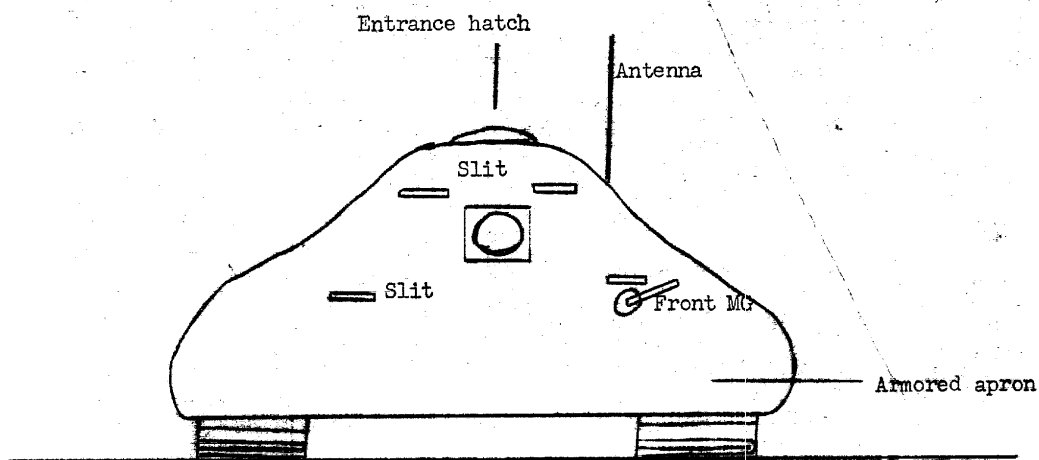
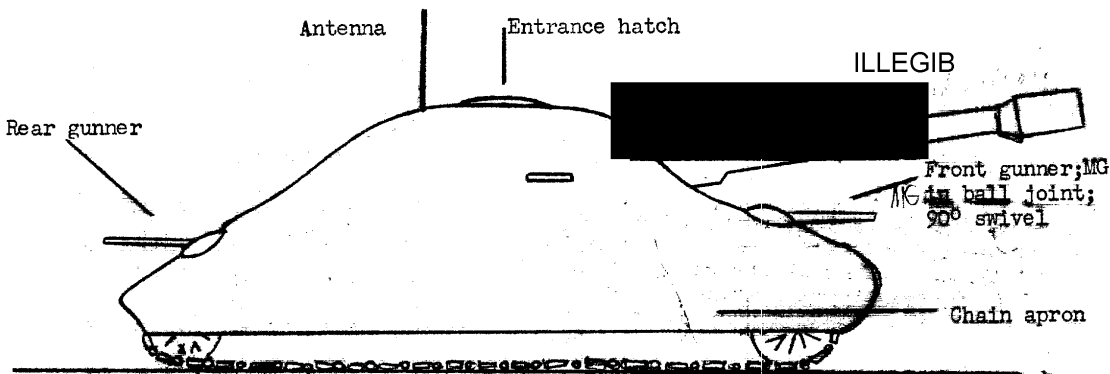
25X1X 5. [REDACTED] point out that the informant must have been a rank amateur on the question of armored vehicles. The drawing shows characteristics which are inconsistent with modern tank warfare, such as narrow tracks, covered front wheels, which would reduce mobility, and a poor height:width ratio. They consider this impossible, since such a vehicle would not be suitable for transport by the Soviet rail system; even a maximum width of 3.30 meters would permit transport only in one-way traffic. A ratio of height and width of 1:1, as indicated in the sketch, is considered as presenting too many vulnerable angles; a ratio of 3:2 would fit the known "Turtle Tank". They mention, en passant, that the known "Turtle" permits a gun deflection between eight and ten centimeters which is contrary to the description. When the recoil-counter-recoil mechanism and recoil break were drawn in on the sketch, there was very little space left for the engine, driving gear, gas tank and crew. Hence, the vehicle would not be able to carry much ammunition, would have a short action radius and, because of the necessary clumsy firing operation, would have a long firing interval.

25X1X 6. In conclusion, [REDACTED] consider the vehicle on which the report is based, gun which, because of its shape, would be unable to lead on the vertical surface of [REDACTED] not with- a type weapons. They believe that [REDACTED] favor mobile assault guns over stationary weapons as AT defense.

