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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

6 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSONS : The Breakthrough
by Front Troops of the Prepared Enemy Defense:
Organizing the Breakthrough of the Enemy Defense

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on a collection of 29 lessons, classified TOP SECRET, prepared in 1977 for use in the Soviet General Staff Academy. The lessons are broken down into two parts: the first 19 lessons deal with the staff preparation of a front offensive operation with conventional and nuclear weapons, the remaining 10 lessons deal with the conduct of an offensive employing conventional weapons at first with a transition to the use of nuclear weapons. This report is a translation of the lesson outlining the decision made by a front commander, after hearing the reports of key staff officers on the order of battle of NATO and Warsaw Pact forces, concerning the disposition, tasks, and support of his forces for the breakthrough of a ground defense prepared by NATO forces in the northern area of West Germany. The breakthrough plan of a subordinate Warsaw Pact ground division is set forth in detail. Nuclear weapons play no role in this lesson.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies.

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John N. McMahon

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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT

GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON No. 21a : The Breakthrough by Front Troops of the Prepared Enemy Defense: Organizing the Breakthrough of the Enemy Defense

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of a lesson, classified TOP SECRET, prepared for use at the General Staff Academy of the Armed Forces of the USSR. This lesson is used to instruct students acting as a front commander and his chiefs of intelligence, operations, and engineer troops in assessing a combat situation and deciding how to break through a prepared NATO defense on the North German plain using conventional means exclusively. The specific locations, composition, axes of attack, and balance of forces and means of both sides are provided, as are the potential breakthrough sectors and assault crossings areas for Warsaw Pact forces. The tasks for front reconnaissance, artillery, missile, air, and engineer forces in support of the breakthrough are spelled out. For the first time in these lessons the planned actions of a motorized rifle division are presented in detail. End of Summary

O.B.

Comment:

Although not specifically identified, the colors representing NATO countries in this series probably equate as follows:

Brown - West Germany
Blue - Great Britain
Green - United States
Lilac - Belgium

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Lesson No. 21

I. Subject: The breakthrough by front troops of the prepared enemy defense.

II. Estimated time to complete the lesson:

Lesson title	Time allotted		Total
	Classroom training	Individual study by students	
Lesson No. 21a: Organizing the breakthrough of the enemy defense	4	6	10

Lesson No. 21a

I. Subject: Organizing the breakthrough of the enemy defense

II. Training objectives:

-- to provide the students with practice in estimating a situation, making a decision, and assigning tasks to the troops for the breakthrough of the enemy's defense and the repulse of an offensive by his attack groupings;

-- to teach the students how to establish, in a short period of time, attack groupings and decisive superiority in forces and means over the enemy in the breakthrough sectors, and how to effectively exploit the capabilities of front troops in the breakthrough of the enemy defense;

-- to improve the students' tactical training in the organizational aspects of breaking through the enemy's prepared defense;

-- to substantiate the time indices on the organization of the breakthrough by front troops of the enemy's prepared defense;

-- to examine the front's capabilities for establishing attack groupings to break through the enemy defense following brief periods of preparation.

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III. Method of conducting the lesson -- group exercise with elements of a war game.

IV. Methodological recommendations on the students' preparation for Lesson No. 21.

Before conducting the lesson, the director of the study group is to brief the students on their preparation procedure for the lessons, as follows:

-- They are to study the situation that has developed by the close of the first day of the operation, make the decision for the commander of the Coastal Front, and assign the tasks to the troops. The decision that they reach is to be posted on a map with a scale of 1:200,000; and the conclusions from the estimate of the situation, the concept of the decision, and the tasks for the troops are to be written out in the workbooks;

-- They are to make the decision on the subsequent actions of the attack grouping of front troops that is advancing on the HANNOVER axis and post it on a map with a scale of 1:100,000. They are to be prepared to report the decision of the commander of the 6th Motorized Rifle Division of the 9th Army.

The director is to focus the students' attention on the production of estimates of the balance of forces and means of the sides on the axes and sectors as well as on the enemy's axes of invasion, and on the establishment of attack groupings of troops for breaking through his defense.

He is to recommend that the students study paragraphs 217, 230-231, 235-236, 240-241, and 243-259 of the Field Service Regulations of the Armed Forces of the USSR; and the lecture "The Preparation and Conduct of a Front Offensive Operation."

V. Procedure for conducting the lesson

1. Critique of one or two theoretical matters -- 10 to 15 minutes.
2. Estimate of the situation in the Coastal Front zone at 1900 hours 8 September -- 80 to 90 minutes.

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a) Assessment of the enemy -- 35 minutes.

The study group leader is to announce the operational time -- 1900 hours 8 September. The front commander, at the command post in the forest 10 km northwest of NEURUPPIN, is estimating the situation that has developed with involvement in this of the officials who are with him.

The students in the role of the chief of the front intelligence directorate are to report their assessment of the enemy with regard to the following matters:

- the strength, operational disposition, and condition of the enemy groupings in the front zone and the possible nature of their actions;
- the nature of the enemy defense on the NEUMUNSTER and HANNOVER axes;
- the enemy's capabilities for building up efforts on the PRITZWALK and MAGDEBURG axes;
- the enemy's strengths and weaknesses;
- the reconnaissance tasks.

Report of the chief of the intelligence directorate
of the Coastal Front on the situation
at 1900 hours 8 September

1. In the front zone the enemy, with the forces of four army corps of the Northern Army Group supported by massed strikes of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, undertook an invasion into the territory of the German Democratic Republic, delivering the main thrust on the BERLIN axis with the forces of the Brown 1st Army Corps and Blue 1st Army Corps, and a second thrust on the PRITZWALK axis with the forces of the Brown 6th and 4th army corps. As a result of the meeting engagements the enemy has succeeded in breaking through the border in three sectors: north and south of BOIZENBURG with the forces of the 13th and 6th motorized infantry divisions of the Brown 6th Army Corps and 14th Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 4th Army Corps; in the BOMENZIEN, SALZWEDEL sector with the forces of the 16th Tank Division of the Brown 4th Army Corps; and in the HARBKO /sic -- HARBKE/, OSTERWIECK sector with the forces of the Blue 1st Army Corps.

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Posing the greatest threat to the front are the attack groupings of the Brown 4th and 6th army corps on the PRITZWALK axis and Blue 1st Army Corps on the MAGDEBURG axis, where the enemy has advanced 15 to 30 km into the depth of our territory.

On the PRITZWALK axis the enemy has on both banks of the ELBE River up to 800 tanks and more than 450 guns and mortars in the first echelon of the Brown 6th and 4th army corps. The following may be committed to battle on the morning of 9 September in order to develop the offensive: the 21st Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 6th Army Corps on the LUBTHEEN, PRITSVALS~~K~~ /sic -- PRITZWALK/ axis, and the 15th Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 4th Army Corps on the SEEHAUSEN, NEURUPPIN axis.

