

R E S T R I C T E D  
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 COMMUNICATIONS ZONE ETOUSA  
 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER  
 APO 887

10 May 1945

ETO ORDNANCE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 275

SUBJECT: Jagdtiger Self-Propelled Auto Tank Gun 12.8 cm PzK 88/L/55.  
 Sskfz 186

Observations by: Lt. W.B. Curtis, Ord. Tech. Intell. Team No. 1

1. General:

A Jagdtiger (Panzerjäger Tiger) mounting the 12.8 cm. Panzerjägerkanone 80 anti-tank gun has been examined in the First U.S. Army area. The vehicle had been knocked out with a Panzerfaust, minor damages having been sustained by the engine.

The chassis and engine are those of the normal Pz.I.pfw.Tiger Model B tank. A new type of AA machine gun mount had been welded to the hatch of the engine compartment.

2. Weight and Dimensions:

Weight (from documents).....	77.3 U.S. tons
Chassis No.....	305058
Manufacturers code.....	nhr
Overall length including gun.....	34 ft.
"    "    excluding gun.....	25 ft. 11 ins.
Length of top plate over driver....	3 ft. 8 ins.
"    "    superstructure top.....	9 ft. 3 ins.
bottom.....	10 ft. 4 ins.
"    "    engine deck.....	6 ft. 7 ins.
Overall width.....	11 ft. 9½ ins.
Width of superstructure top.....	5 ft. 7½ ins.
"    "    "    bottom.....	7 ft. 8 ins.
Overall height.....	9 ft. 2½ ins.
Height of superstructure (front)....	3 ft. 4¼ ins.
"    "    "    (rear)....	3 ft. 3¼ ins.
Ground clearance.....	1 ft. 8 ins.

3. Superstructure:

<u>Armor</u>	<u>Thickness</u>	<u>Angle to Vertical</u>
Front plate	250 mm. (9.84 ins.)	15°
Side plates	80 mm. (3.15 ins.)	25°
Rear plate	80 mm. (3.15 ins.)	6°
Top plate	45 mm. (1.77 in.)	0°
Gun mantlet	60-93 mm. (2.4 - 3.6 ins.)	-

The tank commander, at the right front of the fighting compartment, is provided with a periscope mounted on a circular plate with 360° traverse. The plate also has a hatch permitting the use of an observation periscope. An additional fixed periscope at his right is set at an angle of 90° (Photo 5, Appendix "B"). A fixed periscope set at an angle of 15° is located at each rear corner and a periscope with a 360° traverse is at the left center. A rotating semi-circular hatch is located to the rear of the tank commander's position. (Photo 5).

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4. Armament:

a. The 12.8 cm. FKH 80 L/55 is mounted centrally in the superstructure. The trunnions are supported on fabricated arms extending upward and forward from the floor of the superstructure (Photo 7). The recoil cylinder and recuperator are mounted above the tube to the left and right respectively. No equilibrator is fitted; neither is the piece fitted with a muzzle brake. A folding bracket attached to the glacis plate supports the tube in the travelling position (Photo 1), and a clamp applied to the breech acts as a travelling lock (Photo 6).

b. Data:

Maximum elevation.....	15° 30'
" depression.....	6°
Traverse (estimated).....	6° 30' R, 6° 30' L.
Breech block.....	RH horizontal sliding block
Firing Mechanism.....	Electrical
Traverse mechanism.....	Segment and pinion
Elevating " .....	Arc and pinion
Length of tube.....	21 ft. 8½ ins.
" " " plus breech ring..	23 ft. ¾ inch.
" " " projecting from mantlet...	12 ft. 11 ins.
Rifling.....	Uniform RH twist
Number of grooves.....	40
Length of rifling.....	17 ft. 11 ins.
Width of lands.....	3.75 mm.
Diameter of rear chamber.....	6.93 ins.
Markings on breech of gun.....	R 101 Bs.Fl.135 bwn bwn Tm Jr.Fl.140 bwn Gerät 13

5. Subsidiary Armament:

The normal hull machine gun ball mount for the M.G. 34 is provided. In addition, a simple monopod AA mount for the M.G. 42 had been welded to the engine compartment cover (Photo 9). A rack and pinion arrangement with a ratchet stop permits the extension of the mount from 44 inches to 68 inches in height. The position of the mount prevents the use of the weapon from inside the tank and consequently no protection is afforded the gunner.

