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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

12 June 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : Max Hugel
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : USSR GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSONS : Making the
Decision for the Assault Crossing of a Wide
Water Obstacle from the March

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 an estimate of the situation and the tasking of a front's major ground and air elements, electronic neutralization units, and engineer troop units in an offensive drive against NATO's Northern Army Group, the assault crossing of the Rhine and Ijssel rivers in or close to The Netherlands, and the capture of the North Sea coast and northern Ruhr industrial area.

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.

Max Hugel

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Intelligence Information Special Report

Page 3 of 28 Pages

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT

GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY LESSON No. 27a : Making the Decision for the Assault Crossing of a Wide Water Obstacle from the March

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 for the instruction of students acting as front commanders, air army commanders, chiefs of staff, and chiefs of intelligence in the assessment of an enemy, estimate of the situation, and tasking of a front's key units -- including five ground armies, the air army, rocket troops, electronic neutralization units, and engineer troop units -- in an offensive drive against NATO's Northern Army Group that involves the crossing of the Rhine and Ijssel rivers in or close to The Netherlands, the seizure of the North Sea coast from the vicinity of Bremerhaven through the northern half of The Netherlands coast, and the capture of the northern part of the Ruhr industrial area. In this lesson the front has at its disposal 91 nuclear munitions, including 36 bombs, for use against NATO targets: Pershing, Lance, and Sergeant launchers; aircraft at airfields, atomic artillery, nuclear weapons depots, SAM units, and ground forces corps. End of Summary

Comment:

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

Brown -- West Germany
Blue -- Great Britain
Green -- United States
Lilac -- Belgium
Violet -- The Netherlands
Gray -- Denmark

TS #818131
Copy # 3

TOP SECRET

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 4 of 28 Pages

Lesson No. 27a

I. Subject -- Making the decision for the assault crossing of a wide water obstacle from the march.

II. Time to work out the lesson -- /not specified in original/

-- individual study by students

-- group training period

III. Training objectives:

-- to teach the students to estimate the situation and make the decision on the development of the front offensive with an assault crossing of a wide water obstacle from the march;

-- to train the students to formulate a concept of the decision and to assign tasks to front troops.

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

V. Methodological recommendations regarding the students' preparation for the lesson.

At the start of individual study the training group directors will explain the scope and contents of the work which is to be accomplished by the students in preparing for the lesson and will recommend that they:

-- study the texts indicated in the assignment for the given lesson and the situation developing in the front zone at the close of the seventh day of the operation;

-- make a decision as a front commander, plot it on the map, and write in the workbooks the conclusions from the estimate of the situation, the concept of the decision, the tasks of the troops, and the orders on engineer support for the assault crossing of the RHINE River;

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 5 of 28 Pages

-- prepare to report their conclusions from the estimate of the situation, proposals on the decision and on the combat employment of front aviation in the assault crossing of the river.

VI. Procedure for conducting the lesson.

1. Examine one to two subjects relating to theory -- 15 minutes.
2. Decision-making -- 140 minutes.

The training group director will announce: The operational time is 2000 hours 14 September. The front commander is in the command post in the forest 12 km south of SULINGEN, and is making a decision on the assault crossing of the RHINE River, involving in this the responsible officers who are with him. He has specified that the chief of the intelligence directorate, the 1st Air Army commander, and the front chief of staff are to brief him on these subjects:

- A. Assessment of the enemy;
- B. Proposals for the combat employment of front aviation during the assault crossing of the RHINE River;
- C. Conclusions from the estimate of the situation and the proposals on the decision.

A. Assessment of the enemy -- 20 minutes.

The students in the role of chief of the front's intelligence directorate are to report the assessment of the enemy concerning the following matters:

- the strength and operational situation of the enemy in the front zone by axes;
- the probable nature of enemy actions on the approaches to the RHINE River and on the opposite bank;
- the main enemy targets to be destroyed by nuclear weapons.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 6 of 28 Pages

Report by the chief of the front intelligence directorate
on the situation at 2000 hours 14 September (a variant).

1. West, in its former grouping, having been unsuccessful in the counterthrust, is attempting to halt the advance of front troops and not permit them to advance to the RHINE River by delivering grouped and individual nuclear weapons strikes and by tenaciously defending intermediate lines. At the same time, reserves (the Violet 2nd Army Corps) are being moved out to the east bank of the RHINE River and the Blue 2nd Army Corps is being unloaded at Lilac and Violet ports.

On the JUTLAND axis the enemy has gone over with the remnants of the Brown 6th Army Corps to the defense along Gray's state border.

On the coastal axis the forces of the Brown 4th Army Corps, Lilac 1st Army Corps, and Brown 1st Army Corps are conducting delaying combat actions. In their complement they have up to 3 motorized infantry divisions and one infantry division, up to 4 operational-tactical missile launchers, 9 tactical missile launchers, 27 atomic artillery pieces, approximately 550 tanks, more than 400 guns and mortars, and over 250 antitank means.

It is possible that the troops on this axis may be reinforced subsequently by a "Heimatschutz" /home defense/ infantry division and by allocating aviation and naval forces from other axes.

On the BRUSSELS axis the enemy is opposing the main grouping of front troops with the Brown 5th Army Corps, the Blue 1st Army Corps, the Violet 2nd Army Corps, and the remnants of the Lilac 2nd Army Corps.

This comes to a total of nine divisions, five of which (the Brown 17th and 19th infantry divisions, 20th Motorized Infantry Division, and 25th Infantry Division, and the Blue 2nd Armored Division) are in direct contact with the 10th Tank Army and the 9th Army; the Violet 2nd Motorized Infantry Division is conducting combat actions against the 30th Airborne Division; two divisions of the Violet 2nd Army Corps, which are 150 to 160 kilometers away from the front line, are moving forward in the direction of VENLO, MUNSTER; and up to the two brigades of the Lilac 2nd Army Corps are concentrated north of MARL.

This enemy grouping has: 20 operational-tactical and tactical missile launchers, approximately 40 atomic artillery pieces, over 1,100 tanks, approximately 1,000 guns and mortars, and up to 700 antitank means.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 7 of 28 Pages

In the next two to three days the grouping can be reinforced by the Blue 2nd Army Corps (two motorized infantry divisions and one infantry division), a Violet motorized infantry division, and up to two "Heimatschutz" infantry brigades. In their complement there can be up to 10 tactical missile launchers, approximately 12 atomic artillery pieces, up to 600 tanks, approximately 600 guns and mortars, and up to 580 antitank means.