On the MAGDEBURG axis there are up to 500 tanks and 300 guns and mortars in the first echelon of the Blue 1st Army Corps. When its brigade reserves are taken into account, this grouping is capable of developing an offensive before the close of 8 September. On the morning of 9 September the commitment to battle of the 4th Armored Division of the Blue 1st Army Corps in the direction of MAGDEBURG should be expected.

2. At the same time that the offensive is being developed on the axes indicated above, the enemy will strive, through a stubborn defense from prepared lines on the NEUMUNSTER and HANNOVER axes, to prevent a breakthrough by the attack groupings of front troops, and thereby safeguard the movement forward and deployment of the operational reserves.

The 18th Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 6th Army Corps, having in its complement more than 250 tanks, up to 140 guns and mortars, and up to 100 antitank guns and guided missiles, has gone over to the defensive on the prepared line TRAVEMUNDE, LUBECK, and further along the ELBE-LUBECK Canal up to ALT MOLLN.

In the first echelon of the 18th Motorized Infantry Division, the 52nd and 53rd motorized infantry brigades, which have pulled back from the front, have taken up the defense on a frontage of over 30 km. The brigades have four motorized infantry battalions with tanks in the first line and up to two tank battalions with 40 to 50 tanks each in the second line. The division's second echelon has up to one tank brigade, which is making the transition to the defense of the position of the division reserves on the BAD-SEGEBERG line and further along the west bank of the TRAVE River up to TRALAU, SULFELD, and STEGEN. The brigade may be used for a counterattack.

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The troops of the Brown 1st Army Corps, which have pulled back from the front, have gone over to the defensive on the axis of attack of the main forces of the 7th and 9th armies on the prepared line (excluding) UELZEN, BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Units of the 1st Motorized Infantry Division (minus a motorized infantry brigade) and 3rd and 7th tank divisions, having in their complement more than 550 tanks, over 250 guns and mortars, and up to 200 antitank guns and guided missiles, have taken up the defense in the first echelon of the 1st Army Corps on a frontage of over 80 km. The densities of forces and means amount to 7 to 8 tanks, 4 to 5 guns and mortars, and up to 3 antitank guns and guided missiles per kilometer of frontage.

The reserves: up to one tank brigade of the 3rd Tank Division and up to one tank battalion of the 7th Tank Division are making the transition to the defense of the positions of the division reserves on the lines: WOLTHAUSEN, CELLE; (excluding) MEHRUM, SOSSMAR. These reserves may be used to make a counterattack.

The second echelon of the corps is the 11th Motorized Infantry Division, located northeast of NIENBURG 60 to 70 km from the line of contact of the troops, which may deliver a counterthrust on the STADENSEN, KOLTZE axis on the morning of 9 September.

The enemy defense on the HANNOVER and NEUMUNSTER axes, the most prepared and developed from the engineer standpoint to the depth of the first-echelon brigades, is made up of platoon and company strongpoints and battalion areas, and has an extensive system of artillery and mortar firing positions. The intervals between strongpoints are covered by antitank and antipersonnel obstacles. Positions for tanks and antitank guns and guided missiles have been prepared in the strongpoints. Slit trenches and dugouts have been prepared to shelter personnel. Control posts have been prepared from the engineer standpoint.

The immediate operational reserves, consisting of up to six divisions (the Lilac 1st and 2nd army corps and Green 4th Mechanized Division), are concentrated in areas to the north, south, and west of BREMEN and south of OSNABRUCK at a distance of 100 to 120 km from the line of combat contact of the sides' troops. The enemy will in all probability use these reserves to deliver counterthrusts against the troops of the front attack grouping when /the latter/ develop the offensive following the breakthrough of the enemy defense.

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Enemy aviation (the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force and the air forces of the fleet -- 700 combat aircraft) have carried out up to 2,000 sorties throughout the day, concentrating their main efforts on the HAMBURG, PARCHIM and HANNOVER, MAGDEBURG axes.

Enemy aviation is delivering strikes in groups of 8 to 15 aircraft against troops and installations of the rear services.

3. Thus, the enemy's strengths are the following:

- a) the availability of prepared defense lines occupied by troops on the axes of attack of the front troops;
- b) the capability of delivering further massed air strikes against the front troops and installations of the rear services, and of developing the offensive on the PRITZWALK and MAGDEBURG axes.

The enemy's weakness is the separation of the Brown 6th and 4th army corps by the ELBE River as well as the somewhat separated nature of the forces of the Northern Army Group as a whole as a result of their actions on several axes.

4. The front staff does not have any data on enemy preparations to employ nuclear weapons. However, the possibility cannot be ruled out that he will make a transition to actions with nuclear weapons in the struggle to hold defense lines or to develop an offensive on our territory.

The main immediate tasks for reconnaissance are the following:

-- to define more precisely the composition and siting areas of the Pershing, Lance, and Sergeant missile battalions (regiments and squadrons), and also to ascertain the start of preparations by these means and aviation to employ nuclear weapons;

-- to define more precisely the grouping and composition of the enemy aviation and air defense means in the front zone;

-- to detect the enemy's fire and obstacle system on defense lines;

-- to continuously monitor the situation of the reserve large units of the Brown 6th, 4th, and 1st army corps and Blue 1st Army Corps, as well as the Lilac 1st and 2nd army corps and units of the Green 4th Mechanized

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Division, opportunely establishing the time and axes of their movement forward and the probable nature of their actions.

b) Assessment of our troops -- 40 minutes

The students in the role of the chief of the operations directorate of the front staff are to report on the assessment of our troops, as follows:

- the strength, operational situation, and condition of the front troops;
- the balance of forces and means;
- the possible breakthrough sectors;
- the capabilities for establishing attack groupings to break through the enemy defense, and the densities of the forces and means in the breakthrough sectors;
- the need for troop regroupings and the time required to carry them out;
- the time required to prepare the breakthrough;
- the effect of the terrain upon the organization and implementation of the breakthrough.

Report of the chief of the operations directorate of the front staff on the situation at 1900 hours 8 September

1. While the Coastal Front was in the process of repelling the enemy's massed air strikes and massed thrusts by ground force groupings, its attack groupings went over to the offensive on the NEUMUNSTER and HANNOVER axes. In meeting engagements the front troops inflicted defeat on the forward units of the 18th Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 6th Army Corps and on the Brown 1st Army Corps, and advanced into enemy territory on the main (HANNOVER) axis on a frontage of over 60 km and to a depth of 15 to 30 km, and on the NEUMUNSTER axis on a frontage of up to 24 km and to a depth of 5 to 15 km, reaching the prepared defense lines occupied by enemy troops. Since the enemy defense could not be broken through from the march, the task confronting the front attack groupings was to break through it following a brief preparation. At the same time, on the 4th Army's left flank, the 7th Army's right flank, and the 9th Army's

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left flank, a complex operational-tactical situation has developed owing to the invasion of the Brown and Blue attack groupings and their capabilities of subsequently developing the offensive.

