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

16 March 1945

ETO ORDNANCE TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO. 190

SUBJECT: German Mark III Tank Chassis used as Cargo Vehicle.

Observations by: Lt. J.F. Eppes, Ord. Tech. Intell. Team No. 3.

1. General:

Two German vehicles consisting of the Pz. Kpfw. III tank chassis with gun and turret removed and a box installed on the superstructure have been encountered in the Third U.S. Army area.

No equipment or cargo was found with the vehicle that would give an indication of its use; however documents have mentioned both an ammunition carrier and a recovery vehicle on this chassis. The serial number of the chassis of one of the vehicles is 71101.

2. Construction:

The box is 8 ft. long, 7 ft. 4 ins. wide, and 24 ins. deep and is mounted on the normal superstructure top plate of the tank. It consists of wooden sides held together by a frame of welded angle iron.

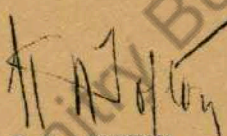
Construction of the frame is shown in Figure No. 2, Appendix "A". It is made of pieces of 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  inch x 4 inch angle iron. The two center longitudinal pieces are spaced 25 ins. apart and are fastened to the turret ring with four steel cleats. The outside corners of the frame base are braced with pieces of steel channel section which are welded to the bottom of the frame and bolted to the superstructure top plate. Each corner upright is strengthened with two gusset plates welded to the base.

The smaller inside box is 34 ins. long, 25 ins. wide, and 21 ins. deep. No floor is provided in this box, thus indicating its possible use as a hatch. The space between the center longitudinal pieces not taken up by the box is covered over with a removable steel plate, and the spaces on the sides are fitted with 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick wood flooring. The wood flooring is also removable.

The cross pieces of the frame base are extended 12 ins. beyond the sides of the box and form the bases of 12 inch square carrying brackets. (See Figure No. 1, Appendix "A")

A triangular bracket having a horizontal plate with a 4 inch diameter hole in it is mounted on each side above the track guard and just to the rear of the superstructure side plate. These brackets may have been used to mount a vertical boom for a hoist. However, no equipment other than two pulleys was found with the vehicle.

For the Chief Ordnance Officer,

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

Inclosure:  
Appendix "A"... Figures 1 & 2

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APPENDIX "A"



Figure No. 1: Front view. Note brackets on either side of box, mounted on superstructure



Figure No. 2: Close-up of box showing construction. Note attachment of longitudinal pieces to turret ring.

APPENDIX "A"

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