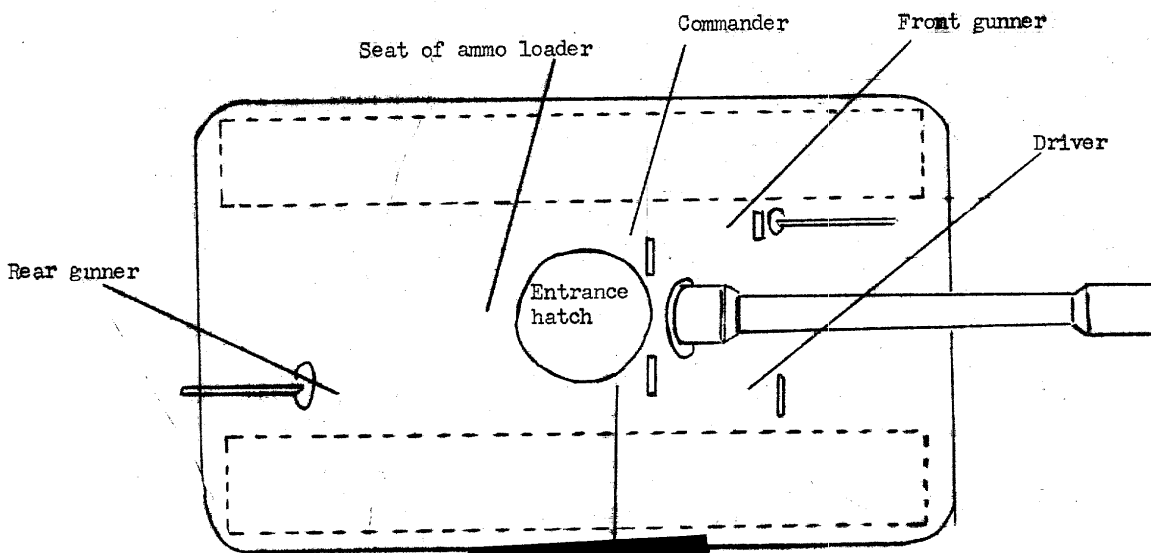
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ANNEX

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Engine between driver and rear gunner



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INTELLIFAX 2

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 5 April 1951

SUBJECT Official List of Goods of the Russian Zone

NO. OF PAGES 1 25X1X

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

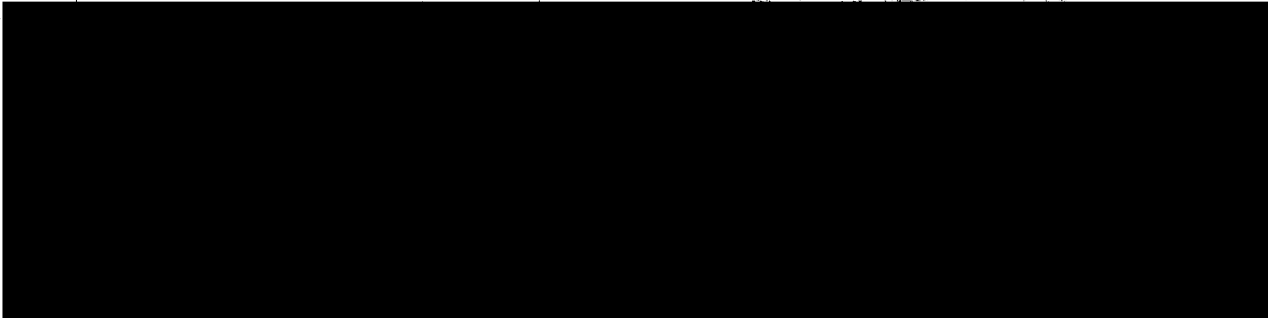
PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS. 2 (1,498 pages)  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO: ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X



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1. Attached is the "General List of Goods" (Allgemeines Warenverzeichnis) of the Soviet Zone of Germany, edition of August 1950, Sections I and II. The general list of goods was established by the Central Statistical Office of the Ministry for Planning and is designed to help in the planning activities.
  2. This report is sent to you for retention in the belief that it may be of interest to you.

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