The disposition and condition of front troops is characterized by the following:

-- the 4th Army has advanced with the forces of the 3rd and 7th motorized rifle divisions to the enemy's prepared defense line, and having met organized resistance from units of the 18th Motorized Infantry Division, is engaged in stubborn battle with the forces of its 8th and 14th motorized rifle divisions on the ZARRENTIN, DODOW, LUBTHEEN, WEHNINGEN line against units of the 13th and 6th motorized infantry divisions of the Brown 6th Army Corps and 14th Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 4th Army Corps, which were invading GDR territory. All of the divisions have second echelons. The army's second echelon is the 2nd Tank Division, located 80 km from the troops operating forward.

Thus, on the NEUMUNSTER axis /sic -- presumably corresponds to "Overall" column in the following chart/ there is a one-to-one ratio in divisions and tanks, but the grouping of front troops outnumbers the enemy in artillery by almost 2 to 1; and on the LUBECK axis there is an especially favorable balance of 2 to 1 in divisions, 1.5 to 1 in tanks, and more than 5 to 1 in artillery. This makes it possible, by using the army's first-echelon divisions, to establish the troop grouping that is required for the breakthrough. On the LUDWIGSLUST axis, the enemy has superiority of 2 to 1 in tanks and 1.5 to 1 in artillery; this will require reinforcing the troops in action there.

The 3rd and 7th motorized rifle divisions, army artillery, and reinforcement artillery can be allocated to break through the defense of the Brown 18th Motorized Infantry Division.

Due to terrain conditions and the axis of the 4th Army's main thrust, it will be most advantageous to make the breakthrough south of LUBECK in the NIEDERBUSSAU, BERKENTHIN sector over an 8 km stretch, concentrating the main forces of the 3rd and 7th motorized rifle divisions for this purpose.

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Overall balance of forces and means in the army's zone and on the following axes:

Forces and Means	Overall			On the LUBECK axis			On the LUDWIDSLUST axis		
	4th Army	6th Army Corps & 14th Mtz Inf Div of 4th Army Corps	Ratio	3rd & 7th MtzR divs	18th Mtz Inf Div	Ratio	8th & 14th MtzR divs	6th & 13th Mtz Inf divs of 6th Army Corps & 14th Mtz Inf Div of 4th Army Corps	Ratio
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Operational-tactical missile launchers	11	12	1:1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tactical missile launchers	19	19	1:1	8	4	2:1	8	14	1:1.9
Divisions	5	5	1:1	2	1	2:1	2	3	1:1.5
Tanks	1,105	1,280	1:1.1	341	256	1.5:1	387	768	1:2
Guns and mortars	1,304	733	1.8:1	844*	158	5.5:1	352	485	1:1.4
AT /antitank/ guns and AT guided missiles	524	518	--	406	104	--	404	311	--

* Includes the army artillery group and AGRA /army rocket artillery group/

Note: The following percentages were assumed in calculating enemy losses: 8 percent in tanks and 5 percent in artillery

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The division, army, and reinforcement artillery are at firing positions in areas close to the designated breakthrough sector. Only the relocation of individual battalions is required. Counting the division artillery of the 2nd Tank Division, a total of more than 860 guns and mortars can be allocated for the breakthrough sector. This will make possible an artillery density of 106 guns, mortars, and combat vehicles per kilometer of breakthrough front.

The balance of forces and means in the breakthrough of the enemy defense by this troop grouping may be as follows.

Forces and means	Overall /balance/ on the breakthrough axis on a 25 km front, counting second echelons			Within the breakthrough sector -- 8 km (considering the first echelons of the divisions)		
	4th Army: 3rd & 7th MtzR divs (minus a MtzR rgt), 2nd Tk Div, reinf arty	18th & 21st Mtz Inf divs	Ratio	a MtzR rgt & Tk rgt of 3rd MtzR Div; a MtzR rgt & Tk rgt of 7th MtzR Div	a Mtz Inf bde	Ratio
Divisions	3	2	1.5:1	2	0.4	5:1
Tanks	714*	534	1.4:1	260	50	5.4:1 /sic/
Guns and mortars	1,024	294	3.5:1	846	120	7:1
AT guns and AT guided missiles	580	104	--	240	30	--

*Taking coefficients (combat potentials) into account

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In other words, on the NEUMUNSTER axis the enemy will be outnumbered by 1.5 to 1 in divisions, 1.4 to 1 in tanks, and 3.5 to 1 in artillery; in the breakthrough sector, the enemy will be outnumbered by 2 to 1 in divisions, more than 5 to 1 in tanks, and 7 to 1 in artillery. The average density on the breakthrough front will be more than 30 tanks per kilometer (only in the first-echelon regiments of the divisions) and 106 guns, mortars, and combat vehicles per kilometer.

On the LUDWIGSLUST axis it is advisable to deploy the army's antitank reserve and mobile obstacle detachment to reinforce the 8th and 14th motorized rifle divisions. The 2nd Tank Division is to be held in the aforementioned area and committed to battle to develop the breakthrough of the enemy defense.

Combat actions in the 7th and 9th armies' offensive zones have developed on three axes. On the main axis -- HANNOVER -- the main forces of the two armies are concentrating on their adjacent flanks for a breakthrough of the prepared defense line occupied by large units of the Brown 1st Army Corps. On our territory defensive battles are continuing on both flanks of the front attack grouping, the results of which may affect the success of the grouping's actions to break through the enemy defense and develop an offensive.

Four divisions in the first echelon of the 7th Army (1st and 4th motorized rifle divisions and 9th and 5th tank divisions) are engaged in combat actions.

The 11th Motorized Rifle Division in the army's second echelon is in movement, with the heads of the columns 80 km from the troops operating forward.

The 9th Army, having four divisions in its first echelon (10th Tank Division and 18th, 21st, and 23rd motorized rifle divisions), is engaged with the forces of the 21st and 23rd motorized rifle divisions in a defensive battle against units of the Blue 1st Army Corps, which have invaded GDR territory to a depth of 18 to 25 km along a frontage of up to 30 km.

There are two divisions in the army's second echelon (6th Motorized Rifle Division and 26th Tank Division), which are respectively 80 and 100 km away from the attack groupings operating forward.