In spite of considerable losses, the aviation of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force and the carrier aviation have in their complement up to 550 aircraft, of which up to 250 are delivery aircraft. They are being reinforced by drawing on the Blue air force home command and by shifting the Green 49th Tactical Fighter Wing (72 F-4D aircraft) to the BRUSSELS area.

The air defense troop grouping of the Northern Army Group has in its complement up to seven Hawk battalions and five Nike-Hercules battalions, which are at 40 to 50 percent strength. The BRUSSELS axis is the most densely covered.

Thus, the Northern Army Group at 2000 hours 14 September has in the area of the Coastal Front offensive (excluding the JUTLAND axis) up to 19 divisions; of these, up to 10 are in the first echelon, 5 are in the reserve, and up to 3 divisions are being activated. One motorized infantry division is engaged in combat actions against the 30th Airborne Division; there are up to 60 operational-tactical and tactical missile launchers, up to 90 atomic artillery pieces, up to 2,400 tanks, more than 2,100 guns and mortars, and up to 1,800 antitank means.

The most powerful grouping is being kept on the BRUSSELS axis (with a strength of up to nine divisions). Furthermore, on 16 to 17 September it can be reinforced by four to five divisions (three divisions of the Blue 2nd Army Corps, a Violet motorized infantry division being activated in the area of LOUVAIN, and two infantry brigades in the areas of WINTERSWIJK and KREFELD).

2. In the situation which has developed, the enemy's concept of actions may be, as of the morning of 15 September, to drive front troops back from the west bank of the EMS River, restore the situation along the river, and hinder the front troops' development of the offensive toward the RHINE River by means of nuclear strikes, air strikes, and by delivering a counterthrust with the forces of the Violet 2nd Army Corps in the direction of KESFELD, IBBENBUREN and with the Brown 51st Motorized Infantry Brigade

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 8 of 28 Pages

in the direction of NORDHORN, RHEINE. Subsequently, with the approach of strategic reserves and upon completion of the activation of new large units, /the enemy may intend/ to organize a defense along the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers and prevent an assault crossing of them from the march.

It is possible that the retreating large units and those which have been activated will take up the defense on the west banks of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers, and that the Blue 2nd Army Corps will be used to deliver a counterthrust in the direction of APELDOORN, DOETINCHEM, or TIEL, KEVELAER for the purpose of disrupting the assault crossing of the rivers by front troops.

On the coastal axis, the enemy will resist front troops on intermediate lines, thereby helping the main forces of the Northern Army Group to disrupt the front troops' assault crossing of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers.

3. The main enemy targets to be destroyed by nuclear weapons are:

-- Pershing launchers in the areas of: UTRECHT, TALBURG /sic -- TILBURG/, and north of WINTERSLAG; the 150th Lance Battalion 18 km northwest of EMMEN; the 550th Sergeant Battalion in the area 12 km southwest of ENSCHEDE;

-- tactical /missile/ launchers and atomic artillery pieces at siting areas and in firing positions within the battle formations of the divisions;

-- delivery aircraft at these airfields: LEEUWARDEN, AMERSFOORT, UDEN, EINDHOVEN, VENLO, ST. TRUIDEN, TIENEN, RIJKEVORSEL, ZOERSEL;

-- nuclear munitions depots in the areas of ZEIST, UDEN, 8 km north of EINDHOVEN, WINTERSLAG;

-- the 35th and 5th Hawk battalions; and the 25th, 21st, 26th, and 12th Nike-Hercules battalions;

-- the large units of the Brown 5th Army Corps and Violet 2nd Army Corps;

-- the Blue 2nd Army Corps troops which are concentrating east of THE HAGUE and in the area of TILBURG.

TS #818131
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B. Proposals on the combat employment of front aviation during the assault crossing -- 20 minutes

Students in the role of 1st Air Army commander are to report their proposals for the combat employment of front aviation during the assault crossing of the IJSEL and RHINE rivers.

Report of the 1st Air Army commander (variant)

1. The status of the air army. The army at 2000 hours 14 September has in its complement 720 combat aircraft consisting of 260 fighters, 280 fighter-bombers, 75 bombers, 90 reconnaissance aircraft, 15 electronic countermeasures aircraft; 320 of them are delivery aircraft. In the separate helicopter regiments there are 230 helicopters.

To fulfill the follow-up tasks of the front, the army has at its disposal 6 army sorties of front aviation, 55 regimental sorties of army aviation, and 36 nuclear bombs (1 of 300 kt, 2 of 200 kt, 8 of 100 kt, 5 of 20 kt, 10 of 10 kt, 10 of 5 kt).

The air army regiments have rebased to new airfields on the basis of one regiment per airfield and are positioned as follows: the fighter aviation regiments are at a distance of 80 to 150 km from the front line, the fighter-bomber aviation at 150 to 200 km from the front line, and the bomber aviation at 250 to 300 km from the front line.

The army has 1.3 crews per aircraft, which will ensure vigorous fulfillment of the tasks during the troops' assault crossing of the IJSEL and RHINE rivers.

The 2nd and 4th fighter-bomber divisions each have two fighter-bomber flights in Readiness No. 1 to search for and destroy enemy missile/nuclear means.

During 14 September the army is to provide air support to the troops of the front's first-echelon armies, deliver strikes with nuclear and conventional weapons against enemy reserves, cover the front troops and installations, and conduct aerial reconnaissance.

The remainder of the flight resources up to the close of 14 September are to be three regimental flights of fighter-bomber aviation for air support of the troops of the 10th Tank Army and 9th Army.

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 10 of 28 Pages

2. I PROPOSE:

-- In the period of the assault crossing by front troops of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers (up to the close of 17 September) to set the expenditure of flight resources and nuclear warheads at 4 army sorties of front aviation and 40 regimental sorties of army aviation, and 27 nuclear bombs. Of these flight resources, 24 regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation are to be allocated for troop air support as follows: two for the 4th Army, three for the 7th Army, seven for the 6th Army, six for the 10th Tank Army, four for the 9th Army, and two regimental sorties for the 30th Airborne Division.