A normal 360° smoke projector is mounted in the top plate to the rear of the gunner. (Photo 5).

6. Ammunition Stowage:

Racks are provided in the superstructure for stowing 38 cartridges cases and 38 projectiles. On the vehicle examined there were 20 armor piercing and 18 high explosive projectiles. A diagram of the ammunition stowage is attached as Appendix "A".

7. Communication Equipment:

All radio equipment had been removed or destroyed. Visual telegraph communication between the tank commander and driver is provided, the system used being of the marine type with a moveable hand and warning bell.

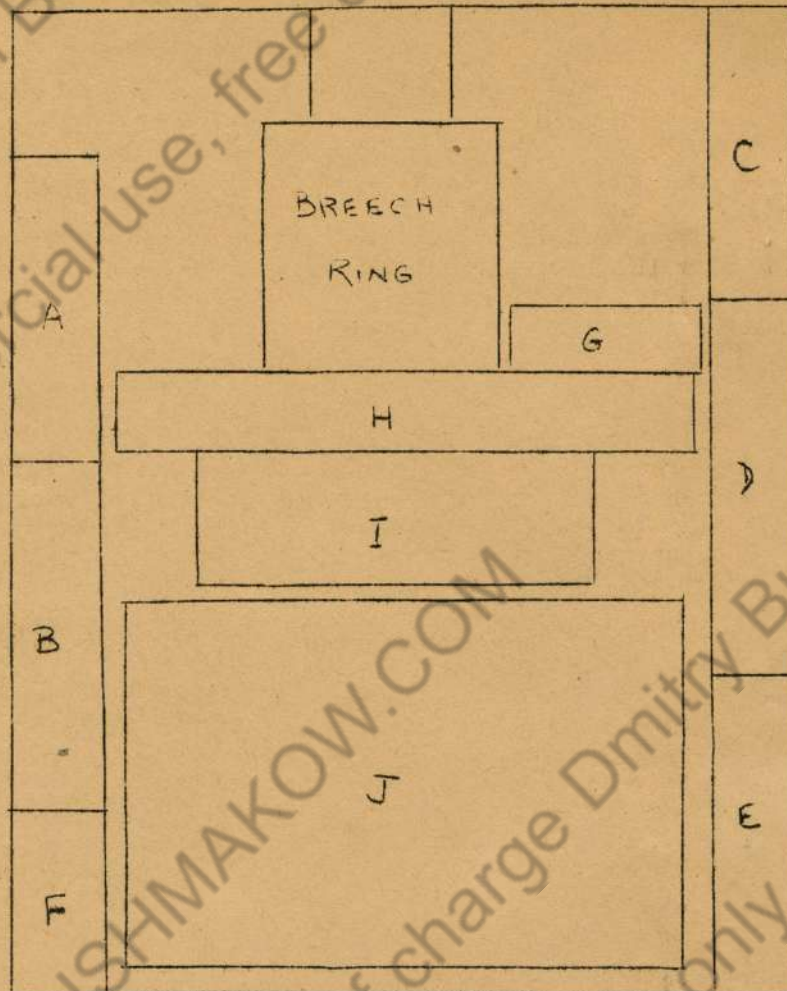
FOR THE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER,

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Inclosures:

Appendix "A".. Diagram  
Appendix "B".. Photos 1 thru 9

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FLOOR PLAN OF SUPERSTRUCTURE FIGHTING COMPARTMENT.

AMMUNITION STOWAGE

Stowed horizontally in racks on superstructure wall:

- A. 4 cartridge cases
- B. 8 cartridge cases (Photo 8)
- C. 4 cartridge cases
- D. 8 cartridge cases
- E. 6 cartridge cases

Stowed vertically in wall rack:

- F. 12 projectiles (Photo 8)

Stowed horizontally in floor racks:

- G. 6 projectiles
- H. 8 projectiles

Stowed horizontally under floor plates:

- I. 12 projectiles
- J. 8 cartridge cases.



Photo 1:  
Front view of  
Jagdtiger. Note  
tube support on  
glacis plate.



Photo 2:  
Front quarter view  
of Jagdtiger.  
Side armor plate  
is one piece,  
interlocked with  
glacis plate,  
front and rear  
superstructure  
plates and tail  
plate. Three  
sections of skirt-  
ing plates are  
missing.