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Balance of forces and means in the zones of the 7th and 9th armies

Forces and means	Overall (for the first echelons)			On the axis of the main forces of the 7th and 9th armies		
	7th Army: 1st & 4th MtzR divs, 5th & 9th Tk divs; 9th Army: 10th Tk Div, 18th, 21st, & 23rd MtzR divs, & reinf arty	Brown 1st Army Corps: 1st Mtz Inf Div, 3rd & 7th Tk divs; 16th Tk Div of Brown 4th Army Corps; Blue 1st Army Corps: 1st & 2nd Armd divs	Ratio	7th Army: 4th MtzR Div, 9th & 5th Tk divs; 9th Army: 10th Tk Div, 18th MtzR Div, & reinf arty	Brown 1st Army Corps: 1st Mtz Inf Div; 3rd & 7th Tk divs	Ratio
Operational-tactical missile launchers	54	48	1.2:1	59	48	1.2:1
Tactical missile launchers	31	24	1.3:1	19	12	1.5:1
Divisions	8	6	1.3:1	5	3	1.6:1
Tanks	1,938	1,702	1.1:1	1,288	818	1.6:1
Guns and mortars	2,052	758	2.7:1	1,286	390	3.3:1
AT guns and AT guided missiles	1,698	545	--	792	293	--

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Balance of forces and means on the flanks of the 7th and 9th armies

Forces and means	7th Army			9th Army		
	1st MtzR Div, a MtzR rgt of 4th MtzR Div, army AT arty rgt	16th Tk Div & 1st Mtz Inf Div	Ratio	21st & 23rd MtzR divs, army AT arty rgt	1st & 2nd Armd divs of Blue 1st Army Corps	Ratio
Operational-tactical missile launchers	4	8	2:1	8	8	1:1
Divisions	1	2	2:1	2	2	1:1
Tanks	196	530	2.9:1	381	488	1.3:1
Guns and mortars	174	247	1.2:1	344	236	1.4:1
AT guns and AT guided missiles	258	201	--	447	160	--

The attack grouping of front troops on the HANNOVER axis outnumbers the enemy in first-echelon divisions, tanks, and artillery, and on the axis of actions of its main forces and means it outnumbers the enemy by more than 1.5 to 1 in divisions and tanks and 3 to 1 in artillery. This makes it possible to count on successfully breaking through the defense and developing an offensive, especially since the enemy facing the 7th and 9th armies has only two divisions as an immediate reserve (a Brown motorized infantry division and a Blue armored division), while the front, aside from the three divisions in the second echelons of these armies, has an additional two divisions (13th Motorized Rifle Division and 20th Tank Division).

On the flanks of the 7th and 9th armies, on the HAVELBERG and MAGDEBURG axes, the enemy has superiority in tanks and artillery. In order to prevent the enemy from advancing further, the delivery of a fire strike against him is necessary, as is the deployment of the army's antitank reserve and mobile obstacle detachment on the HAVELBERG axis, and of the front's antitank reserve (5th Antitank Artillery Brigade) and mobile obstacle detachment on the MAGDEBURG axis.

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The following can be allocated to break through the defense of the Brown 1st Army Corps and develop an offensive: four divisions of the 7th Army (4th and 11th motorized rifle divisions and 5th and 9th tank divisions), three divisions of the 9th Army (6th and 18th motorized rifle divisions and 10th Tank Division), the army artillery of three armies (7th, 9th, and 6th armies), reinforcement artillery (8th and 11th artillery divisions of the Reserve of the Supreme High Command /RVGK/) and the artillery of the 26th Tank Division of the 9th Army. Based on the grouping of front troops and the terrain conditions on the HANNOVER axis, it is advisable to carry out the breakthrough of the enemy defense as follows: in the area of the 7th Army in the sector WESENDORF, (excluding) KASTORF; in the area of the 9th Army in the sectors KASTORF, (excluding) GIFHORN; and (excluding) GIFHORN, ROTGESBUTTEL, with a total extent of 17 km.

In these breakthrough sectors the following can be in the first echelon without complicated regroupings: the 5th Tank Division and 11th Motorized Rifle Division from the complement of the 7th Army; the 10th Tank Division, 6th Motorized Rifle Division, and a tank regiment of the 18th Motorized Rifle Division from the complement of the 9th Army.

In this instance the following will be required during the night: additional movement forward and deployment in the first echelon of the 7th Army of the 11th Motorized Rifle Division to the right of the 5th Tank Division, and in the 9th Army of the 6th Motorized Rifle Division to the left of the 10th Tank Division, /all of/ which will require up to six to seven hours; the performance of a limited regrouping of their units to the breakthrough sector by the 5th Tank Division of the 7th Army and 10th Tank Division of the 9th Army; and a concentration of the artillery on the adjacent flanks of the two armies that are closer to the breakthrough sectors. To do this it is necessary to regroup the two artillery brigades that are reinforcing the 9th Tank Division of the 7th Army and the 21st Motorized Rifle Division of the 9th Army, and to move out the artillery of the 6th and 11th motorized rifle divisions and army artillery of the 6th Army. A limited regrouping of the artillery of the army artillery groups and AGRA /army rocket artillery groups/ must also be carried out.

If the above artillery were to be allocated for the breakthrough, there would be more than 1,800 guns, mortars, and combat vehicles* in the breakthrough sectors of the 7th and 9th armies, which would make it possible to establish a density of more than 100 individual items per kilometer of front.

Comment: In this context "combat vehicle" connotes
multiround rocket launcher.

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For a breakthrough of the enemy defense with the above grouping, the balance of forces and means in the breakthrough sector (for the first echelons) can be as follows.

Forces and means	7th Army: a MtzR rgt & Tk rgt of 5th Tk Div, two MtzR rgts of 11th MtzR Div 9th Army: a MtzR rgt & Tk rgt of 10th Tk Div, two MtzR rgts of 6th MtzR Div, the Tk rgt of 19th MtzR Div Army arty & reinf arty	Brown 1st Army Corps: a Mtz Inf bde of 3rd Tk Div, a Mtz Inf bde of 7th Tk Div, corps arty	Ratio
Divisions	4	2	2:1
Tanks	476	100	4.7:1
Guns and mortars	1,824	209	8.7:1
AT guns and AT guided missiles	312	48	--

The terrain on both breakthrough axes is of average ruggedness and has wooded areas and small water obstacles. It will aid the enemy in the organization of a defense and the maneuvering of his reserves, and will promote the concentration of forces and means by the front in the breakthrough sectors.

On the NEUMUNSTER axis at the very start of the breakthrough the first echelon will be faced with an assault crossing of the ELBE-LUBECK Canal (width up to 30 m; depth from 2.5 to 3.4 m).

Before the close of day on 8 September, up to two hours of sunlight will remain that can be exploited to carry out reconnaissance of the enemy defense and to organize his fire destruction. For final reconnaissance of enemy fire means and the final organization of fire, the commanders of the artillery units and subunits on the morning of 9 September will require 1.5 to 2 hours of

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daylight. Preparatory fire for the breakthrough can begin at 0800 to 0830 hours.

According to preliminary estimates of the staff of the front rocket troops and artillery, up to 32 minutes will be needed to carry out the artillery preparation for the breakthrough. Therefore H-hour can be set at 0900 hours 9 September.

3. The students in the role of front chief of engineer troops are to report on the tasks of the engineer troops in support of the breakthrough of the enemy defense, with regard to the following matters:

-- the probable major tasks in engineer support for the breakthrough of the enemy defense;

-- the measures in support of the following: the forward movement of the troops to the breakthrough sectors, the clearing of lanes through enemy mixed minefields, the assault crossing of the ELBE-LUBECK Canal and OKER River, and the repulse of the enemy offensive on the STENDAL and MAGDEBURG axes.