-- To allocate the following for nuclear destruction of the enemy in support of the armies: 2 nuclear bombs for the 6th Army, 1 nuclear bomb for the 10th Tank Army; 4 nuclear bombs for the destruction of missile/nuclear means; 20 nuclear bombs for the defeat of the enemy reserves (the Violet 2nd Army Corps).

-- To cover front troops and installations with fighter aviation forces expending Flight resources of up to 40 regimental sorties.

--To have the main aerial reconnaissance forces concentrate on determining the coordinates of enemy missile/nuclear means and aircraft on airfields in support of front rocket troops and the air army, on reconnoitering enemy troop groupings on the approaches to the RHINE River and west of it, and on reconnoitering the areas for the assault crossing of the RHINE River.

-- As of the morning of 15 September, to carry out with the main forces of the air army search and destruction of enemy missile/nuclear means and aircraft at airfields, to be in readiness for actions in support of repelling the counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps, and in readiness to cover front troops and installations, especially the 6th Army during its forward movement and commitment to battle.

The expenditure of flight resources on 15 September is to be set at 1 army sortie of front aviation and 12 regimental sorties of army aviation.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 11 of 28 Pages

C. Conclusions from the estimate of the situation and the proposals on the decision -- 40 minutes.

Students in the role of the front chief of staff are to report their conclusions from the estimate of the situation and the proposals on the decision.

Report of the front chief of staff (variant).

1. During 13 and 14 September, West attempted to halt the offensive of front troops and prevent them from reaching the RHINE River by delivering grouped and individual nuclear strikes and by delivering counterthrusts with forces of the Brown 5th Army Corps and 24th and 25th infantry divisions, and by tenaciously defending intermediate lines.

During the engagement, the large units and units of the enemy's first operational echelon, his missile/nuclear means, the aviation of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, and his air defense troops sustained losses of 40 to 50 percent; 4 divisions were fully destroyed, with part of them being captured (the Brown 16th Tank Division, the Blue 1st and 4th armored divisions, and the Violet 1st Motorized Infantry Division); and 13 divisions sustained losses of 70 to 80 percent (the Brown 1st, 6th, 11th, 15th, 18th, and 21st motorized infantry divisions; the Brown 3rd and 7th tank divisions, the Green 4th Mechanized Division, and the Lilac 1st, 5th, 101st, and 301st motorized infantry divisions).

The enemy has expended all of his immediate reserves, but has retained strategic reserves made up of the Violet 2nd Army Corps and Blue 2nd Army Corps.

Therefore, aggressive actions on the part of the enemy are not expected on the JUTLAND and coastal axes for the immediate future.

On the morning of 15 September the enemy may deliver a counterthrust on the BRUSSELS axis with the forces of the Violet 2nd Army Corps (two motorized infantry divisions) at the boundary between the 10th Tank Army and the 9th Army in the direction of KESFELD, IBBENBUREN, and with the 51st Motorized Infantry Brigade, and then with the entire Brown 17th Infantry Division in the direction of NORDHORN, RHEINE, in order to throw front troops back from the west bank of the EMS River and restore the situation along the river.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 12 of 28 Pages

During the approach to the RHINE River and at the start of its assault crossing, the enemy may detonate nuclear land mines on the east bank of the river and deliver a counterthrust with the forces of the Blue 2nd Army Corps (two motorized infantry divisions, one infantry division) in the direction of APELDOORN, DOETINCHEM or TIEL, KEVELAER.

Thus, the enemy's most effective actions can be expected on the BRUSSELS axis, where he has concentrated up to 13 to 14 divisions out of 19, up to 18 operational-tactical missile launchers, 22 tactical missile launchers, more than 50 atomic artillery pieces, close to 1,700 tanks, more than 1,600 guns and mortars, and over 1,200 antitank means.

2. In the course of two days of combat actions, the Coastal Front inflicted a defeat on the Northern Army Group's counterthrust grouping south of BREMEN and northeast of PADERBORN by means of a massed nuclear strike, the commitment to battle of the 10th Tank Army, and by the decisive offensive of troops; with its main forces it made an assault crossing of the EMS River, and by 2000 hours 14 September had reached the approaches to the strategic line of the RHINE River.

At 2000 hours 14 September 18 divisions (4 tank divisions) had been deployed in the front's first operational echelon, with 9 of them on the BRUSSELS axis.

The front's second echelon is the 6th Army (the 11th and 28th motorized rifle divisions, and 5th Tank Division). The reserve consists of the 1st, 3rd, and 21st motorized rifle divisions, and the 26th Tank Division.

In the front's complement there are 17 operational-tactical missile launchers, 39 tactical missile launchers, 3,380 tanks, 3,603 guns and mortars, 720 aircraft, and 2,115 antitank means.

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

-- The 4th Army has fulfilled its tasks in the front operation and, having arrived at the Gray state border, has gone over to the defense. The 7th Motorized Rifle Division is in the army's second echelon.

The army has 7 operational-tactical missile launchers and 6 tactical missile launchers, 628 tanks, 902 guns and mortars, and 7 nuclear-armed missiles. The army's large units are at 50 to 60 percent strength. The

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 13 of 28 Pages

disposition and condition of the army permits us to withdraw from the /army's/ complement the 2nd Army Corps at a strength of two motorized rifle divisions and the 6th Artillery Division (minus a gun artillery brigade and heavy howitzer brigade) and transfer them to the coastal axis.

-- The 7th Army is conducting offensive actions along separate axes in conjunction with the destruction of the encircled enemy units in HAMBURG. The army's main forces are concentrated on the BREMEN, GRONINGEN axis where the 17th Motorized Rifle Division's forward detachment has made an assault crossing of the EMS River in the HEEDE, SUSTRUM sector. The army has a motorized rifle regiment of the 4th Motorized Rifle Division in the reserve.

The army has 5 operational-tactical missile launchers, 5 tactical missile launchers, 479 tanks, 628 guns and mortars, and 9 nuclear-armed missiles; the army's large units are at 50 to 60 percent strength.

