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COMMUNICATIONS SIGNAL BTOUSE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER
APO 887

26 January 1945

ETO ORDNANCE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 118A

SUBJECT: Track Grousers for Panther Tank.

Observations by: Capt. G.D. Drury, OTI-Team No: 1, and 1st.
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1. General:

This report supplements ETO Tech. Intell. Report No: 118 (limited distribution) which gave a preliminary description of grousers for the German Tank Pz Kpfw Panther. These traction devices were carried in the containers on the rear of a tank knocked out in the First U.S. Army area. None were found fitted to the tracks. Two models of the grousers were found. They differ only in the shape of the base and used interchangeably.

2. Description:

The grouser is made of cast steel and consists of a ribbed rectangular base with a diagonal cleat at each end. It is designed to slip into place between the sole bars of adjoining track links and is held in place by a cast lug on the front of the base and two spring-loaded catches at the rear of the base. The lug hooks into the center connecting lug of the track link and two catches hook under the sole bar (See Photograph 1).

The catches consist of a sliding tongue and a coil spring contained in rectangular housings cast on the bottom of the base. (Photographs 2 and 3). These housings fit into the depressions of the track link and prevent lateral movement of the grouser. The use of the spring-loaded catches permits the grousers to be installed without tools.

The cleats are cast integral with the base and are at an angle of 45° to the center line of the base. Height of the cleats above the base is $2 \frac{1}{8}$ ins. Center lines of the cleats are $4 \frac{1}{4}$ ins. apart at the front and $5 \frac{7}{16}$ ins. apart at the rear.

3. Dimensions:

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Overall width..... | 10 $\frac{7}{16}$ ins. |
| Overall length (along center line of track).... | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. |
| Height of cleats above base..... | 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ ins. |
| Width of cleats at top..... | $\frac{7}{16}$ in. |
| Width of cleats at base..... | $\frac{15}{16}$ in. |
| Length of cleats..... | 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. |
| Projection above sole bar of track (grouser mounted on track)..... | $\frac{3}{4}$ in. |
| Projection above spuds on sole bar (grouser mounted on track)..... | $\frac{1}{4}$ in. |

4. Twenty-First Army Group Tech. Intell. Summary No: 22 gives the following information, taken from a captured German handbook on the subject:

- a. Each tank is equipped with 40 grousers, which are fitted to every fifth or seventh track link.
- b. To avoid damage to the suspension the tank must not be driven at a speed greater than 9 m.p.h.

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5. A similar type of grouser for use on the Pz Kpfw III and Pz Kpfw IV tracks is described in W.C. Tech. Intell. Summary No: 121.

For the Chief Ordnance Officer,

H.N. TOFTOY,
Col., Ord. Dept.,
Assistant.

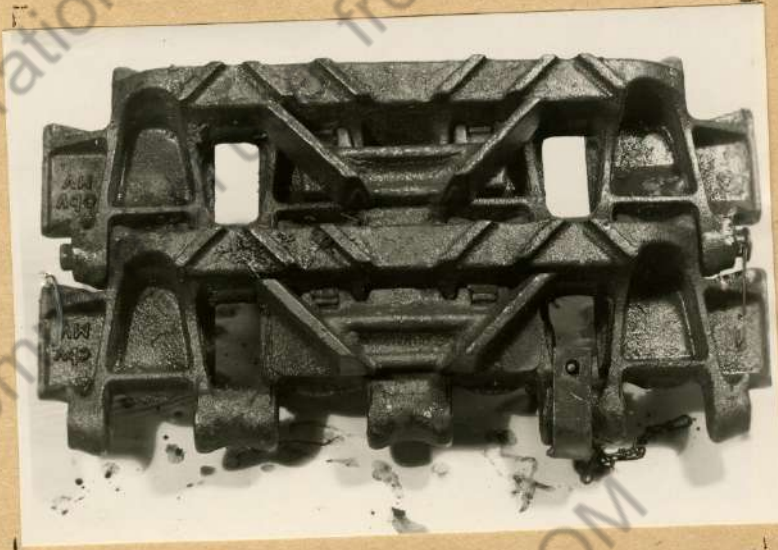
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Appendix "A"..... Three (3) photographs.

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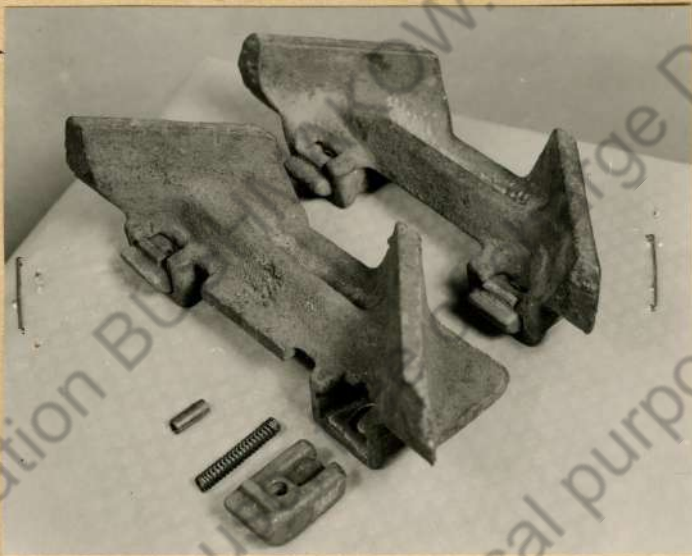
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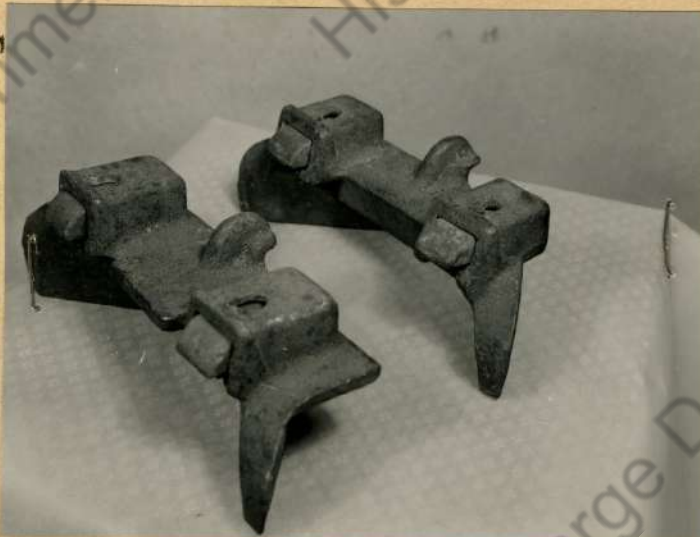
Grousers fitted to section of track. Upper grouser has small base and shows catch housings fitting into depressions in track link.

Photo 1



Two models of grouser. One catch shown disassembled.

Photo 2



Bottom view of two types of grousers showing difference in size of base and housings for catches.

Photo 3.