Report of the front chief of engineer troops

1) The main tasks in engineer support for the breakthrough of the enemy defense are:

-- to support the movement forward of the second-echelon large units of the armies and the artillery to the breakthrough sector;

-- to clear lanes through enemy obstacles and /support/ the passage of battle formations of the divisions through them;

-- to support the assault crossing of the ELBE-LUBECK Canal at the start of the breakthrough of the enemy defense in the offensive zone of the 4th Army;

-- to have the mobile obstacle detachments take action in conjunction with the antitank reserves to cover the flanks of the breakthrough sectors.

In order to carry out these tasks the first-echelon armies may be reinforced as follows: the 7th Army by the 12th Engineer Obstacle-Clearing Battalion, and the 9th Army by the 11th Engineer Obstacle-Clearing Battalion.

2) To support the movement forward to the breakthrough sector by the second-echelon divisions of the armies, two to three routes for each division

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will be prepared as well as the number of cross-country tracks needed by the first-echelon divisions to occupy the departure position.

3) The clearing of lanes through enemy mixed minefields on the west bank of the ELBE-LUBECK Canal can be carried out by the explosive method through the use of UZ-3R elongated mineclearing charges (propelled onto the minefield by rocket engines) during the artillery preparation, and through the use of KMT-4 and KMT-5 tank-mounted mineclearers during the breakthrough of the enemy defense.

Total number of lanes and the forces and means for constructing them:

Division and army breakthrough sectors	Number of lanes	Required for the making of lanes by the explosive method	
		UZ-3R elongated mineclearing charges	Combat engineer squads
MtzR div (Tk div)	12-18	12-18	6-9
4th Army	24	24	12
7th Army	30	30	15
9th Army	24	24	12

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4) The following /divisional/ organic means will be used to support the assault crossing of the ELBE-LUBECK Canal and the crossing of the divisions' second echelons:

Large units	GSP /tracked self- propelled ferries/	PTS /amphibious transporters/	PMP /pontoon bridge/ sets	MTU /bridge laying tanks/	TMM /heavy mech- anized bridges/	BAT /armored artillery prime movers/	KMT-5 /tank- mounted mine- clearers/	KMT-4
MtzR Div	3	12	0.5	6	6	10	12	54
Tk Div	3	12	0.5	10	6	9	12	90

These means make it possible to prepare the following in a division's crossing sector: 3 floating bridges, up to 6 bridges with TMM's /heavy mechanized bridges/, and 6 to 10 lanes using bridgelaying tanks.

Front mobile obstacle detachments No. 1 (1st Combat Engineer Battalion of the 20th Combat Engineer Regiment) and No. 2 (12th Engineer Obstacle Battalion) are acting in conjunction with the front antitank reserves in the areas of the 7th and 9th armies to repel the enemy offensive.

In the breakthrough sector of the 4th Army the flanks are being covered by the army's mobile obstacle detachment.

4. The director of the study group is to announce that the operational time is 2000 hours 8 September. In the role of a representative of the General Headquarters of the Supreme High Command, he will hear the decision of the front commander /on the following/:

- brief conclusions from the estimate of the situation;
- the concept of the decision;
- the tasks for the troops.

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Decision of the commander of the Coastal Front on the breakthrough
of the enemy's defense lines and the repulse of his invasion
(for the situation at 1900 hours 8 September) -- 45 to 50 minutes

Brief conclusions from the estimate of the situation

1) In the front zone the enemy has launched an invasion into GDR territory with the forces of four army corps of the Northern Army Group supported by massed air strikes (with up to 700 combat aircraft), delivering the main thrust on the BERLIN axis. The enemy's greatest success was achieved on the PRITZWALK and MAGDEBURG axes, where the Brown 6th and 4th army corps and Blue 1st Army Corps, having established superiority in forces and means, can develop the offensive with the forces of division and corps reserves before the close of 8 September and on the morning of 9 September.

At the same time, by stubbornly defending prepared lines with forces of the 18th Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 6th Army Corps on the HAMBURG axis and of the Brown 1st Army Corps on the HANNOVER axis, the enemy will strive to prevent the breakthrough by attack groupings of front troops, in order to thereby support the movement forward and concentration of /his/ deep operational reserves and their commitment to battle for the purpose of developing the offensive.

On the HAMBURG axis the Brown 18th Motorized Infantry Division has occupied the LUBECK, ELBE-LUBECK Canal line up to ALT MOLLN.

On the HANNOVER axis, units of the Brown 3rd and 7th tank divisions are defending the line (excluding) UELZEN, BRAUNSCHWEIG.

2) During the first day of combat actions the Coastal Front defeated the forward units of the 18th Motorized Infantry Division of the Brown 6th Army Corps on the HAMBURG axis and the 1st Motorized Infantry Division and 3rd and 7th tank divisions of the Brown 1st Army Corps on the HANNOVER axis, advancing with attack groupings up to the enemy's prepared defense lines, which it did not succeed in breaking through from the march.

On the PRITZWALK and MAGDEBURG axes the front, with the forces of two divisions of the 4th Army, one division of the 7th Army, two divisions of the 9th Army, and support from 1st Air Army aviation, is repelling the attack of units of the Brown 6th and 4th army corps and Blue 1st Army Corps.

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To break through the enemy defense on the morning of 9 September it will be necessary to establish the following attack groupings during the night: on the HAMBURG axis, /a grouping/ made up of two divisions of the 4th Army; and on the HANNOVER axis, one made up of four divisions of the 7th and 9th armies; and to concentrate artillery against the breakthrough sectors. Overwhelming superiority in forces and means will /thereby/ be established in the breakthrough sectors.

b) The decision

/The commander/ decided as follows:

Preparations for the breakthrough of the enemy defense lines are to be made during the night, and on the morning of 9 September the breakthrough is to be carried out by the main forces of the 7th and 9th armies on the HANNOVER axis in the sectors WESENDORF, (excluding) GIFHORN; and (excluding) GIFHORN, ROTGESBUTTEL; and by the main forces of the 4th Army on the NEUMUNSTER axis in the NIEDERBUSSAU, BERKENIHIN sector. The first echelons of the attack groupings for the breakthrough of the enemy defense are to be made up of the following: the 3rd and 7th motorized rifle divisions in the 4th Army zone; and the 5th Tank Division and 11th Motorized Rifle Division, 10th Tank Division, 6th Motorized Rifle Division, and a tank regiment of the 18th Motorized Rifle Division on the adjacent flanks of the 7th and 9th armies. To develop the breakthrough in the latter half of the day on 9 September, these are to be committed to battle: the 2nd Tank Division of the 4th Army on the NEUMUNSTER axis, and the 26th Tank Division of the 9th Army on the HANNOVER axis.

The following are to be called upon to provide preparatory fire and support for the attacking troops: the artillery of the divisions making the breakthrough, the army artillery of the three armies, the division artillery of the 26th Tank Division, the reinforcement artillery, the helicopter regiments, and the main forces of the 1st Air Army.

The preparatory fire is to last 32 minutes; the readiness /time/ for the offensive is 0700 hours.