The disposition and condition of the army troops makes it possible for the forces of the 17th Motorized Rifle Division alone to develop a thrust on the GRONINGEN axis and make an assault crossing of the EMS River from the march, and for the 4th and 12th motorized rifle divisions to complete in a day the defeat of enemy units that are encircled and pressed to the sea.

Therefore, the army must be reinforced with one motorized rifle division.

With the commitment to battle on the GRONINGEN axis of one motorized rifle division, the balance of forces and means will be the following: 1.2:1 in launchers, 1.4:1 in tanks, and 2:1 in guns and mortars in the army's favor.

-- The 10th Tank Army, with the main forces of the 29th Motorized Rifle Division, the 22nd Tank Division, and with the forward detachment of the 15th Tank Division, has made an assault crossing of the EMS River from the march and has advanced west of the river to a depth of 15 to 20 km. The 25th Tank Division, the army's second echelon, is in readiness to be committed to battle on the morning of 15 September.

The army has 8 operational-tactical missile launchers, 12 tactical missile launchers, 727 tanks, 699 guns and mortars, and 11 nuclear-armed missiles; the army's large units are at 50 to 75 percent strength.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 14 of 28 Pages

The disposition and condition of the army troops makes it possible to develop the offensive in the direction of RHEINE, GOCH through the commitment to battle of the 25th Tank Division on the morning of 15 September and to make an assault crossing of the RHINE River with two divisions (the 29th Motorized Rifle Division and 25th Tank Division) in the MILLINGEN, WESEL area; to have the 15th Tank Division make an assault crossing of the EMS River during the night, and by 1200 to 1300 hours 15 September reach the NIEUW-AMSTERDAM, (excluding) NORDHORN line and support the commitment to battle of the 6th Army. With the commitment to battle of the 6th Army, the 15th Tank Division is to be transferred to it. On the morning of 15 September the 10th Tank Army is to be reinforced with the 26th Tank Division. The forces of the 22nd Tank Division in cooperation with the 10th Tank Division of the 9th Army are to repel a possible counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps.

The balance of forces and means in the army's area (based on a single Violet motorized infantry division) is 3:1 in launchers, 1.3:1 in tanks, and 1.6:1 in guns and mortars in the army's favor.

-- The 9th Army, in cooperation with the Western Front's 3rd Army, is developing the offensive toward the RUHR industrial area and is engaged in the battle for MUNSTER. The army has three divisions in the first echelon (the 6th Motorized Rifle Division, and the 10th and 20th tank divisions) and the 18th Motorized Rifle Division in the second echelon. The army has 6 operational-tactical missile launchers, 7 tactical missile launchers, 587 tanks, 565 guns and mortars, and 12 nuclear-armed missiles.

The army's large units are at 50 to 70 percent strength. At 1900 hours 14 September, the enemy detonated 6 nuclear land mines with a yield of 47 kilotons each in the offensive zone of the 20th Tank Division and 6th Motorized Rifle Division and established a solid zone of radioactive contamination along a frontage of 20 km and up to 25 km in depth. Personnel in the open, in motor vehicles, and in armored personnel carriers received more than 350 roentgens and tank crews received up to 240 roentgens. Further stay in this zone may result in the complete disablement of all personnel.

The disposition and condition of the army troops permits only one division (the 18th Motorized Rifle Division) to advance to and make an assault crossing of the RHINE River, since the 10th Tank Division must, in cooperation with the 20th Tank Division, repel the possible counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps, and the 20th Tank Division and 6th Motorized Rifle Division have to develop a thrust for the purpose of seizing the RUHR

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 15 of 28 Pages

industrial area in cooperation with the 3rd Army of the Western Front, after which it will be necessary to pull the army back into the Front's second echelon, transferring the 18th Motorized Rifle Division to the 10th Tank Army.

The balance of forces and means in the army zone is 1:1 in launchers and tanks, and 1.3:1 in guns and mortars in the army's favor.

-- the 6th Army has completed its activation with a new complement (the 11th and 28th motorized rifle divisions, and 5th Tank Division) and is in readiness to be committed to battle on the morning of 15 September.

-- Front rocket troops, the 2nd and 3rd front missile brigades, are in the new siting areas and are ready to deliver nuclear strikes. The 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Front Missile Brigade is on the march and will be in the siting area in readiness for launching by 2230 to 2300 hours.

The rocket troops have 17 launchers and 8 nuclear-armed missiles.

--- The 1st Air Army has rebased to new airfields.

The army's strength is 720 aircraft, including 320 delivery aircraft. Up to the end of the operation it has available 6 army sorties of front aviation and 55 regimental sorties of army aviation, and 36 nuclear bombs (1 of 300 kt, 2 of 200 kt, 8 of 100 kt, 5 of 20 kt, 10 of 10 kt, 10 of 5 kt).

-- Front air defense troops have changed siting areas and have concentrated their main efforts on covering the rocket troops and the main forces of the 10th Tank Army and 7th and 9th armies. They have 126 launchers in their complement.

-- The 30th Airborne Division is firmly holding the crossing over the RHINE River in REES and is engaged in stubborn battle in the assault landing area against units of the Violet 2nd Motorized Infantry Division.

-- The combined arms reserve, the 1st and 3rd motorized rifle divisions, are completing the restoration of combat effectiveness.

Their commitment to battle is possible on 15 to 16 September. At 1900 hours 14 September the 26th Tank Division was subjected to an enemy nuclear strike with three warheads (2 of 50 kt, 1 of 140 kt). The status of the division is being defined. The 21st Motorized Rifle Division is on the march.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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TOP SECRET

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 16 of 28 Pages

The Combined Baltic Fleet is delivering strikes against enemy strike ship groupings, convoys, and landing detachments; is disrupting the enemy's transportation lines in the North Sea; and in cooperation with the 4th Army is defending the seacoast and supporting 7th Army troops.

The Western Front, with forces of the right-flank 3rd Army, is assisting 9th Army troops in the destruction of the encircled enemy grouping south of SALZGITTER, and is continuing to develop the offensive on COLOGNE.

