

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
COMMUNICATIONS ZONE, ETOUSA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER
APO 887

14 June 1945

ETO ORDNANCE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

NO. 314)

SUBJECT: French R35 Tank Chassis Used as Carrier for German 8 cm. s.GW. 34 Mortar

Observations by: Capt. D. M. Gilles, Ord. Tech. Intell., Hq., Com.Z., ETOUSA.

1. GENERAL:

A French Renault R35 light tank converted into a carrier for the German 8 cm s. Granatwerfer 34 mortar was recently encountered in the U. S. Third Army area. The superstructure and turret of the tank had been replaced with a lightly armored superstructure of riveted construction enclosing the fighting compartment. The top and rear were left open.

2. ARMOR THICKNESS AND ANGLES:

Hull:	Thickness	Angle to vertical
Lower nose plate	13 mm (0.51 in.)	36°
Upper nose plate	13 mm (0.51 in.)	8°
Glacis plate	10 mm (0.39 in.)	75°
Driver's shield	10 mm (0.39 in.)	not observed
Superstructure:		
Front	13 mm (0.51 in.)	15°
Sides	13 mm (0.51 in.)	40°

3. FIGHTING COMPARTMENT:

The fighting compartment includes the space formerly occupied by the turret and the space above the engine compartment at the rear of the chassis. (Photos 3 and 4). The mortar is mounted at the front to fire forward. The front of the compartment is not separated from the driver's compartment, the driver entering from the rear.

The gunner and loader are each provided with a vision slit with a pivoted shutter (Photo 1).

4. MOUNTING FOR MORTAR:

The mortar tube rests on a base plate bolted to the top of the engine compartment (Photo 3). The bipod retains the normal cross-leveling, elevating and traversing mechanism, but the legs have been extended and are attached to rack and pinion mechanisms which permit additional elevation, traverse, and leveling adjustments (Photos 4 and 5). The mortar was equipped with a collimator mortar sight RA35.

FOR THE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER:

John A. Keck
JOHN A. KECK
Lt. Col., Ord. Dept.,
Assistant.

Incl.: Photos 1 thru 5.



Photo No. 1
Front view



Photo No. 2
Left rear view
showing opening
at rear of
superstructure,



Photo No. 3
Front view of
mortar showing
arrangement of
rear part of
fighting com-
partment and
mortar base.



Photo No. 4

Rear view of mortar and fighting compartment.
Note arrangement of bipod legs and rack and pinion mechanisms.

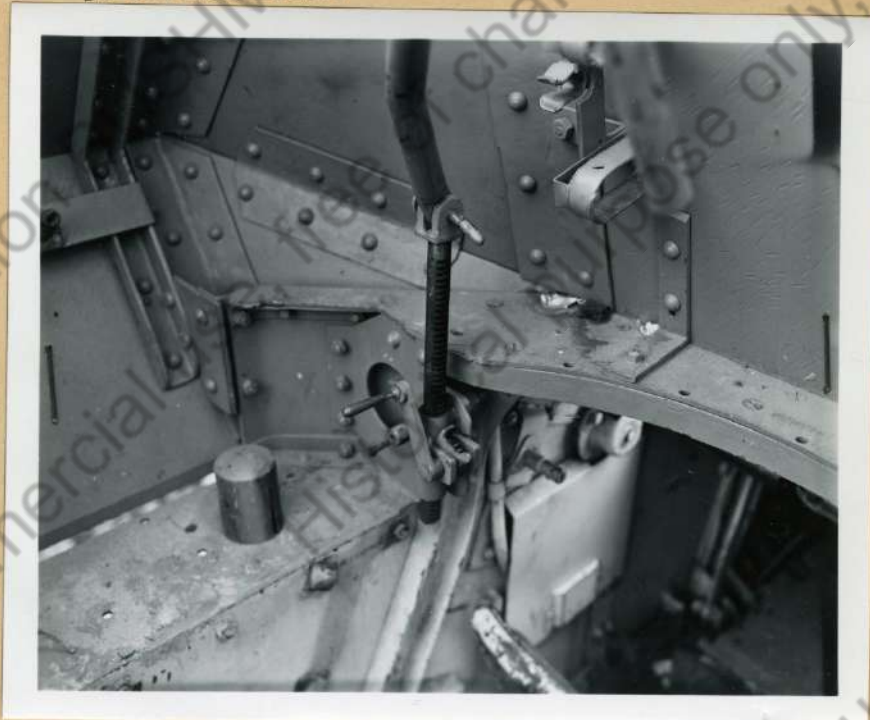


Photo No. 5

Close-up of rack and pinion mechanism to which bipod leg is attached. Driver's compartment is at lower right.

akow Restoration BUSHMAKOW.COM not for sale or commercial use, free of charge Dmitry Bushmakow Rest



akow Restoration BUSHMAKOW.COM for sale or commercial use, free of charge Dmitry Bushmakow Rest for sale or commercial use, free of charge