During 9 September the units of the Brown 18th Motorized Infantry Division on the HAMBURG axis and those of the Brown 3rd and 7th tank divisions on the HANNOVER axis are to be defeated, and by the close of day the following lines are to be seized: TRAVEMUNDE, GESCHENDORF (7 km east of BAD SEGEBERG), SULFELD (8 km west of BAD OLDESLOE), AHRENSBURG, SCHWARZENBEK; and UNTERLUSS, WINSEN, LEHRTE, WOLFENBUTTEL.

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Thereafter, HANNOVER is to be seized by the main attack grouping through an envelopment from the north and south; the corps reserves are to be defeated and the offensive is to be developed by forces of the 7th Army on the KLOPPENBURG axis, by those of the 9th Army on the OSNABRUCK axis, and by forces of the 4th Army on the BAD OLDESLOE, NEUMUNSTER, RENDSBURG axis.

On the PRITZWALK and MAGDEBURG axes, part of the forces of the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies (8th and 14th motorized rifle divisions; 1st Motorized Rifle Division and 13th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the 4th Motorized Rifle Division; and 21st and 23rd motorized rifle divisions) with the armies' and front antitank reserves and mobile obstacle detachments supported by 1st Air Army aviation are to stop a further advance by the troops of the Brown 6th and 4th army corps and Blue 1st Army Corps.

Tasks for the troops:

a) The 4th Army, in its aforementioned composition and with the aforementioned reinforcement means, is to consolidate during the night on its left flank the line MOLLN, ZARRENTIN, WITTENBURG, LUBTHEEN, and WEHNINGEN, and to prevent an enemy breakthrough on the WITTENBURG, PAMPOW; and SETZIN, HAGENOW axes.

On the morning of 9 September the forces of the 3rd and 7th motorized rifle divisions are to deliver an attack on the KRUMESSE, BAD ZENEBERG /sic -- BAD SEGEBERG/ axis, break through the defense of the Brown 18th Motorized Infantry Division in the sector (excluding) NIEDERBUSSAU, (excluding) BERKENTHIN; defeat its units in the area of NORD SANKT LORENZ, BAD OLDESLOE, and SCHONBERG; and seize the TRAVEMUNDE, GESCHENDORF, SULFELD, AHRENSBURG, SHVARTSENBERG /sic -- SCHWARZENBEK/ line by the close of day.

On the morning of 10 September the destruction of the surviving units of the 18th Motorized Rifle Division is to be completed; units of the Brown 21st Motorized Rifle Division are to be defeated; and an offensive is to be developed on the BAD SEGEBERG, NEUMUNSTER axis. In the breakthrough sector there are to be up to 100 guns and mortars per kilometer of front.

The flight resources for 9 September are two regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation and three regimental sorties of army aviation.

b) The 7th Army, in its aforementioned composition and with the aforementioned reinforcement means, is to consolidate the KLUDEN, ROSSAU,

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(excluding) SALZWEDEL line, and prevent the enemy from breaking through in the directions of OSTERBURG and KEMNITZ.

On the morning /of 9 September/ the forces of the 5th Tank Division and 11th Motorized Rifle Division are to deliver an attack on the WESDENDORF, CELLE axis; in cooperation with the 9th Army's attack grouping they are to break through the defense of the Brown 3rd Tank Division in the WESENDORF, (excluding) KASTORF sector, defeating its units in the area west of CELLE; the 9th Tank Division and the main forces of the 4th Motorized Rifle Division are to go over to the offensive and enlarge the breakthrough on the right flank, seize the positions of the enemy divisional reserves, and by the close of day advance with the attack grouping to the UNTERLUSS, WINSEN, WETTMAR line. On 10 September the offensive is to be developed on the WIETZE, NIENBURG axis.

Up to 100 guns and mortars are to be concentrated per kilometer of front in the breakthrough sector.

The flight resources for 9 September are two regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation and two regimental sorties of army aviation.

c) The 9th Army, in its aforementioned composition and with the aforementioned reinforcement means along with the forces of the 21st and 23rd motorized rifle divisions, the army and front antitank reserves and mobile obstacle detachments, and the support of 1st Air Army aviation, is to stop further advance by the Blue 1st Army Corps, and prevent tank groupings from breaking through into MAGDEBURG and to the ELBE River.

On the morning of 9 September the forces of the 10th Tank Division, 6th Motorized Rifle Division, and a tank regiment of the 18th Motorized Rifle Division are to deliver an attack on the ROTGESBUTTEL, HANNOVER axis, break through the defense of the Brown 7th Tank Division in the sectors of KASTORF, (excluding) GIFHORN; and (excluding) GIFHORN, ROTGESBUTTEL, and defeat its units in the area northwest of BRAUNSCHWEIG; through the transition of the main forces of the 18th Motorized Rifle Division to the offensive, they are to enlarge the breakthrough on the left flank, seize the positions of the enemy's divisional reserves, and by the close of day advance with the attack grouping to the STELLE, LERNE /sic -- LEHRTE/, SEHNDE, WOLFENBUTTEL line. On 10 September part of the forces are to seize HANNOVER, and the main forces are to develop the offensive in the general direction of MINDEN.

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In the breakthrough sector there are to be no fewer than 100 guns per kilometer of front.

The flight resources for 9 September are two regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation and two regimental sorties of army aviation.

d) The 2nd Army Corps is to be concentrated by the morning of 9 September in the area of SCHWERIN, PARCHIM, and STERNBERG, in readiness for commitment to battle on the morning of D3 /Day Three/ from the (excluding) BAD OLDESLOE, GRONWOHLD line.

The forward movement area will be FRANZBURG, REINFELD on the right and ALTENTREPTOW, AHRENSBURG on the left.

e) The 6th Army will be concentrated by the morning of 9 September in the area of KALBE, COLBITZ, BURG, and BRANDENBURG, in readiness for commitment to battle on D3 from the FALLINGBOSTEL, BISSENDORF line.

The forward movement area will be GRANSEE, SALZWEDEL, WALSRÖDE on the right and FURSTENWALDE, HALDENSLEBEN, (excluding) HANNOVER on the left.

f) The 10th Tank Army will be concentrated by the morning of 9 September in the area of MYSLIBORZ, RZEPIN, SKWIERZYNA (75 km northeast of FRANKFURT-ON-THE-ODER). The army command post will be in the forested area 15 km southeast of SCIECHOW.

g) The front antitank reserve -- the 4th Antitank Artillery Brigade, together with Mobile Obstacle Detachment No. 2 (12th Engineer Obstacle Battalion) -- will be concentrated by 0700 hours the forest 3 km northeast of BISMARCK in readiness to deploy on either the OSTEDT, KLOTZE axis or on the ROSSAU, ROCHAU axis; the 5th Antitank Artillery Brigade with Mobile Obstacle Detachment No. 1 (1st Battalion of the 20th Combat Engineer Regiment) will move out and deploy on the ERISLEBEN /sic -- ?ERXLEBEN/, BORNSTEDT line.

h) For the rocket troops and artillery.