Thus, the Coastal Front by 2000 hours 14 September had destroyed the counterthrust grouping of the Northern Army Group south of BREMEN and northeast of PADERBORN, and, developing the offensive to the strategic line of the RHINE River, has for the most part fulfilled its immediate task. In so doing, its armies have the following deployed in the first echelon:

-- on the JUTLAND axis, three motorized rifle divisions and one tank division against three divisions of the Brown 6th Army Corps. The 4th Army has one motorized rifle division in the second echelon.

-- on the coastal axis, four motorized rifle divisions against four to five enemy divisions which have sustained losses in personnel and combat equipment of 50 to 70 percent. The 7th Army has one motorized rifle division in its reserve.

-- on the HANNOVER-BRUSSELS axis there are two motorized rifle divisions, four tank divisions, and one airborne division against six to seven enemy divisions which have suffered losses of up to 50 percent.

In the second echelon of the 10th Tank Army and the 9th Army there are one motorized rifle division and one tank division.

-- The front's second echelon is the 6th Army (two motorized rifle divisions and one tank division), and in reserve it has three motorized rifle divisions and one tank division.

The overall balance of forces and means in the front's zone is 1.5:1 in launchers, guns, and mortars; and 1.3:1 in tanks and aircraft in the front's favor.

Such an operational disposition and troop status, and the availability of 86 operational-tactical and tactical missile launchers, 91 nuclear-armed munitions, and 6 army sorties of front aviation and 55 regimental sorties

TS #818131
Copy # 3

TOP SECRET

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 17 of 28 Pages

of army aviation will make it possible to inflict defeat on the enemy east of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers, to make an assault crossing of them from the march with first-echelon forces consisting of no less than six divisions, and to shift combat actions to the west of the rivers for the purpose of destroying the enemy's reserves and new contingents and of developing the offensive to the line of the operation's objective.

I consider the objective of front troop actions in the next three days to be the following: to complete the defeat of the enemy east of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers, to make an assault crossing of them from the march, and to seize an advantageous line west of the rivers for the further development of the front operation.

Therefore, the main tasks of the front troops are:

-- to repel a possible counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps, to complete the defeat of the Brown 5th Army Corps and Blue 1st Army Corps, and to develop a thrust in the direction of RHEINE, GOCH.

-- in cooperation with the Combined Baltic Fleet, to complete the defeat of the enemy on the coastal axis, to develop the offensive in the direction of BREMEN, GRONINGEN and to seize the coast from CUXHAVEN to URK and organize its defense;

-- to seize the RUHR industrial area jointly with the 3rd Army of the Western Front;

-- to complete the destruction of the enemy in HAMBURG.

In order to achieve this aim and accomplish the enumerated tasks I PROPOSE:

a) To employ nuclear weapons en masse in the amount of 68 warheads in order to destroy the enemy's detected means of nuclear attack and rout his opposing and advancing large units.

By committing to battle the 6th Army and the second echelons of the 10th Tank Army and 9th Army in the first half of the day on 19 September, to develop a rapid offensive in the directions of MEPPEN, APELDOORN; RHEINE, GOCH; and WAHRENDORF, VENLO; to make an assault crossing from the march of the IJSSEL River in the ZWOLLE, ARNHEM sector and the RHINE River in the MILLINGEN, WALSUM sector with the forces of no less than six divisions; and by the close of 17 September to seize the line AMERSFOORT,

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 18 of 28 Pages

HELMOND, KREFELD. In the event of a counterthrust by the Violet 2nd Army Corps, to repel it with forces of the 22nd Tank Division of the 10th Tank Army, the 10th Tank Division of the 9th Army, and the 5th Antitank Artillery Brigade.

To develop an offensive in the direction of BREMEN, GRONINGEN with the forces of the 7th Army, complete the defeat of the Brown 1st and 4th army corps and Lilac 1st Army Corps, and by the close of 17 to 18 September reach the coast of the North Sea from CUXHAVEN to URK.

To subsequently concentrate the front's main efforts on THE HAGUE and BRUSSELS axes, and by the close of 19 to 20 September to reach the line of the operation's objective.

The operational disposition is to be in one echelon; the front's reserve is to be the 2nd Army Corps (two motorized rifle divisions) and the 3rd and 21st motorized rifle divisions. After the assault crossing of the RHINE River and the capture of the RUHR industrial area, to pull back the 9th Army to the front's second echelon.

b) To assign the following tasks to the troops:

-- The 4th Army (the 7th and 16th motorized rifle divisions and the 2nd Tank Division), with a gun artillery brigade and heavy howitzer brigade of the 6th Artillery Division in cooperation with the forces of the Combined Baltic Fleet, is to conduct defensive actions along Gray's state border and cover the most accessible areas for the debarkation of enemy amphibious landing forces on the coast of the North Sea.

-- By the close of 17 to 18 September the 7th Army is to reach the seacoast of the North Sea along a front from CUXHAVEN to URK, organize its defense, and, together with the forces of the Combined Baltic Fleet, prevent debarkation of enemy landing forces. To reinforce the army, it is advisable to transfer the 1st Motorized Rifle Division to it from the front reserve.

The left boundary line is to be the following: CLOPPENBURG, EMMEN, MEPPEL, (excluding) KETELMEER bay.

-- The 10th Tank Army is to fulfill the previously assigned tasks. The 15th Tank Division is to be transferred to the 6th Army when the latter is committed and the 10th Tank Army is to be reinforced with the 26th Tank Division from the front reserve. In order to develop the thrust, it is

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 19 of 28 Pages

advisable as of the morning of 15 September to commit the 25th Tank Division to battle at the junction of the 29th Motorized Rifle Division and the 22nd Tank Division in the direction of RHEINE, BOCHOLT.

The assault crossing of the RHINE River is to be carried out in the (excluding) MILLINGEN, WESEL sector. The army is to be reinforced with the 22nd Pontoon Bridge Regiment and 27th Assault Crossing Battalion.

After the assault crossing of the RHINE River, the 18th Motorized Rifle Division is to be transferred to the /tank/ army's complement from the 9th Army and the 30th Airborne Division is to be subordinated /to the tank army/. After repelling the counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps, the 22nd Tank Division is to be withdrawn to the front reserve.