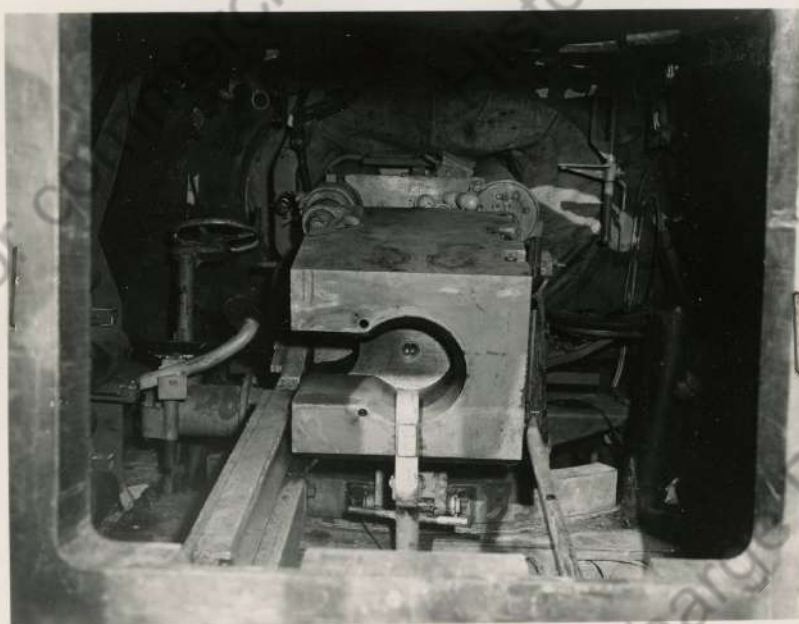


Photo 3:  
Left side view.  
Note AA machine-  
gun mount on  
engine deck.



Photo 4:  
Rear view showing  
floor in super-  
structure rear  
plate and AA  
machine gun  
mount.

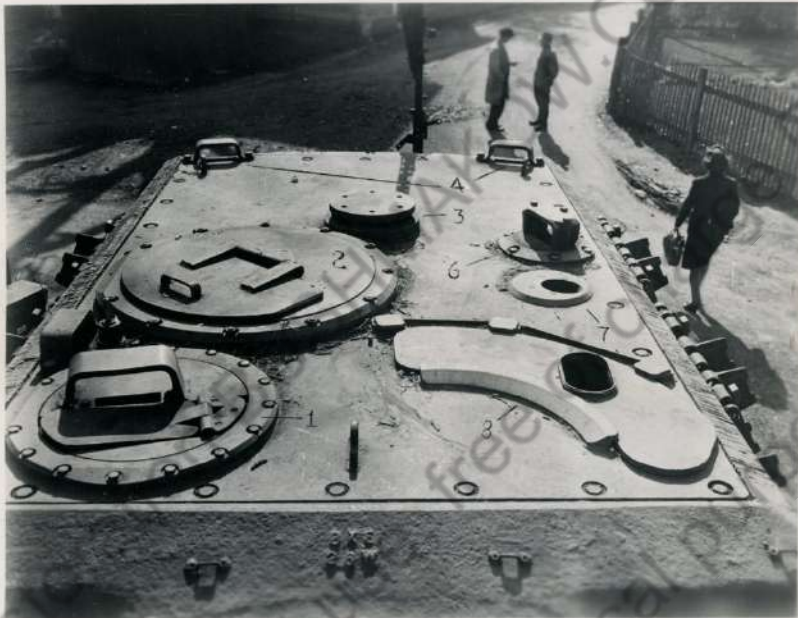


Photo 5:  
Superstructure top.  
1. Periscope and  
hatch for ob-  
servation peri-  
scope. 360°  
traverse.  
2. Rotating escape  
and observa-  
tion hatch.  
3. Ventilator.  
4. Fixed peri-  
scopes.  
5. Fixed periscope  
and antenna  
base.  
6. Periscope -  
360° traverse.  
7. Smoke pro-  
jector.  
8. Sliding plate  
for gun sight.



Photo 6:  
Interior of  
fighting compart-  
ment from load-  
ing hatch at rear.  
Breach travelling  
lock is shown in  
place at center.  
Gunner's controls  
are at left.



Photo 7

Right trunnion support, recuperator and commander's seat.



Ammunition stowage along superstructure wall. Sections shown are marked "B" and "F" on diagram in Appendix "A".

RESTRICTED



Photo 9

M.G. 42 on AA gun mount, welded to engine hatch.