For the rocket troops:

-- be ready to deliver an initial nuclear strike in order to destroy the enemy's nuclear attack means and defeat his main troop grouping. Refinements are to be constantly entered into the plan for the initial nuclear strike in accordance with the changing situation and the arrival of

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new reconnaissance data. The missile battalions on alert are to be ready to destroy the enemy's nuclear attack means.

For the artillery:

-- destroy the enemy's tactical nuclear attack means as they are detected.

-- by massed, concentrated, and barrage artillery fire in cooperation with fire support helicopters, aviation, and the fire means of tank and motorized rifle divisions, inflict fire destruction on the units of the Brown 6th and 4th army corps and Blue 1st Army Corps, preventing their further advance on the HAGENOW, STENDAL, and MAGDEBURG axes;

-- destroy the enemy by fire in the breakthrough sectors and on their flanks by conducting preparatory fire lasting 32 minutes with a density of 100 to 110 guns and mortars per kilometer of front.

-- carry out artillery support of the attack with a fire barrage in conjunction with the successive concentration of fire into the depth of the defense of the first-echelon battalions; /provide/ artillery close support to the attacking troops during combat in the depth of the enemy defense by massed and concentrated artillery fire against the antitank means, artillery and mortar batteries, second echelons, and reserves that are in concentration areas and on deployment lines for counterattacks and counterthrusts.

The artillery is to be ready with the preparatory fire for the attack at 0700 hours 9 September.

i) The 1st Air Army is to deliver the second massed strike according to the plan of the air operation before the onset of darkness, and is to support the front troops within the limits of the allocated flight resources (one regimental sortie of fighter-bomber aviation and one regimental sortie of army aviation per army from the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies).

-- it is to be ready by 0700 hours 9 September to take part in the fire support for the attack during the breakthrough of the enemy defense line in the WESENDORF, ROTGESBUTEL sector. In the period H-hour minus 018 to H-hour minus 007, two regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation and two regimental sorties of bomber aviation are to destroy the following: newly-detected enemy nuclear means; the helicopters on landing pads in the

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areas 500 m northwest of FASSBERG and 3 km west of LANGENHAGEN; the Hawk SAM battery in the area 1 km north of IMMENSEN; /in addition, they will/ neutralize the following: a tank battalion in the second echelon of the 8th Tank Brigade in the area of ESCHUDE and a tank battalion of the 9th Tank Brigade of the Brown 3rd Tank Division in the area southeast of HERMANNSBURG, as well as the command post of the Brown 1st Army Corps; and the antiaircraft artillery batteries in the areas 1 km north of SHRERHORST /sic -- SCHARNHORST/ and 3 km east of HOFER.

-- army aviation (7th and 9th separate helicopter regiments), in the period from H-hour minus 026 to H-hour minus 018 and as of H-hour minus 004, is to destroy dug-in tanks and other armored targets as well as enemy antitank means in the breakthrough sector by expending two regimental sorties;

-- it is to continue covering the front troops and rear services installations against enemy air strikes and air reconnaissance, having concentrated the main efforts of fighter aviation on covering the troops of the 4th, 7th, and 9th armies, doing so by doubling the detail of airborne alert forces from the 1st, 3rd, and 5th fighter divisions;

-- it is to allocate one regimental sortie of fighter-bomber aviation and one regimental sortie of army aviation (4th Separate Helicopter Regiment) to carry out the preparatory fire according to the plan of the 4th Army commander;

-- it is to safeguard the landings and support the amphibious and airborne landing forces in accordance with the plan;

-- it is to continue to conduct air reconnaissance according to the front plan.

The expenditure of flight resources on 9 September is to be three army sorties, of which one will be according to the plan for the air operation.

j) As of the morning of 9 September the front air defense troops, in cooperation with fighter aviation of the 1st Air Army, are to intensify the cover for the attack groupings of the 7th and 9th armies and for the forward movement and commitment to battle of their second echelons in the breakthrough of the enemy defense.

The organic surface-to-air means of the troops, in cooperation with fighter aviation of the 1st Air Army, are to continue to repel enemy

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aviation on the PRITZWALK and MAGDEBURG axes.

k) The engineer troops are to support the following: the forward movement of large units and units to the breakthrough sectors and the occupation by the troops of the departure position for the breakthrough; the clearing of lanes through enemy obstacles (24 lanes per division) and the movement over them of the divisions' battle formations; the assault crossing of the ELBE-LUBECK Canal at the start of the breakthrough of the enemy defense.

The troops are to be in readiness to break through the enemy defense at 0700 hours 9 September.

The front command post is to be in the area noted earlier.

Note: Depending on the time available, the assignment of tasks for one or two armies, the rocket troops and artillery, air army, antitank reserve, and air defense troops may be heard.

5. The organization at the division level of the breakthrough of the enemy defense -- 20 minutes

The study group leader is to announce that the operational time is 0700 hours 9 September. The front commander has arrived by helicopter at the command post of the 6th Motorized Rifle Division (in the forest 2 km north of FALLERSLEBEN), where he has called upon the division commander to report on the organization of the breakthrough of the enemy defense as regards the following matters:

- the enemy grouping in the division's offensive zone;
- the division's tasks and battle formation in breaking through the enemy defense;
- the tasks of adjacent forces;
- the procedure by which the division is to occupy the departure position for breaking through the enemy defense;
- the actions of the division units while the preparatory fire for the breakthrough is in progress;

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- the procedure for forward movement to the attack line;
- the attack on the enemy by the first-echelon battalions;
- the procedure for the forward movement and commitment to battle of the second-echelon regiments;
- the procedure for negotiating obstacles during the offensive;
- the control of division units.

Report of the commander of the 6th Motorized Rifle Division

1. Up to three motorized infantry companies of the 191st Motorized Infantry Battalion of the 19th Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Brown 7th Tank Division are on defense in the division's offensive zone on the line (excluding) GIFHORN, AUSBUTTEL. The enemy's strong points are as follows: No. 1, at ISENBUTTEL-GIFHORN; No. 2, at AUSBUTTEL; No. 3, at VOLLBUTTEL. The brigade reserves are positioned along the west bank of the OKER River; the division reserves are positioned along the west bank of the FUHSE River. There is an Honest John battery north of SOPHIENTAL; up to one battalion of nuclear artillery is in the forest 1.5 km northwest of WARMBUTTEL; and there are artillery batteries in the groves southwest of VOLLBUTTEL and southeast of NEUBRUCK.

2. The 6th Motorized Rifle Division, with the 8th Heavy Howitzer Brigade of the 11th Artillery Division of the RVGK, the 1st Battalion of the 9th Combat Engineer Regiment, and the 1st and 3rd companies of the 11th Engineer Obstacle-Clearing Battalion, attacking on the IZENBYUTTEL-DORF /sic -- ?ISENBUTTEL/, VOLKSE, MEHRUM axis, is to break through the enemy defense in the ISENBUTTEL-GIFHORN, AUSBUTTEL sector (along a frontage of 4 km); in cooperation with the 10th Tank Division it will destroy the subunits of the 191st Motorized Infantry Battalion of the 19th Motorized Infantry Brigade, which has tanks in its first position and the 193rd Tank Battalion in the position of the brigade reserves; and it will seize the line (excluding) SEERSHAUSEN, HILLERSE.