-- By the close of 17 September the 9th Army in cooperation with the 3rd Army of the Western Front is to seize the RUHR industrial area and /then/ be pulled back to the front's second echelon. To develop the thrust, it is advisable as of the morning of 15 September to commit to battle the 18th Motorized Rifle Division in the direction of WAHRENDORF, DINSLAKEN, and have it make an assault crossing of the RHINE River in the sector (excluding) WESEL, ORSOY, and then transfer to the 10th Tank Army.

-- The 6th Army (the 11th and 28th motorized rifle divisions, and the 5th and 15th tank divisions) with the 6th Artillery Division (minus a gun artillery brigade and heavy howitzer brigade), and the 4th and 23rd pontoon bridge regiments, are to be committed to battle at 1200 to 1300 hours 15 September from the line (excluding) EMMEN, (excluding) NORDHORN, in the direction of APELDOORN, ANTWERP. The main thrust is to be delivered in the direction of NEYELKHAUS /sic -- NEUENHAUS/, 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, ANTWERP, with another thrust to THE HAGUE.

The immediate task of the army is to destroy the enemy in the area of COEVORDEN, ALMELO, DEVENTER, and make an assault crossing from the march of the IJSSEL River in the area of ZWOLLE, DOESBURG, and by the close of 17 September seize the AMERSFOORT, (excluding) VEGHEL line.

The follow-up task is to develop the offensive in the directions of AMSTERDAM, THE HAGUE, and ANTWERP, and by the close of 19 to 20 September arrive at the line of the objective of the front operation.

The army is to be allocated five nuclear-armed missiles. When committed to battle it is to be supported with seven regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation employing nuclear bombs.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 20 of 28 Pages

The left boundary is as follows: (excluding) NORDHORN, LOCHEM, (excluding) NIJMEGEN, (excluding) VEGHEL, TURNHOUT, (excluding) BRUSSELS.

The army's command post during commitment to battle is to be in the HAZELUNNE area.

-- Front rocket troops are to destroy a Pershing squadron, delivery aircraft at two airfields, and four nuclear munitions depots.

-- By employing nuclear bombs and conventional means of destruction, the 1st Air Army is to destroy the 3rd Pershing Squadron, delivery aircraft at four airfields, and the Violet 4th and 6th motorized infantry divisions, and is to inflict damage on the Blue large units in the areas south of AMSTERDAM, east of ROTTERDAM, and southwest of TILBURG. The flight resources are to be allocated as follows:

a) four army sorties of front aviation and 40 regimental sorties of army aviation for the destruction of the enemy east of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers, the assault crossing of the rivers, and for the capture of the /river/ line after the assault crossing (by the close of 17 September);

b) two army sorties of front aviation and 15 regimental sorties of army aviation for follow-up actions.

-- Front air defense troops are to cover front rocket troops, the 6th Army, and the 10th Tank Army.

-- The main efforts of the electronic neutralization units are to be concentrated on the axes of offensive of the 6th Army and 10th Tank Army, with the aim of disrupting the radio control of the enemy's nuclear attack means, especially the 2nd Pershing-1A Missile Wing, the Lance and Sergeant battalions, and the large units of the Brown 5th Army Corps and Violet 2nd Army Corps, and of hindering the reconnaissance and precision bombing of the crossings and troops at the RHINE River assault crossing sectors.

The siting areas of the electronic countermeasures units are to be as follows: the 62nd Separate S /aircraft radio jamming/ Battalion in HOYA, the 12th Separate N /ground radio jamming/ Battalion in RHEINE, and the 11th Separate Electronic Countermeasures Helicopter Squadron in HEMER.

-- the front reserves: by the morning of 16 September the combined-arms Reserve -- the 2nd Army Corps -- is to complete the march and be concentrated in the area of TOSTEDT, SCHEESSEL, SOLTAU, MUNSTER; by

TS #818131

Copy # 3

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~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 21 of 28 Pages

the morning of 15 September the 1st Motorized Rifle Division and 26th Tank Division are to complete the restoration of their combat effectiveness and join the complement of the 7th Army and the 10th Tank Army respectively; the 3rd Motorized Rifle Division is to be concentrated in the area of ORREL, UNTERLUSS, (excluding) UELZEN by the morning of 15 September; by the same time, the 21st Motorized Rifle Division is to reach the area 10 km west of HANNOVER; the antitank reserve -- the 4th Antitank Artillery Brigade with Mobile Obstacle Detachment No. 1 is to reach the LONINGEN area by 2400 hours; and by 0600 hours 15 September the 5th Antitank Artillery Brigade with Mobile Obstacle Detachment No. 2 is to be deployed on the BORGHORST, NORDWALDE line.

C./sic -- D./ Announcement of the decision on the development of the front operation with the assault crossing of a wide water obstacle -- 60 minutes.

Students in the role of the Coastal Front commander are to announce the decision on the development of the front operation with the assault crossing from the march of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers in the following sequence:

- the concept for the development of the front troop offensive with the assault crossing of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers;
- the tasks of front troops;
- the control of front troops.

Text of the decision of the Coastal Front commander on the development of the operation with the assault crossing of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers (variant)

I HAVE DECIDED: on the BRUSSELS (main) axis of front troop actions, by conducting a massed nuclear strike employing 63 nuclear warheads, to destroy the enemy's detected nuclear attack means and defeat his opposing large units and advancing reserves.

By committing to battle the 6th Army and the second echelons of the 10th Tank Army and 9th Army, to develop an offensive drive in the first half of the day of 15 September in the directions of MEPPEN, APELDOORN; RHEINE, GOCH; WAHRENDORF, VENLO and complete their defeat.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 22 of 28 Pages

With the forces of the 6th Army, 10th Tank Army, and one division of the 9th Army, to make an assault crossing from the march of IJSSEL River at the ZWOLLE, ARNHEM sector and the RHINE River at the MILLINGEN, WALSUM sector, and by the close of 17 September seize the line AMERSFOORT, HELMOND, KREFELD.

To repel the possible counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps with the forces of the 22nd Tank Division of the 10th Tank Army, the 10th Tank Division of the 9th Army, and the 5th Antitank Artillery Brigade.

To complete the defeat of the Brown 1st and 4th army corps and Lilac 1st Army Corps on the coastal axis through the employment of five nuclear warheads and the 7th Army's offensive drive, and by the close of 17 September reach the seacoast on a front from CUXHAVEN to URK and organize its antilanding defense.