Subsequently it will develop a breakthrough on the EDEMISSEN, MEHRUM axis, destroying the subunits of the tank battalion in the position of the division reserves, and by the close of day it is to advance to the DOLGEN, GROSS ILSEDE line.

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The division is in a two-echelon battle formation: in the first echelon the reinforced 18th and 20th motorized rifle regiments are breaking through the enemy defense, and in the second echelon the 19th Motorized Rifle Regiment and 6th Tank Regiment are advancing.

3. On the right the 10th Tank Division is breaking through the enemy defense with two regiments in the GAMSEN, (excluding) GIFHORN sector. The boundary with it is WEYHAUSEN, Reference Point 54.8, (excluding) LEHRTE.

On the left the 18th Motorized Rifle Division is breaking through the enemy defense with the forces of the 18th Tank Regiment in the sector (excluding) AUSBUTTEL, ROTGESBUTTEL, and is advancing in the direction of GROSS SCHWULPER, supporting the left flank of the 6th Motorized Rifle Division and enlarging the breakthrough on that flank. The boundary with it is (excluding) FALLERSLEBEN, ROTGESBUTTEL, HILLERSE, OBERG.

4. During the night the division, covered by subunits of the 10th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the 10th Tank Division, which are in direct contact with the enemy, as well as by reconnaissance subunits, occupied the departure position for the offensive, disposed as follows:

The 6th SAM Regiment has been deployed in firing positions. The artillery (two regimental artillery groups and a division artillery group) has occupied firing positions 2 to 3.5 km from the forward edge of the enemy defense and is readying to conduct an artillery preparation according to the army plan. Artillery of the army artillery and rocket artillery groups has occupied firing positions 5 to 7 km from the forward edge of the enemy defense. The 6th Separate Missile Battalion has deployed in the siting area east of HATTORF and is ready to participate in the initial nuclear strike.

First-echelon regiments have moved up into the division's designated area and have deployed into battalion columns in waiting areas 8 km from the forward edge of the enemy defense.

The second-echelon regiments -- the 19th Motorized Rifle Regiment and 6th Tank Regiment -- have halted in columns on the GRAFHORST, VORSFELDE line, where they have prepared shelters for personnel and equipment and are ready to move out.

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Cross-country tracks have been prepared by engineer troop forces. The 1st and 2nd companies of the 1st Battalion of the 9th Combat Engineer Regiment and the 1st Company of the 11th Engineer Obstacle-Clearing Battalion have moved up to the forward edge of the enemy defense and are getting ready to make lanes through the obstacles, on the scale of one continuous lane per first-echelon company. The combat engineer subunits of the regiments and divisions are ready to carry out engineering tasks in support of the attack of the units during the breakthrough of the enemy defense.

From 0700 to 0830 hours reconnaissance and final reconnaissance of the objectives will be conducted, and the tasks of the first-echelon subunits will be clarified.

5. The preparatory fire for the attack will begin upon the signal of the army commander. Upon the start of the preparatory fire the first-echelon regiments will begin to move out in battalion columns; and upon arriving at the Reference Point 54.6, CALBERLAH line, they will deploy into company columns.

While the preparatory fire is in progress, engineer troop subunits will clear 24 lanes through the enemy minefields by explosive method using UZ-3R elongated mineclearing charges.

6. At the end of the preparatory fire, the battalions, having deployed into battle formation, will go over to the attack. The artillery will switch over to provide fire support for the attacking troops. The tank subunits will take advantage of the lanes made by the combat engineers and aided by mineclearers -- using 54 KMT-4s /tank-mounted mineclearers/ for this -- they will clear additional lanes through the enemy minefields. The motorized rifle subunits, moving in swiftly immediately behind the tanks, will overcome the enemy obstacles.

At the designated time (H-hour) the first-echelon tank and motorized rifle subunits will rapidly return /sic/ to the forward edge of the enemy's defense, destroy his surviving personnel and fire means, and rapidly move forward, following at a safe distance (200 to 400 m) behind the shell bursts of our artillery, and then split up the enemy's battle formations and emerge on his flanks in the rear. Fire will be shifted from one successive fire concentration line to another upon the signals (commands) of the regiment and battalion commanders. Air strikes will be called for and carried out through the combat control group.

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The second echelons of the battalions will advance on armored personnel carriers 1.5 to 2 km from the first-echelon companies. Following the capture of the strongpoints on the forward edge of the enemy defense, they will be committed to battle to exploit success.

7. The immediate task of the first-echelon regiments will involve defeating the subunits of the 191st Motorized Infantry Battalion of the Brown 19th Motorized Infantry Brigade, seizing strongpoints Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and advancing to the line of Reference Point 59.2 and the edge of the forest 2 km west of VOLLBUTTEL. Their follow-up task will be to break through the position of the brigade reserves and seize the line (excluding) SEERSHAUSEN, HILLERSE. To fulfill this task, the 18th Motorized Rifle Regiment will make provisions to commit a second-echelon battalion to battle. Having broken the enemy resistance, the motorized rifle subunits, attacking in dismounted formation, are to remount their armored personnel carriers and continue the rapid offensive together with the tanks, never separating from them by more than 200 m.

8. At the start of the offensive the second-echelon regiments -- the 6th Tank Regiment and 19th Motorized Rifle Regiment -- are to advance 15 to 20 km behind the 18th and 20th motorized rifle regiments. In order for them to cross the OKER River, four bridges with lengths of up to 20 m will be constructed out of two sets of TMM /heavy mechanized bridges/. After the division fulfills its immediate task, it is planned that the regiments will be committed as follows in order to seize from the march the position of the enemy's divisional reserves: the 6th Tank Regiment from the WEHNSEN, Reference Point 72.2 line; and the 19th Motorized Rifle Regiment from the BLUMENHAGEN, Reference Point 69.8 line. The commitment to battle of the second-echelon regiments will be supported by the massed fire of regimental and divisional artillery groups and air strikes.

During the offensive, lanes through enemy obstacles will be cleared by tanks equipped with mineclearers and by using elongated charges hauled in behind them. The march support detachments will move out immediately behind the first-echelon battalions, widening and marking the lanes through the obstacles.

9. Control over the division's units in the preparation for and at the start of the breakthrough of the enemy defense will be exercised from the command post in the forest 2 km north of FALLERSLEBEN and the forward control post at Reference Point 54.6.

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10. Critique of the lesson -- 15 minutes.

The study group leader is to announce the lesson topic and training objectives. He will draw conclusions about the lesson that has been completed and provide the students with recommendations for further improving their training on matters concerning the breakthrough of an enemy defense.

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