Subsequently, the front is to concentrate its main efforts on defeating the approaching strategic reserves on THE HAGUE and BRUSSELS axes, and by the close of 19 to 20 September it is to reach the line of the operation's objective.

The operational disposition is to be in one echelon, the front is to have in reserve the 2nd Army Corps and the 3rd and 21st motorized Rifle divisions, and after repelling the counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps /it is to have/ also the 22nd Tank Division. With the completion of the assault crossing of the RHINE River and the capture of the RÜHR industrial area, the 9th Army is to be pulled back to the second echelon of the front.

The assault crossing of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers is to be carried out in the following sequence:

-- by 1300 to 1400 hours 16 September by the forward detachments of the first-echelon divisions;

-- in the second half of 16 September by the main forces of the first-echelon divisions;

-- on the night of 17 September by the second echelons (reserves) of the first-echelon divisions; the rear services of the regiments are to be crossed;

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 23 of 28 Pages

-- as of the morning of 17 September by the second echelons (reserves) of the armies; the special large units (units) and the rear services of the first-echelon divisions are to be crossed;

-- on the night of 18 September by the reserve divisions and by the units subordinate to the front.

-- the rocket troops, artillery, and air defense troops are to be crossed by battalions (by batteries) behind the battle formations of the large units and units so that two-thirds of their complement is constantly ready to deliver fire (to launch missiles). In so doing, the army missile brigades are to be crossed when the troops arrive at the MAAS River.

Tasks of the troops:

-- The 4th Army (the 7th and 16th motorized rifle divisions and the 2nd Tank Division) with a gun artillery brigade and heavy howitzer brigade of the 6th Artillery Division, and in cooperation with the forces of the Combined Baltic Fleet, is to conduct defensive actions along the Gray state border and to cover those sectors of the North Sea coast that are most accessible for the debarkation of enemy amphibious landing forces. The combat actions of the army are to be supported by the 27th Fighter-Bomber Regiment's expenditure of two regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation, and by six regimental sorties of army aviation.

-- The 7th Army (the 1st, 4th, 12th, 13th, and 17th motorized rifle divisions) with the preceding reinforcement means and by employing five nuclear warheads is to destroy the 150th Lance Battalion and the delivery aircraft at the LEEUWARDEN airfield, and inflict damage on the units of the Lilac 1st Army Corps and the Brown 1st Army Corps; with its main forces it is to develop the offensive in the direction of BREMEN, GRONINGEN; with one of its motorized rifle divisions toward CUXHAVEN, in cooperation with the naval forces, it will complete the defeat of the large units of the Brown 1st and 4th army corps and of the Lilac 1st Army Corps, and by the close of 17 to 18 September reach the seacoast of the North Sea from CUXHAVEN to URK and organize its defense. By the close of 15 September it is to complete the defeat of the enemy at HAMBURG.

The combat actions of the army are to be supported by three regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation and six regimental sorties of army aviation.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 24 of 28 Pages

The left boundary line is CLOPPENBURG, EMMEN, MEPPEL, (excluding) KETELMEER bay.

-- The 10th Tank Army (the 22nd, 25th, and 26th tank divisions, and the 29th Motorized Rifle Division) with the preceding reinforcement means and the 22nd Pontoon Bridge Regiment and 27th Assault Crossing Battalion, and by employing 10 nuclear warheads, is to destroy the 1st Pershing Wing, two batteries of the 35th Hawk Battalion and two batteries of the 25th Nike-Hercules Battalion; inflict damage on the Brown 5th Army Corps east of the RHINE River; by the commitment to battle of the 25th Tank Division, develop the offensive in the direction of RHEINE, GOCH; with the forces of two divisions, make an assault crossing from the march of the RHINE River in the sector of (excluding) MILLINGEN (12 kilometers southeast of NIJMEGEN), WESEL; and by the close of 17 September capture the line of the immediate task of the army.

The follow-up task is as formerly.

With its forces, the 22nd Tank Division is to repel the possible counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps and /the division/ is to be withdrawn to the front reserve. After the assault crossing of the RHINE River the 30th Airborne Division and the 18th Motorized Rifle Division of the 9th Army are to be brought into the complement of the army.

The combat actions of the army are to be supported by six regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation with one nuclear bomb and by ten regimental sorties of army aviation.

The left boundary line up to WESEL is the former line and west of the RHINE River it is the front's /boundary line/.

-- The 9th Army (the 6th and 18th motorized rifle divisions, and the 10th and 20th tank divisions) with the preceding reinforcement means and by employing nine nuclear warheads is to destroy two batteries of the 5th Hawk Battalion, one battery each of the 21st and 12th Nike-Hercules battalions, and inflict damage on the Blue 1st Army Corps; through the commitment to battle of the 18th Motorized Rifle Division it is to develop the offensive in the direction of WAHRENDORF, VENLO; and by the close of 17 September in cooperation with the 3rd Army of the Western Front, it is to capture with its main forces the northern part of the RUHR industrial area. It is to make an assault crossing from the march of the RHINE River with one division in the sector (excluding) WESEL, ORSOY, after which this division is to be transferred to the complement of the 10th Tank Army. The possible

TS #818131
Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 25 of 28 Pages

counterthrust of the Violet 2nd Army Corps is to be repelled by the 10th Tank Division.

Subsequently, the army is to be the front's second echelon.

The combat actions of the army are to be supported by four regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation and by nine regimental sorties of army aviation.

-- The 6th Army (the 11th and 28th motorized rifle divisions, and the 5th and 15th tank divisions), with the 6th Artillery Division (minus a gun artillery brigade and heavy howitzer brigade) and the 4th and 23rd pontoon bridge regiments, is to be committed to battle at 1200 to 1300 hours 15 September from the line (excluding) EMMEN, (excluding) NORDHORN in the direction of APELDOORN, ANTWERP.

The main thrust is to be delivered in the direction of NEUENHAUS, 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, ANTWERP, and the other thrust is to be on THE HAGUE.

The immediate task is to destroy the enemy in the area of COEVORDEN, ALMELO, DEVENTER, by employing five nuclear warheads and the main forces; to make an assault crossing from the march of the IJSSEL River in the ZWOLLE, DOESBURG sector, and by the close of 17 September seize the line AMERSFOORT, (excluding) VEGHEL.

The follow-up task is to develop the offensive in the directions of AMSTERDAM; THE HAGUE; ANTWERP, and by the close of 19 to 20 September reach the line of the front operation's objective.

The army is to be allocated five nuclear-armed missiles. When committed to battle the army is to be supported by seven regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation with two nuclear bombs and by nine regimental sorties of army aviation.

The boundary line to the left is (excluding) NORDHORN, LOCHEM, (excluding) NIJMEGEN, (excluding) VEGHEL, TURNHOUT, (excluding) BRUSSELS.

As of 0800 hours 19 May /sic -- September/ the army command post is to be in the HASELUNNE area.

-- The front rocket troops (the 2nd and 3rd front missile brigades), by employing seven nuclear-armed missiles, are to destroy the launchers of the 1st Pershing Squadron, the delivery aircraft at airfields in the areas

TS #818131

Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 26 of 28 Pages

of AMERSFOORT, UDEN, and the nuclear munitions depots in the areas of ZEIST, UDEN, EINDHOVEN, and WINTERSLAG.

-- The 1st Air Army, by employing 24 nuclear bombs and conventional means of destruction, is to destroy the 3rd Pershing Squadron in the area southwest of WEERT, the aircraft at airfields near EINDHOVEN, VENLO, ST. TRUIDEN, and TIENEN, and the Violet 2nd Army Corps, and is to inflict damage on the Blue 2nd Army Corps.

It is to support combat actions of front troops by expending the following air resources: for the 4th Army -- two regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation, six regimental sorties of army aviation; for the 7th Army -- three regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation, six regimental sorties of army aviation; for the 6th Army -- seven regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation with two bombs and nine regimental sorties of army aviation; for the 10th Tank Army -- six regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation with one nuclear bomb, ten regimental sorties of army aviation; for the 9th Army -- four regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation, nine regimental sorties of army aviation; for the 30th Airborne Division -- two regimental sorties of fighter-bomber aviation.

In cooperation with front air defense troops it is to cover the forward movement and commitment of the 6th Army, and /cover/ the troops of the 6th Army, 10th Tank Army, and 9th Army during the assault crossing of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers with the expenditure of 40 regimental sorties of fighter aviation.

In the first half of the day of 16 September, it is to support the drop of two tactical airborne landing forces from the 6th and 9th armies on the west bank of the IJSSEL and RHINE rivers.

-- The front air defense troops are to concentrate their main efforts on covering the front rocket troops and the combat actions of the troops of the 6th Army, 10th Tank Army, and 9th Army during the development of the offensive west of the EMS River and during the assault crossing of the RHINE River.

-- The 30th Airborne Division is to conduct combat actions against the Violet 2nd Motorized Infantry Division, firmly holding the crossing of the RHINE River until the 10th Tank Army approaches. Upon the approach of the 10th Tank Army it is to join the complement of the army. The combat actions of the division are to be supported by two regimental sorties of

TS #818131
Copy # 3

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 27 of 28 Pages

fighter-bomber aviation.

-- The front electronic neutralization units are to concentrate their main efforts on the axes of the offensive of the 6th Army and 10th Tank Army troops, and are to disrupt the radio control of the enemy's nuclear attack means and of the Brown 5th Army Corps, Blue 1st Army Corps, and Violet 2nd Army Corps.

They are to cover against radar reconnaissance and precision bombing the siting areas of the front missile brigades, the front command post, the crossings, and the troops in the RHINE River assault crossing sectors.

They are to neutralize the ultra-shortwave communications and guidance of enemy tactical and army aviation.

-- The combined-arms reserve of the front: the 2nd Army Corps (the 8th and 24th motorized rifle divisions) is to complete the march by the morning of 16 September and concentrate in the area of TOSTEDT, SCHEESSEL, SOLTAU, MUNSTER; the 3rd Motorized Rifle Division by the morning of 15 September is to be concentrated in the area of ORREL, UNTERLUSS, (excluding) UELZEN; the 21st Motorized Rifle Division is to reach by that same time the area 10 km west of HANNOVER.

-- Front troop control is to be exercised from the command post and alternate command post. At the start of the assault crossing of the RHINE River by the troops of the 10th Tank Army, the forward control post will be in the area of RHEDE, the command post will be in the area of RHEINE, and the alternate command post will be 4 km south of STADTLOHN.

3) Orders of the front commander on engineer support -- 15 minutes.

Students in the role of front commander will issue orders on the engineer support for the assault crossing of the IJSSEL and RHINE Rivers.

a) The assault crossing of the RHINE River by the first-echelon divisions on landing means and ferries is to be supported for eight to nine hours; and of the IJSSEL River on landing means, ferries, and bridges for five to six hours.

b) From nightfall 16 September to 17 September, at the assault crossing sectors of the first-echelon divisions, army bridges are to be constructed in the areas of SPIEK, FINEN /probably VYNEN/, and MOLLEN. At the same time that bridges are constructed, the preparation of dummy

TS #818131

Copy # 3

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

FIRDB-312/01472-81

Page 28 of 28 Pages

crossings is to be organized.

In daylight, crossings are to be made on ferries and landing means.

c) Composite bridges are to be constructed by 'H' plus 25 to 30 hours in the following areas:

-- army bridges at EMERICH and ORSOY;

-- front bridges at GRIETH, XANTEN, WALLACH.

d) For reliable cover of the bridge crossings, the cooperation of engineer troop units with air defense units, chemical troop units, and electronic countermeasures units is to be organized.

e) The 4th Regiment is to be withdrawn from the 4th Army and transferred to the 6th Army.

f) To support the troop crossings during the assault crossing of the rivers, the allocated engineer troop reinforcement means are to be transferred to the first-echelon armies by the morning of 15 September.

4. Critique -- 10 minutes.

The group training director will reannounce the subject and training objectives of the lesson, and will remark on how well they were achieved; he will draw the students' attention to their preparation, after which he will give the assignment to be prepared for the following lessons.

TS #818131
Copy # 3

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